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A Second Chance: The Chronicles Of St. Mary's Book Three (The Chronicles Of St Mary's 3)



Synopsis

St Mary's is back and nothing is going right for Max. Once again, it's just one damned thing after another. The action jumps from an encounter with a mirror-stealing Isaac Newton to the bloody battlefield at Agincourt. Discover how a simple fact-finding assignment to witness the ancient and murderous cheese-rolling ceremony in Gloucester can result in CBC - concussion by cheese. The long awaited jump to Bronze Age Troy ends in personal catastrophe for Max and just when it seems things couldn't get any worse - it's back to the Cretaceous Period again to confront an old enemy who has nothing to lose. So, make the tea, grab the chocolate biscuits, settle back and discover exactly why the entire history department has painted itself blue ...

Book Information

File Size: 2065 KB

Print Length: 492 pages

Publisher: Accent Press (August 7, 2014)

Publication Date: August 7, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B017YA7006

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #24,184 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #82

in Kindle Store > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel #93 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel #200 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Historical

Customer Reviews

Oh well, just as I had gotten very intrigued with the characters and continuing, ever twisting/interesting story lines, the author takes us into blind alleys, and, Pleeeeeease, not that old plot!Dissapointed...The visit to Troy gets dumb and dumber, the trip to Agincourt becomes a bit sketchy after the opening maneuvers, the twang of the Brit archers is there, but the French 'elan becomes truly mud-bound! As well the death/no, they're still alive in another plane of existence...

leads us to a rather muddled ending...with a sharp hang-nail, screech of chalk on the blackboard, [Thanks Sister Cornelius], As I closed the book, I really felt a bit let down.

"A Second Chance (The Chronicles of St. Mary's Book 3)" by Jodi Taylor continues the story of our intrepid time-traveling historians, and the story just keeps getting better and better. This is the third book describing the universe of St. Mary's, so we've learned the rules of time travel and the dangers of messing up the timeline, but Jodi Taylor makes the situations our crew finds themselves in to be fresh and exciting. For some reason I can't quite articulate, we seem to be more intimately in Max's head this time. Max is getting older, she estimates she's actually three years older than her chronological age due to time spent in the past. She's also assuming more responsibility at St. Mary's, becoming a permanent fixture of the management structure. All the while she keeps promising herself that the next jump into the past is her last jump. You can't quite believe it, of course. There are lots of reasons why. The "Second Chance" of the title takes on multiple meanings for Max and Leon, both professional and personal. So where are we off to? A comically bizarre encounter with Sir Isaac Newton, an almost fatal trip to a 19th-century version of the cheese rolling ceremony in Gloucester, and witnessing the first successful migration of humans out of Africa tens of thousands of years ago. But the most memorable trip of the book is to witness the fall of Troy at the hands of the Greeks in the Bronze Age. Jodi Taylor does a masterful job making the whole event come alive, and like Max, we realize that we're not reading dusty pages in a book, but experiencing real people trying to survive the horrors of war. The words on the page seem real. The story finishes up with two incredible surprises. Max ends up in the Cretaceous Period on an unscheduled trip with dramatic consequences and Max and Tim Peterson visit the battle of Agincourt for a historic survey that ends up being anything but. Second chances to act differently or pursue relationships differently are the ongoing theme of this book. You will want to grab the next book in this series as soon as you can.

SPOILERS... I really enjoyed the first two books in this series and really enjoyed this book until the ending. Death should matter in a story. If you are going to magically hit the reset button and give everyone a Second Chance, then why should I get emotionally worked up. You are just crying wolf and taking out the suspense and emotional weight. Instead of creating a "I did not see THAT coming!" plot twist, you are creating a "yawn, BS. he's not dead" eye-roll moment. If there's a magic

death undo button, the plot becomes predictable and I'm not emotionally attached to the characters. If you are just going to bring them back to life, don't bother killing them. It will still be suspenseful as we try to guess how they will get away this time. Instead this feels like a cheap trick. POOF, the gods of history have granted you an extra life. I'm three books in and I suddenly don't care. That's why Game of Thrones is a heart-racing, suspenseful roller coaster where anything can happen. I care about those characters because they can DIE.

I was extremely disappointed with this book. It started off as a page turner like the previous ones. By the end, the book convinced me to drop the series for good. (SPOILERS) There are two main reasons. First, the more objective reason: The whole "parallel timelines/second chance" plot twist was just a mess. I can't suspend disbelief for it, and I honestly don't think those two people can continue a relationship... From a certain point of view, they are in love with people that no longer exists. The second reason is more visceral (and subjective). The author managed to turn Max into a coward bitch. After all Max has been through in the previous books, I can't believe she would be so set in leaving a small boy to be raped and killed. #1 She knows the Chief's heart after losing all of his children, and his desperate need to save this one. #2 She's lost a child of her own, and mourned it. #3 All of St. Mary already knows there are situations where you can save something (scrolls) or someone (dodos) doomed in its original timeline. She can't take the chance for the Chief's heart and her own soul? I was heart broken for the story....

Thank you, Ms. Taylor, for sharing your story telling expertise. You are wonderful. I am truly grateful for the opportunities to be swept away in the St. Mary's Chronicles. This story, unfortunately, abruptly returned me to reality when the mention of a current political personality occurred during the Agincourt battle. Yes, Henry really did have that bloody awful pudding-bowl haircut. I would have preferred not to be snapped back to reality when you compared Henry's haircut to someone existing in my time. I chuckled and returned to your excellent story telling but would have preferred to have remained totally immersed in the battle absent mention of the current.. Anyway, I remain grateful and am looking forward to the enjoyment of reading more of your captivating tales of Max, Leon and St. Mary's. Again, you are wonderful!

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