



# A Stitch in Time

*Amanda James*

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## **A Stitch in Time** Amanda James

A stitch in time saves nine... or does it? Sarah Yates is a thirty something history teacher, divorced, disillusioned and desperate to have more excitement in her life. Making all her dreams come true seems about as likely as climbing Everest in stilettos.

Then one evening the door bell rings and the handsome and mysterious John Needler brings more excitement than Sarah could ever have imagined. John wants Sarah to go back in time...

Sarah is whisked from the Sheffield Blitz to the suffragette movement in London to the Old American West, trying to make sure people find their happy endings. The only question is, will she ever be able to find hers?

## **A Stitch in Time Details**

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Author : Amanda James

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## From Reader Review A Stitch in Time for online ebook

### Leah says

When I first read the synopsis for A Stitch In Time, I wasn't sure it was my kind of novel. Time travel? No, thank you. But instead of just dismissing it right out, as once I might have, I took a look at the preview of the novel, and I was hooked. I was captivated, and I was so excited to read and review the novel. I started it just before a four-day stint at work, and finished it after finishing my four-day stint and the best part was, in between that break, I didn't forget a single thing that happened and I was so disappointed I'd had to wait to read it, and was so glad to get back to Sarah and John, and Sarah's time travelling adventures, that I stayed up until 2am finishing it!

Sarah Yates's life was going swimmingly – she had a beautiful husband, a brilliant job, and a best friend you'd love to have. So when she finds out her husband has knocked up her best friend, it throws her world into chaos. Divorced and disillusioned, she thinks she's going mad when a man called John Needler shows up at her door, telling her that she's a stitch, someone who can go back in time and fix holes that need to be fixed in order for history to be as it is. Sarah doesn't believe a word he says, but soon finds herself whisked back in time, trying to fix things that were never meant to be broken. But as she finds other people their happy endings, and makes sure the history of the world is secure, will she be able to find her own happy ending?

I loved A Stitch In Time. I'm on a really good run of books I'm enjoying at the minute, and A Stitch In Time continued that run. It was great, I loved the plot even if it wasn't something I thought I'd enjoy, I adored the characters, both the ones in the present and in the past, especially John Needler. I don't know if A Stitch In Time was historically accurate, and there will be people who read the book and proclaim the whole time travel thing is hocus or not done correctly but I absolutely loved it. I loved seeing Sarah whisked through the ages, and each tale as she travelled from the Sheffield Blitz to the Old American West to the Suffragette's in London had a fabulous backstory, and I was moved by all of them. I particularly loved the Suffragette bit of the book. I think James has created such a wonderful tale, and I warmed to it so much, and enjoyed it so much. I think it speaks volumes that I stayed up so late to finish it, but it was so darn addictive that I couldn't give it up, I had to know what would happen to Sarah and John, and all the people Sarah was trying to help.

I really enjoyed A Stitch In Time, I was so sad when I'd finished it because I just didn't want to leave any of the characters. I wanted to follow Sarah and John throughout their lives, and read so much more about the whole stitching/time needling idea. I could totally see Amanda James writing a sequel, and I'd totally be on board to read it, because I adored this book! It had such brilliant characters, I warmed to Sarah and John immediately and I was sucked into all the tales from the past. I am so pleased I didn't just pass on this book because it didn't sound like my kind of thing, I'm so glad I decided to give it a chance and I wasn't disappointed at all. It's so nice to read a book that's not specifically something I'd pick up in a shop myself, and it proves (yet again) that you cannot judge a book by its cover or synopsis or anything, and the preview of the book really gripped me. Do give it a chance, you will not regret it because it was wonderful. I'd love to be able to go back in time and read this book for the first time again, because it was just that good!

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### Rea Cobb says

When I was sent A Stitch in Time to read I was a little apprehensive because of the time travelling theme but I do like to try something different from time to time.

It took me quite a while to get into this book but I think this is because I was so unsure about the whole time travelling thing but I am so glad I gave this book a chance because when the time travelling first came to light in the story our main character Sarah takes it in such a great way, she doesn't seem to take it as a normal day to day event she is shocked and feels as though she is hallucinating and she also has 101 questions about it all. It was because of this that I carried on reading because although the author has taken a very unlikely subject matter she has brought a very realistic reaction to the character so she won me over, on so many occasions when I am reading books this isn't the case and so you can not relate to the character but because of this Sarah was a more realistic character.

John was a lovable heartthrob who I loved from the moment we met him and my love for his character grew with the book. Sarah and John both make this book a joy to read. It is a wonderfully thought out storyline something that is very fresh with the use of Time Needles and Stitches and when Sarah is sent back in time the description of her surroundings set the scene perfectly and really sparked my interest.

I was expecting something a little futuristic when I read about time travel but this wasn't the case at all, by the time Sarah takes her second journey back in time it actually feels like a normal event!

I would really recommend this book it has a touching romance to add to an intriguing storyline definitely something you wouldn't have read before. I look forward to more books by this author.

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## **Suzanne says**

I love time slip themes and the author takes us in a unique direction with this tale. The stories within the story are quite enthralling all the same; however, it won't appeal to all fans of this genre.

Ms James takes time to introduce Sarah to us. We feel her pain as she questions her own self worth in a tumble of emotions. John comes across as quite steady and self assured as soon as we meet him. Both of the main characters are strong individuals but the author doesn't spend as much time building on the supporting characters in this story which is a shame.

The different time lines are presented realistically and incorporate a little history as we travel this journey with Sarah. I did feel a pull back to the future though in parts and felt that overall this was a present day love story with a twist. The time slip aspect was a quirky side tale but I enjoyed it all the same.

The author has left us wondering what will become of Sarah and John now that they have become our friends. There is definitely a hint of the possibility of a sequel where we can further catch a glimpse of the main characters as they continue on this path.

Overall a pleasant reading jaunt. The writing style is simple and humorous at times and you can overlook the predictable ending as it is a pleasure to walk this path for a while. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a light hearted trip into romance with a twist.

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## **Megan Reading in the sunshine says**

I was ever so excited about starting *A Stitch In Time*, especially when I heard it had a time-travel element to it. The only time-travel book that I had read previously to this was *The Time Traveler's Wife*, and I thoroughly enjoyed it so I was looking forward to seeing what part time-travel would play in this novel.

The story opens with Sarah Yates being drenched by a bus and having a bad day, which was a sign of worse things to come. Fast forward eighteen months and Sarah has just arrived home from a stressful day at the school where she works as a history teacher. Thinking of settling down with some wine, Sarah is annoyed to hear the doorbell, and is forced to answer it when the caller sees her peering through the window to see who it is. Standing before her is John Needler, who invites himself in and announces that he wants Sarah to travel back in time. What happens next is an adventure bigger than she could have ever imagined or dreamed of...

"I am what's known as a Time-Needle. It's something you're born into and can't do anything about. My dad was a Time-Needle until his retirement a few years ago and so was his father. Our job is to sew together holes that have opened up in time using a Stitch. If they remain open, people will die. I find Stitches in time and you're a Stitch."

I LOVED *A Stitch In Time*! I was hooked from the very first sentence and I couldn't read the words quick enough, I enjoyed the story so much that I was racing through the pages to continually find out the next part, and I had a wide smile on my face throughout.

I imagine subjects like time-travel are very difficult to write about – if the author gets it wrong and over-complicates things then the reader will struggle to keep up and make sense of things, possibly giving up on the book through sheer confusion. However, Amanda James has excelled in time-travel! Amanda explains things simply in a way that is easy to understand, the concept of time-travel and what John is asking of Sarah is explained in little doses so that it can be absorbed easily. I was not only left with a clear idea of the plot line, but drawn in by the way time-travel was laid out in front of me, so I was excited by the prospect, and very keen to continue reading and start the journey into time along with Sarah!

The characters were fantastically written. Sarah comes across straight away as a likeable character, she is just an ordinary woman who had been going through a hard time, having recently divorced from her husband in painful circumstances, she was struggling with the pressures of her job, and she had no confidence in herself. This made her vulnerable, it made her relateable to the readers and personally I got behind her from the first page. I so desperately wanted something to change her life, and so when John turned up at her door, I was cheering her on and willing her to go on the adventure into time. Sarah also made me laugh at many times during the story, one moment in particular is when she first meets John, and decides that what he is saying makes no sense, so he is obviously a hallucination. And seeing as her only other option is spending the evening alone, why not sit down, eat with him and have a chat with who she believes to be her imagination? After all, it's not something that you do everyday!

John... Oh John was a wonderful character! I liked him instantly, and I'm sure others will too! John was kind, he was handsome, and he had bursts of humour which brought his character alive! The romance was truly beautiful, there was so much meaning and emotion in the love story that it touched my heart, and their story stayed with me long after I had finished the last page.

The time-travel scenes were brilliant. Amanda James brought the past to life with her detailed descriptions of where Sarah had travelled to, what was going on around her and the time frame that she was in. Everything

was so vivid, from the language and words that Amanda uses, to the descriptions of the setting – I honestly felt as though I was time travelling with Sarah and that I too had been transported right into the middle of the scenes Sarah found herself in. As a reader we travel with Sarah to the blitz in Sheffield, to London with the suffragette movement and even to Old American West, and each journey is as intriguing and enthralling as the next!

A Stitch In Time is an enchanting, powerful, and absorbing tale of love, romance, humour, and moments in time which includes the perfect amount of historical detail. This is a truly unique and special book which deserves a permanent place on the shelf of every book lover.

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### **Isabella says**

I loved this book even before I read it. And after I read it, I loved it even more. Mandy has taken a really complicated subject in time travel, and actually simplified it for the benefit of the story, and that's quite a feat - I've read other time-travel stories and have usually come up with a reason why it couldn't happen that way, but A Stitch in Time is actually believable. Or at least, logical.

It's good fun, entertaining from start to finish, with some laugh aloud moments, but with a more serious side-story too, and the main characters are very sympathetic and believable.

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### **Tara Chevestt says**

This was a very fun time travel romance. The heroine is just told one day by a Johnny Depp look-alike that she's an designated time traveler who must go back in the past to save lives, 9 of them, a ricochet effect.

This comes at a time in her life when she needs it, needs a purpose, needs excitement, needs love, as she's just been run through the ringer by her ex-husband.

The time travel escapades were both cute and interesting. She has to be a maid in 1913 with a horribly bossy and evil employer, back to 1928 where she must deal with sexual harassment, WWII England during the blitz, and the best one of all was the American plains when there was a locust outbreak. That was really cool. I didn't know about that.

I'm not done...full review here: <http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2013/...>

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### **Shaz Goodwin says**

We first meet Sarah as she's walking down a narrow lane and becomes drenched by a passing bus! Everyone in the café has witnessed her soaking ... Her old school friend Karen is waiting for her inside. Sarah finds out her friend is pregnant but doesn't want to talk about it and rushes off.

For Sarah, disaster follows disaster until John Needler knocks on her door ... and then her life changes in a dramatic way! Through Sarah we get to spend time in Sheffield in 1940, Edwardian England, 1920's and in the 1870's.

There are so many different aspects to this unique story. Everything just ties-in making the plot solid and despite the time-travelling, very real! Sarah's job as a teacher and the staff/students are so true to life ... and I loved the way that James wove this into the past. The theory of time-travelling that John shares with Sarah is plausible and makes sense (well it did to me!) The time we spend in the past is just amazing, the characters and their circumstances feel real. I was quite sad to be pulled back into the present ... but at least we had John waiting for us on our return

Of course we have the romance between our two leads. Conflict comes from the time responsibilities they have and also from John's old flame Josephina. Sarah is her own worst enemy as well, still vulnerable and needing reassurance from others. I loved it when her confidence finally kicked in on her jaunts and she became a force to be reckoned with.

A Stitch in Time is sprinkled with humour. James is so creative, totally out of the box with her time quotes/idioms. I just so loved these and am still laughing now. Fantastic!

The personifications were unique too! for example on page 135 :

"Her pulse was racing ten to the dozen and relief jumped up from its arm lock and ran around her consciousness in perfumed slippers."

I adored this story – from the beginning to the end. This is one of those books that you don't want to end! So my advice is to stop reading the reviews and go and buy your own copy ...

I would like to thank the publishers for providing a copy in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Susan says**

This is yet another free book I won of Goodreads FirstReads and I must tell you that I loved this book, It catches you from the beginning and keeps you going. I loved John and Sarah and I was glad that they were together in the end to make up for what happened to Sarah at the beginning. This book is about travelling through time to save people who would have normally died in the past, Sarah's job is now to save them from death. Very well written although being in the United States and the book written in England some of the words I had to look up to see what the author was on about, but a really great read, I am hoping for more on the further adventures of John and Sarah.

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## **Susan in Perthshire says**

I love well written books about time travel and alternate timelines. Count me in for Connie Willis' Domesday Book and Blackout, Diana Gabaldon's first Outlander book, Philip K Dick's The Man in the High Castle, H G Wells Time Machine et al. I like a bit of fantasy and I always appreciate good research. I am quite happy to suspend disbelief for the duration. Throw in a bit of romance and you've got me. Sadly this book did not deliver what I was hoping for. The idea is neat but it is poorly executed. I was really

disappointed because I really wanted to like it and discover a new writer to follow. Sadly, this does absolutely nothing for me. It doesn't help that I found it difficult to like the heroine or to believe in the romance or to actually get into the story.

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## **Sorcha O'Dowd says**

When I heard that Choc Lit was going to be releasing a time-travelling story, I knew immediately that this would have to be bought and devoured within the space of a day. Indeed, by the end I was begging for more, and this begging was made all the more easy by the wonderful world of Twitter where I immediately rushed to ask whether there would be a second book. Fingers crossed!

A Stitch in Time is a wonderful story, not only giving us a unique and intriguing insight into different times of the past, but also representing a story of truth, forgiveness, loyalty and love.

The story of Time Needle's and Stitches is brilliantly brought to life, and I love how Sarah doesn't just accept this story when Time Needle John brings the news to her. I've read so many stories when a huge piece of very unrealistic news is thrown on them and they just accept it with a shrug, and then disappear on their journey. I love that Sarah acts like any sensible person and refuses to believe it, putting it down to hallucinations due to stress.

"A Stitch in time saves nine."

John matter-of-factly rambles on about how, as a Stitch, she now has to save three people in different time periods, including a homesteader in the Old American West, someone in the Sheffield Blitz and a suffragette in the early twentieth century. By saving each of these three people, you are in essence saving nine because of their children and grandchildren technically being saved as well, hence the "A Stitch in time saves nine." which was a brilliant use of the old saying.

"People in war time clothes with gas masks slung across their shoulders shopped, cycled, jumped on and off trams and generally went about their business."

Sarah's first travel is brilliantly written as she finds herself in 1940's Sheffield. I suppose when you think of the War, you immediately think of sirens, screaming, terror filling everyone's faces every minute of the day, but Amanda James beautifully creates the actual reality of a day during the war. It's just another day. People are probably worrying about the little rations they have left for the week, or walking to the post office nervously hoping to have a letter from a relative who is at the front, but we see a Britain in which the English remain strong, and determined to fight their battle over here to show that Hitler has not won. There is something so heartbreaking, but beautiful about this introduction to the World War II chapter of the novel, and I feel incredibly sad knowing that this normality that these people on the street are striving for will soon disappear when bombs rain down on them that evening.

In this chapter, we see the English at their best.

"Where are you going Auntie Violet?"

Violet threw back over her shoulder, "I'm off to change my vest. If I'm going to be killed, I want to make sure I'm clean."

The perfect example of English strength during the war. Propriety must be maintained even if you are going to die. Brilliant.

Sarah's trip to Victorian London gives us wonderfully clear flashes of Victorian London through the brilliant descriptions given to us. I do love my Downton Abbey (Matthew Crawley \*fans self\*), but it was great to see a very different workforce in this depiction of the underbelly of the house. It is a great pleasure to read the goings on of the house and the disgust that is shown from both the owner of the house and its workers at the idea of educated maids. Although you'd expect the servants to be thrilled at the idea of people of their class having the chance to have a good education, we see a brilliant glimpse into how advantages such as education causes friction, most probably caused through jealousy between the under-educated servants.

Sarah's mission to the 'Old American West' was cleverly during the locust infestation. I would like to thank Amanda James for creating this image so vividly in my mind I kept itching whilst I read, thinking I had something crawling over me. So thanks for that!

And last but definitely not least, the love story Amanda James created was beautiful and meaningful and will stay with me for a long time. The way they had to fight for each other was heartwarming.

Overall a brilliant, amazing, powerfully written book which had me both crying and laughing out loud in the space of one paragraph. John is immediately put onto my shelf of 'Fictional Crushes' which has been increasing rapidly since my discovery of 'Choc Lit' and their handsome hero's. 5 stars and a definite recommended read. Trust me, you will NOT regret it!

A Stitch in Time is available to download now on Kindle, and will be released in paperback on the 7th April.

Kindle

Amazon UK: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Stitch-Time-C...>

Amazon US: <http://www.amazon.com/Stitch-Time-Cho...>

Paperback

Amazon UK: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/A-Stitch-Time...>

Amazon US: <http://www.amazon.com/A-Stitch-Time-A...>

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## **Sharon Booth says**

When I heard about the forthcoming release of this book I knew immediately that I had to buy it. I am a massive Dr Who fan and anything that involves time travel and romance was always going to appeal to me. I couldn't wait to start reading this and finished it within two days.

A Stitch In Time is very easy to read. The subject of time travel can be unbelievably complicated and baffling, but Amanda James manages to explain the way that it works in her novel in a very easy-to-understand way. I found the whole concept of Needles and Stitches very imaginative and a clever concept. The main characters are Sarah and John. Sarah is a teacher whose self-esteem is at an all time low after a

double betrayal, and whose morale is at rock bottom with the pressures of her teaching job and her unfulfilled longing to be a mother. John is a market gardener who lives a double life as a Needle – a kind of guardian to his Stitches. Stitches must travel through time to prevent the death of a person whose loss would have a massive impact on the future. Sarah has been chosen by the powers-that-be to be a Stitch.

Sarah, understandably, is completely stunned by this revelation. She believes she has been hallucinating and it takes her quite a while to accept the truth of her situation. When she does, she is ready to undertake her first mission, and finds herself in Sheffield, during the Blitz. It's an area that she is very familiar with, but it's also the night of a major air raid that will leave all those around her dead. Who must Sarah save? And how can she achieve her mission?

The time travelling scenes are brilliantly done, with Sarah also travelling to Kansas in the nineteenth century to save a life among a group of homesteaders who are enduring a plague of locusts, Edwardian London, and a hospital in the nineteen twenties, where a very important discovery is about to be made...if Sarah can be successful. These scenes are just the right length, with the author striking a successful balance between the missions and Sarah's home life and her developing romance with Needle John.

The two main characters are very likeable. From the first scene Sarah wins the reader over. She is a very modern girl dealing with a complicated life, and immediately the reader will be on her side, willing her on through her heartbreak and cheering her through her challenges. John is a delightful hero, and there is enough passion, conflict and tension to make a very enjoyable romance. Besides Sarah's trust issues, there is also a former girlfriend of John's to deal with, and on top of all that, the powers-that-be or "The Spindly Ones" as Sarah calls them, are unwilling to allow a Needle and a Stitch to be together. Can John and Sarah prove that their love is genuine? Will The Spindly Ones give them a chance? Or will Sarah's lack of faith lead to the end of her Stitching days and the erasure of all her time-travelling memories, including those of John himself?

This is a well thought out book with a unique twist on time travel, likeable characters, a strong romance and some interesting historical facts thrown in for good measure. As Sarah is a history teacher she is quickly aware of the situations she has landed in, and through her easy summing up of what is happening around her the reader understands what is going on without being force fed a lot of dry and dusty facts. School history lessons were never like this (sadly!) and I can well understand why some reviewers are demanding a sequel. I don't know if that's the author's plan but I could quite see it working. All in all this is a very entertaining novel and highly recommended.

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## **Alison says**

I'm having a bit of a time-travel 'thing' at the moment.

I can't really make my mind up about this. First I hated the way in which the book used famous sayings about time and explained with respect to the premise of *Stitching Time* - it was very tortured.

I enjoyed the way in which Sarah travelled back in time and was inevitably a maid and forced to light fires and peel potatoes. I also liked the mixture of people she had to save - not all famous people. The insights into history were also interesting although once or twice I felt that we were being given too much information - history lessons disguised as fiction.

What didn't work for me was the relationship between Sarah and John and Josephina. It was pantomime villains and teenage angst which just didn't sit well with the rest. I also didn't think the Powers that Be and the whole mythology worked that well - maybe this is a mystery for a sequel?

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## **Lisa says**

Book Blurb from Choc Lit Publishing

A stitch in time saves nine ...or does it? Sarah Yates is a thirty-something history teacher, divorced, disillusioned and desperate to have more excitement in her life. Making all her dreams come true seems about as likely as climbing Everest in stilettos.

Then one evening the doorbell rings and the handsome and mysterious John Needler brings more excitement than Sarah could ever have imagined. John wants Sarah to go back in time ...

Sarah is whisked from the Sheffield Blitz to the suffragette movement in London to the Old American West, trying to make sure people find their happy endings. The only question is, will she ever be able to find hers?

### **MY BOOK REVIEW**

I loved the cover for this book and I found the book blurb intriguing. I was drawn into this book from the start. Sarah the main character was instantly likeable. She's a teacher and a girl who on the whole loves most of the kids she teaches. She also loves nothing more than grabbing a coffee with her best friend, then going home to her cosy house and husband. Many readers will identify with her. Like real life, this can all end in the blink of an eye.

Where the book then takes you is on a fascinating journey back in time to Edwardian England; The Blitz and across the ocean to the original American Homesteaders.

The concept of the book "A Stitch in Time" is so imaginative and unbelievable but it works and is a the same time wonderfully fascinating. Sarah is the "Stitch" who is sent back in time to fix things, and save lives. She has to work out who's life she has to save. Whenever you hear again the phrase "A Stitch in Time" I can guarantee you will always think of this book.

Each adventure into the past is seamlessly written and you are instantly drawn into the era that Sarah finds herself in. You can visualise the sights Sarah is faced with due to the vivid descriptions by the author.

One of the other main characters is John, who is a Time Needle. He is Sarah's link to the tasks set for her.

As bizarre as the subject matter sounds, this book really works and I was hooked.

If you're looking for a book that's well written, romantic, imaginative and different from the norm, then I thoroughly recommend it. It's a keeper for me!

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## **Ellen says**

Honestly, I'm disappointed in this book. The potential for it is so good - the protagonist is sent back in time

to save lives, and experiences all sorts of historical situations, with all the difficulties associated with them! However, it was ruined by the love story that was inserted in this. It was written in a very rushed form - you could tell the author was just trying to get them together properly as fast as possible, and then add the same cliché drama in with some ex.

I would have liked this better had it been better written - even if the love story had been fleshed out a bit more, I would have enjoyed it.

3/5 stars for the plot potential and the historical knowledge involved.

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### **Beadyjan says**

I wasn't completely sure about the idea of this book initially, kind of sci-fi/fantasy romance but as soon as I began it, it really reminded me of recent series' of Dr Who. In fact so much that throughout it, in my mind, John spoke with David Tennant's voice (my favorite Doctor Who actor) and it swept me along in a lovely swirl of excitement and continued to entertain and enthrall me as much as this tv show does.

It's a fast paced easy reading contemporary romance which follows the adventures of Sarah, a middle aged divorcee teacher, struggling to get job satisfaction from her work as a history teacher, licking her wounds following a very painful breakup of her marriage when suddenly her life becomes complicated and exciting in ways she'd never dreamed of. Into her life appears the enigmatic and undeniably attractive John Needler, who reveals that he's involved in time travel and Sarah has been chosen to go back in time to put right some wrongs to ensure history doesn't re-write itself to the suffering of many folk.

Her knowledge of history proves invaluable as she is whisked back to the blitz, then the early 1900s and even further back as an American settler. But her vulnerability, having been badly hurt and unable to trust anyone seems set to ruin any chance of happiness she might seem to be going to find with John whom she finds she is passionately attracted to yet unable to really trust.

What unfolds is an exciting and interesting story with lots of historical detail, and a lovely will they/ won't they/ get together/ stay together romance with enough twists to keep you guessing, a delightful hero you want to grab hold of and snog, and enough throw away laugh out loud one liners to keep you thoroughly entertained wherever you're reading it. The perfect holiday read and of the consistently high quality writing I have come to expect from Choc-lit. If you're looking for a fun and enjoyable reading experience with lots of romance thrown in you won't go far wrong with this book (or others from the same publisher)

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