



## Loyalty's Web

*Joyce DiPastena*

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Helene de Laurant has not forgotten how the Earl of Gunthar destroyed her father's castle during Henry II's war with his sons. Apparently neither have her family and friends, for when someone tries to murder Gunthar, every sign points in their direction. Helene realizes the only way to prove her loved ones' innocence is by exposing the true assassin. As Helene and Gunthar spar over the identity of the traitor, fierce determination gives way to mutual attraction. Helene must race against time, and dark secrets of the past, to unmask the would-be killer before the kingdom plunges back into war and takes the life of the man she has unexpectedly learned to love."

## Loyalty's Web Details

Date : Published January 31st 2014 by Sable Tyger Books (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9780989241946

Author : Joyce DiPastena

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance, Medieval, Clean Romance, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Loyalty's Web for online ebook

### C.J. Anaya says

Loved this book. Joyce's knowledge of the medieval period brings to life the characters and the setting in a vibrant masterpiece of storytelling at its finest. One of the best in her genre, Joyce DiPastena will leave you breathless with the budding romance between Gunthar and Helene as they battle against an unknown enemy while uncovering a treasonous plot. I know. You can't wait to get your hands on it. Happy reading. Loyalty's Web

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### Jaimey says

Wonderful! Engaging characters, believable conflict, heartfelt emotion, and lovely romance without graphic sex. This book has earned a spot on my keeper shelf. It was truly a joy to read and hard to put down. Now all my housework has been shamefully neglected...

:o)

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### John says

A month or so ago I entered my name in a bunch of Goodreads book giveaways. I was surprised when I received an email telling me I had won this book.

I have now finished reading it, and it looks like I may be the only guy on Goodreads that has done so. Loyalty's Web is partly a romance book, and is mostly advertised that way. I honestly didn't realize that fact when I signed up for the giveaway, and after receiving it I kind of wondered why I had won. But since I won the book I felt like I should at least try to read it. Fortunately it was a clean romance and I didn't have to read about heaving bosoms and the like. (If that had been the case I wouldn't have read much of it at all.)

Here's what I thought: take out the kissing scenes and I actually really like the book. Overall, the plot was intriguing and kept me interested, but the kissing scenes for me felt awkward and just not realistic at all. (Then again I have never read a romance novel, and have no plans to read another. I noticed that another reviewer of the book wanted more kissing.) There were also a couple of scenes where I didn't feel like the main male character acted like most men would act when placed in the same situation.

I wonder how this romance would actually work out in the real world. The couple in question seems to have significant communication problems at times. My experience with my wife has been that being able to communicate well is as important to a relationship as anything.

I'm lending this book to my sister, and I'm guessing she'll like it more than I did. I will try to update my review once I get her opinion.

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## **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

March 2012: definitely changing this to four stars. I enjoyed this so much more the second time around. I love Helene and Hugh, the best parts of the books are when they are together. A great medieval read, I look forward to reading the rest of the series!

July 2010: I just want to start with a little disclaimer. I had a major headache and a million other things on my mind while reading this book. I will have to give it another try when there isn't so much going on.

I had read a ton of great reviews for this book and was really looking forward to reading it. I was a little disappointed, it moved along a little slow and I was bogged down with all the different characters and their very unique names. The story rotates points of view with Heléne and Gunthar. I actually really enjoyed the main characters and their story, I got a little bored when they weren't together. Heléne is a good leading lady, although I did get a little tired hearing about how "plain" she was. I also really enjoyed Gunthar's character and thought he had good chemistry with Heléne. Overall, I enjoyed the story and would give it another try down the road and would even read the companion book Illuminations of the Heart.

Bookworm Rating: 3

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## **Heather says**

Great research! Overall I really enjoyed this story. About half-way through I flipped to the front, hoping there was a character chart. I was lost on many of the names since there were so many characters to try and keep track of. Some of the description was heavy-handed and repetitive, but it's been a long time since I've read this genre, so it might be par for the course.

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## **Christy Stewart says**

Very nice novel with a strong female lead; it's something I would have enjoyed more in my early teens.

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## **Camilla says**

This book was given to me by Santa Claus for Christmas. When I first saw it I was of course very excited, I love reading and this book seemed interesting. The first line was extremely intriguing I wanted to start it right then but of course I had to finish the book I was reading before starting this one. When I finally finished The Lost Hero and I came back to Loyalty's Web I wasn't as interested. I almost stopped reading when I found out it took place in twelfth century Europe, but then the plot got going and I was hooked. When the book shifts to Gunthar's point of view for the first time, the author explains what he thinks of Lady

Helen and Helen is seen in a whole new light. I really like this part because you can see a different more beautiful side of Lady Helen and you learn something about Gunthar's personality. This part makes Gunthar seem so much more genuine and less shallow than you would expect from an Earl. It's kind of what every girl is hoping is going through that cute guy in the halls head when he gives you that evaluating look' like he is trying to decide if he wants to say hi back. And I love how Helens reactions are accurate to what I would do, it make it more relatable and more believable.

I love the brief sections when it's just Helen and Clothilde in their room and they talk about what is going on. It reminds me of the chats I have with my sisters. My two favorite conversations between them are when, at the beginning, they are talking about the Earl and Clothilde asks if he is fat; and then when Helen finds out what happened to Clothilde before her first marriage. I like the first conversation because it is light hearted and sounds like something I would ask my sister. And I love the second because the sisters bond and the comfort each other when the worst seems to have happened and ugly truths are coming to the light.

I dislike how often Helen decides she is being betrayed by the Earl. He proves himself over and over then she decides to be irrational. I think that this happened just one times too many. Unfortunately this does happen in real life, girls do tend to reevaluate our feelings but it's silly to do so that much. Her overwhelming amount of side changing started to remind me of the Twilight saga. It could have been improved by taking out just one misunderstood message, it would have made the plot a little more straight forward.

I strongly dislike when the Lady Gwenllian is unkind to her daughters. I think the plot could have done without her vicious actions. I hurts me inside when parents are cruel to their children. It's not fair to the kids because they have been raised to respect these people that are hurting them. I know how important the bond between parent and child is. The way a child is reared effects the outcome of their life, good or bad. The acts could have been committed by Sybil solely without the help of Lady Gwenllian. Consent was necessary but actions and words were not.

This book was defiantly a page turner. I loved the overall plot it was intriguing and had some great parallels to European history. It was worth the read and I would love to read some of the authors other work, I loved this book. This book had everything revenge, romance, and some happy times. This was a great read and I would recommend this book to anyone.

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### **Anna Maria says**

Such a lovely romance filled with mystery. I really liked the book and I enjoyed reading it as the plot was well built and intriguing and kept me reading it all night!! So I surely recommend it to anyone, especially to those who like historical romance like me. I hope to read other books of this author as I like her style.

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### **Katie W says**

There were so many different characters introduced so quickly that I got confused there for awhile. But I did really enjoy the storyline.

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### **Josephine says**

I really enjoyed the historical fiction aspect of this book. It seemed like the author did her research. I wish there were more books about the middle ages! Actually, I'm sure there are, I just haven't read many. This

book took place in the year 1176 during the reign of King Henry II I think. I love reading about a time when they had knowledge of herbs and other fun stuff that we have all but lost now.

Overall the book was well written. However the romance felt forced. Which was annoying because the romance was the main point of the book and I felt like that was a mistake. I think the whole book including the romance part of it would have been better if she hadn't made it the focal point of the book. That's just my opinion though. I would love to read more from this author, but her other books look really sappy and that's not really my thing.

There was a huge cast of characters in this book so we didn't really get to know them all very well. My favorite character though was Clothilde, the main characters sister. The book starts out with her being a widow at the age of 20. She was forced to marry at 16, and is now being used again for a marriage alliance. At first she seems mild and submissive, but throughout the book you see her suffering from PTSD for reasons you don't fully comprehend until near the end. She is very complex and your heart goes out to her. I can't imagine the things woman had to suffer during that time.

So, there were some minor annoyances for me with this book, but overall I did enjoy it and would recommend it to anyone who is interested in this time period.

I bought this on my kindle and would be glad to loan it to any of my friends who are interested!

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### **Wanda Luce says**

Loyalty's Web hooked me from the first page and held me captive to the last. Joyce DiPastena has done a masterful job weaving a passionate romance between Helene and Guthar that is anything but typical and enhanced it with a gripping story rife with twists and turns, suspense and danger. I could not put this book down! I even read it while I cooked, and I went to bed late on work nights just to read a little more. All of Joyce DiPastena's books are incredible. I think her writing is second to none.

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### **Heather says**

Joyce is such a great writer! Her characters were engrossing, her dialogue believable and the plot was intriguing. She has a way of explaining the history and traditions while making those descriptions feel organic, instead of like she was showing off her knowledge. And the woman really knows how to write a kissing scene!

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### **Cheri says**

I admit it, I'm a total sap for the time of knights, ladies, warriors, kings, lords and castles. But with that in mind, it took me a little while after buying this book to actually start reading it.

That's okay, because from that moment I was hooked. I even stayed up past my bedtime to finish it. I just had to know what Clothilde's mother had done to her. And she's not even the main character.

I sympathize with a younger sister who is constantly compared to the beauty of her older sister. It's been done in other books I've read, but I found the harshness of the mother's treatment of her younger daughter, Helene, believable. She (the mother) has a valid point. Without a large dowry, her daughter has nothing but her appearance and ladylike accomplishments to snag a husband.

The cool thing about Loyalty's Web is you can tell by reading it the author has done her research of the era. So much rang familiar from my own research. And it's not far fetched that a mother, knowing the harshness of their world and lack of options, would beat or torture a reluctant daughter to get her to agree to a marriage. It's sad, but factual.

Now on to the meat of the story. Forbidden romance, several near death experiences and a truly evil enemy-- Loyalty's Web has it all. If you love romantic stories that are not grossly explicit, you definitely want to check it out.

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### **Tifferz says**

Okay this book has been on my wish list for like a year. I was so excited to buy this book it was like Christmas! Worth every penny. Loyalty's Web is a clean romance with tons of mystery a few murders and forbidden love. What more could you want?

I thought I had things figured out in this book and I tell you Joyce can spin a tale and did an excellent job of the unexpected. Once you open this book be prepared not to close it till its done! This is story did have some abuse it in that was tastefully written. I was not bothered by it at all. If Joyce left the abuse out of the book it would not haven be as powerful. It needs it.

This is a keeper and a must read. I will be reading this one again!

I am a huge fan of Joyce DiPastena and can't wait to get my hands on Illuminations of the Heart. I hope Joyce will be writing more stories for us! Thanks Joyce for your story!! You have a flare for writing.

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### **Englishrose says**

This book was well written and a thrill to read. The characters are well developed and easy to relate to with a depth you don't always find in side characters. It was really a whole story that was richly filled out rather than just a telling of the main two characters' story. The mystery and plot are fantastic and involve you so well that you won't be able to put it down. I love the way the author weaves the many layers of loyalty each person has and how they have to decide which loyalties to put first. Unlike many other books out there, you can actually understand all sides and feel the pull that each person has in so many different ways. Absolute wonderful read and I highly recommend it. I am anxious to read the next book!

<http://cleanromancereviews.blogspot.com>

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