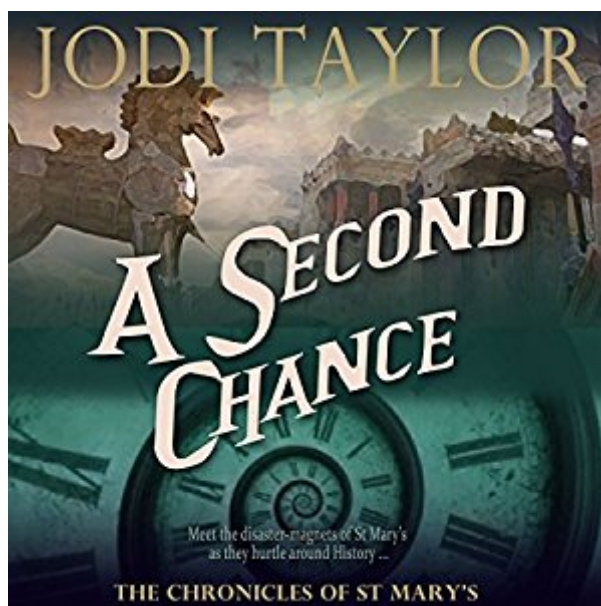


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A Second Chance: The Chronicles Of St Mary's, Book 3



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

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Customer Reviews

"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.

I just finished reading all three volumes of the The Chronicles of St. Mary's series and have very mixed emotions about the books. Normally, when reviewing a book, I like to write a short intro to the plot, but for this series, it is difficult to provide enough detail to benefit potential readers without spoiling the narrative. So I will forgo any plot points and focus on issues I had with the story. Time travel stories tend to span the spectrum from hard science to fantasy. Unfortunately, almost all have to ignore a range of paradoxes to maintain the logical structure of the narrative. Generally, hard science time travel has the fewest paradox issues. The concept of infinite timelines is probably the most logical of the time travel plots. You change something in the past and you create or shift to another timeline. The more fantasy oriented stories tend to ignore all the time travel paradoxes and usually revert to magic as the explanation. Jodi Taylor is a good descriptive writer. Her words fill out detailed imagery of the places our protagonist, Max, visits. I especially enjoyed her description of several historic events that were witnessed by the time travel team. However, in my opinion, the story falls short in other areas. First off, the tone of the story is all over the place. One page it is a comedy, the next it is a romance, the next it is violent horror, the next it is a macho military mission, etc. I understand that sometimes authors juxtapose narrative tones to strengthen the story, but there is no sense of purpose to this jumble of "genre" changes. It is almost as if the author sat down one day and wanted to write some comedy, then the next day she decided to write a romance, the next day she wanted to write a monster story, etc.

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