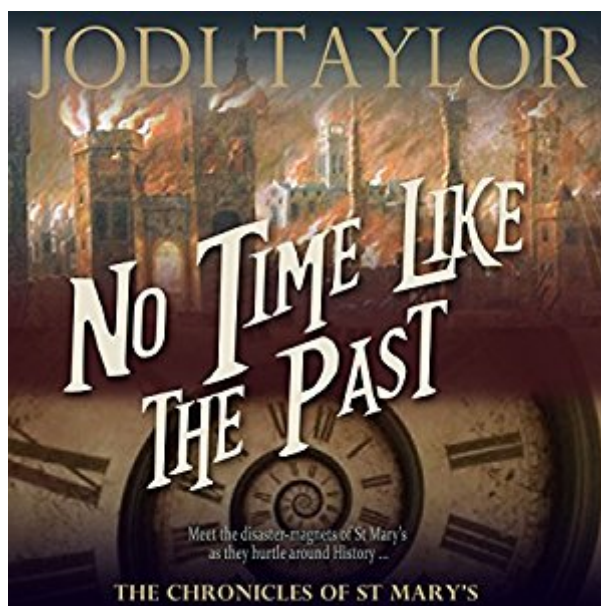


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# No Time Like The Past: The Chronicles Of St. Mary's, Book 5



## Synopsis

Jodi Taylor's best-selling series *The Chronicles of St Mary* is back with a bang.... *St. Mary's* has been rebuilt, and it's business as usual for the history department. But first there's the little matter of a 17th-century ghost that only Mr. Markham can see. Not to mention the minor inconvenience of being trapped in the Great Fire of London...and an unfortunately timed comfort break at Thermopylae, leaving the fate of the Western world hanging in the balance. Rejoin Max's madcap journey through time in Jodi Taylor's fifth interdimensional instalment *No Time Like the Past*. Jodi Taylor, *International Woman of Mystery*, spent some time working undercover for North Yorkshire County Library Service. Heavily disguised as the world's most incompetent facilities manager, she shifted dead dogs, fell out of mobile libraries, and spent far too much time in the gents' toilets. The idea to rewrite history first came to her while studying history A level at an evening class. *Just One Damned Thing After Another* is her first novel and was originally self-published as an e-book; it was downloaded by more than 60,000 readers on .

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have enjoyed this series, Ms. Taylor does an admiral job in writing wonderful stories. I rarely spend more than .99 for a book, however I have bought these. I never pre-order a book, yet I did this title, and paid \$5.99. The story line is good, I'm reading it now, the first day available. However the editing is so bad it is terribly distracting. Please please fix these run-words and incorrectly separated words and re-issue the book. This talented writer deserves good editing. And as a paying member

of the public, I deserve a book that I can read without so many distractions.

I read this Kindle book the day it came out and again, yesterday. I'm biased because I have very much enjoyed all the books in the series and don't really know why(!), the author's touch is so light that you can't really see or feel the gears turning, you just get swept up in the goings-on of this interesting group of weird characters and keep flowing through with them on their adventures. This book is just like the others, which is meant to be a compliment; we follow the heroine as she and the rest go on a handful of "historical research" trips back into history, where things always go wrong and somehow they manage to bumble through, more or less. (I will confess a tiny amount of lack of energy in this book, maybe, compared to the others, but this is a trivial comment.) You learn a little history along the way, but incidentally. I like the idea of time travel stories, but usually the plots are childish or plodding, and the genius of Taylor is that this has never been the case at St. Mary's. Yes, there have been some highly doubtful plot twists between books, but none that ever seemed to really matter to enjoying the stories. You just glide along and enjoy the adventures with your friends, the characters, and are proud to be a part of such a wacky, but actually noble, group. (The author should have a better website, and think of selling "University of Thirsk" and "St Mary's Institute for Historical Research" T-shirts.) Note: In the next book the author should consider somehow fleshing out the backstories of "the Fascists at Cardiff" and the Muse of History, perhaps.

I can't begin to get across in words how much I love this series. I haven't been so vested in a series since I picked up Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in the late 90's. It's escapism at it's finest. Max is a grown up, female Harry Potter. A misfit with a scarred past who finds her self and her home at St. Mary's. Ms. Taylor's writing is so vivid, so expressive...it's like being there. If you love history, a strong female lead with a huge heart and a smart mouth, you must read these books. Picking up book 5 is like going back to see your oldest and dearest friends after a long vacation away. Reading about the Boss, Mrs. Mack, the gang in R&D, professors Rapson and Dr. Dowson...it's like going home again. Max & Leon are flawed and flawless together. By the end of book 1 (Just One Damned Thing After Another) you'll long to smell the damp cabbage, hot electronics smell of the pods, decide that a good cuppa is decidedly underrated and you'll be wishing that St. Mary's was real, just like me. Number 6 can't come soon enough.

We readers are treasure hunters. We keep reading bad/so-so/okay stories seeking reading treasures, and boy did I find a Golden Treasure Chest in this series! THIS IS A GEM author! I've

never laughed so hard, or cried so much. How Jodi Taylor languages things is so hilarious that I want to just hang out with her to see what might come out of her mouth. I got the 3-Book Series first, and was thrilled there were three more singles. All excellent entertainment. I could hardly put them down, totally annoying my husband who said I was having more of a relationship with my "tech" than him, because I really didn't get much done until I finished the books. I will definitely read these again. And tell others.

I love St. Mary series. I love the charm, I love the humor, I love the cynical, practical, brave, devoted and a not a little bit mad heroine. I would volunteer to work at St. Mary's immediately, for free, and even as an admin. So please believe me that I say this with love, but it looks like Jodi Taylor finally decided to throw caution to the winds and write a book based only on charm, a strong voice of the protagonist and no defined plot whatsoever. I have lost my way occasionally in the previous books too, but that was because I was reading too fast, or had to backtrack through a convoluted plot, it was never because there was no story. SPOILERS\*\*\* I kept waiting for the story to begin, kept assigning deeper significance to events, kept waiting for everything to tie in together... What I got was: She goes to England and witnesses a family drama, that sort of solves an old legend, she goes to see the Great Exhibition and meets an old enemy with no discernible consequences, she loses a team member we've never seen before, in a completely unpredictable fashion and again with an impact of an extra dying. She organizes a public event which turns to usual St. Mary mayhem. She faces an old nemesis completely out of the blue and resolves it just as quickly with a bit of convenient ex-machina and a spot of emotional blackmail so unbelievable as to be comic. She goes to Thermopylae and then... I would not spoil it that much. Each historical episode is very well written as per usual Jodi Taylor and the usual St. Mary blend of heroics, comedy and pathos.. But in the grand scheme of things. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAPPENS. It's a testimony to how much I love these characters that I did not give up when I realized that I had arrived at 80% read without being able to discern the main conflict. Is this the end? Was the whole point to get us to the satisfyingly romantic ending and give a logical conclusion to the characters' story? I want more...  
Hesitating between 2 and 3 stars

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