



Washington's Providence

Chris LaFata

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2013 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Quarterfinalist (top 100 out of 10,000 entries, General Fiction Category)

"This is a premise that will draw people in and it's very interesting. The characters are likable and it gets right to the action... The combination of history and time travel and engaging dialogue in an upbeat style has whetted my appetite to read more." - Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Expert Reviewer.

Former history professor John Curry has been recruited by a time-travel company to scout the best vantage point for clients to witness the inauguration of the first President of the United States. There's just one problem: When he arrives in 1789, there is no inauguration—and no United States. Until this point, the time-travel job has had its perks. Getting relationship advice from the legendary lover, Casanova, was valuable. Accompanying Casanova to the opening night of Mozart's opera, *Don Giovanni*, was even better.

But being stranded in the British Colony of New York isn't what he signed up for. Few people have even heard of George Washington, and the short-lived American Revolution failed—presumably because Washington wasn't alive to lead it. John always knew history could change on a dime, but not after it already happened. Right?

After learning Washington was killed thirty years earlier during the French and Indian War, John realizes the only way he can return home is to ensure there's a United States to return to. Everything hinges on keeping Washington alive—not the easiest task protecting someone famous for leading battles on the front lines while perched on a horse. While traveling further back through time to protect Washington, he uncovers a secret the Freemasons have kept for more than two and a half centuries and learns that the history he thought he knew was completely wrong.

Washington's Providence Details

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From Reader Review Washington's Providence for online ebook

Amy says

Washington's Providence, is really something special. In this case, you really can judge a book from its cover. The author says that one of his students drew the cover for him. Doesn't it look like an authentic painting of George Washington that you've somehow managed to never see before?

I recently found a science fiction magazine that was soliciting more humorous science fiction submissions. And, thinking back, I have to say that I've not really read a whole lot of humorous science fiction beyond the rare *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. But this book definitely fits that category in its own way... without going too far over the top. It has its serious moments and is well-researched. However, it's the humor that wins you over. The first time you encounter this humor is in the opening line:

"One thing about the past: I'll never get used to the smell."

Thus begins a wonderful rollicking time travel adventure in which we find our hero, John Curry, attending an opera in Prague conducted by Mozart. While in Prague, he sees the Orloj in non-working order. I'd never heard of this magnificent clock. Legend has it, the city blinded the clockmaker so that he could not make a clock equal to or greater than this one for another city. In retribution, the clockmaker damaged the clock such that it no longer worked. The Orloj contains 3 main components: a time-telling component with "The Walk of the Apostles" as an hourly show and the figure of death striking the time, an astronomical dial, and calendar.

While in Prague, John encounters not only Mozart but the historically renowned lover, Casanova. Before reading this book, I had no idea that Casanova had written a futuristic novel called *Icosameron* which predicts television, poison gas, and self-powered cars among other inventions far beyond his time. How fitting that LaFata decides to give Casanova his very own time traveling groupies who could perhaps plant these images of the future in his mind.

At the heart of this novel, however, is John's and his college friend Mark's quest to ensure that George Washington lives long enough to one day become the first president of the United States of America. John and Mark are a fun and nerdy duo whose shooting skills were learned while playing Duck Hunt and who invoke the spirit of television mobsters to drum up a little artificial courage. John says that being together in the past is

"just like old times, the two of us, riding our horses -- only this time they're real and not part of some roleplaying game."

The takeaway here seems to be that video game skills are useful for something after all, especially when you find yourself in the middle of the French Indian War.

I hope I've not given away too much of the fun this book has to offer. But it was one of the 2013 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Quarterfinalists in the General Fiction Category, and it's well-deserving. If you're not convinced yet to read it, at least take the time to watch the book trailer which was created and narrated by the author:

<http://youtu.be/IbjqS1T8HkQ>

If you're anything like me, you'll find yourself reading John Curry's voice in the voice of the author from the book trailer. I almost felt as if I had an audiobook going in my head.

I look forward to the next book in the series and seeing what other historical characters come alive on LaFata's pages. You'd be surprised how many time travel novels fail to actually include much history or bring their characters to life as well as LaFata has. Having read scores of novels in the genre, I'm finding actual history in a time travel novel to be more of an anomaly than the norm.. I truly hope this novel gets the publicity it needs. I'd like to hope that its humor, history, and the fact that it's well-written will take it far.

Kelly Willcoxbrackeen says

Amazing!! Action-packed, unique, nail-biting, suspenseful, intellectual, are just a few of the adjectives that describe this book. A group of scientists and historians invent a time-travel machine to travel back in time and observe history as it happens. The hero of our book first travels back in time and meets Casanova and gets into a bit of trouble. Then the historian manages not to get fired, travels to Washington's inauguration only to find out Washington got killed and America belongs to the British! Of course, its up to the history professor, and the scientist to figure out what went wrong and how to correct it. The characters come to life and feel like best friends to me as I cheer them on to save the country. Casanova was an unexpected treat. The scenes were described so well, even the smells, the dangling and the itching of the 1700s. The author kept the details so true to the time-line. The editing was very well done. I only spotted maybe one or two times where maybe something was italicized that shouldn't have been. This book definitely makes my top ten favorite of all time list! I recommend everyone to read this book!!! You will enjoy it! Keep on reading my fellow bookworms.

Wendy Terrien says

What a great read!

Washington's Providence is historical fiction with a twist, one that makes the reader wonder if there's more to the story of George Washington than we know. The tale is fast-paced, intriguing and well-researched, and the characters are realistic and likable. I couldn't stop reading -- had to know what would happen next. It's not surprising that the book was a semi-finalist in Amazon's breakout novel contest. It's good stuff from start to finish and I'm looking forward to the next in the series.

Sarah says

The star of this novel for me was the fantastic story it presented. I was swept away almost from the

beginning by this tale of time travel, intrigue, and action. Not only do we get the straight forward story of having to save George Washington from mistakenly dying. Nope, we've got mysterious messages from famous individuals, a background story from the Freemasons, and company men who know *way* more than they should. There was not one spot in this novel where I was bored. My interest in finding out the answers to the mysteries kept me reading faster and faster (as evidenced by how quickly I finished this novel).

Along with the story, this author really knows how to manage the flow of the narrative. There was not a time that I encountered endless amounts of exposition or descriptive paragraphs. Some exposition existed in the beginning of the novel, but that was necessary to help set the stage for the time-traveling adventure to come and for future novels (which I personally can't wait for!). Once our heroes got time-traveling, it was a nonstop journey to a fantastic story.

The character of John Curry was such an awesome choice to tell this story through. He's not your brainy scientist nor history guru. He's just an ordinary guy who has an extraordinary place in history and the destiny of the American Revolution. I really enjoyed seeing how he got swept into the rush of time-traveling and then made it his own by making difficult choices and carrying through on his actions. There was also a nice side of humor between John and Mark that brought some levity to the heavy business of changing history.

I adored this book. With a great story, very readable narrative flow, and likable characters, this book is highly recommended for those who enjoy time-traveling mystery and historical fiction all bound up with awesome.

Jana says

I've always wanted to read a book like this. The premise is interesting and the story was cleverly written. Even though I figured some of it out early on that was okay. There were enough surprises along the way and at the end to keep me interested. I enjoyed every part of it and look forward to more Timeless Arts novels.

Kristina Rosa says

This book was picked in my book club, and I have to admit it is not a book I would have picked in my own. However, it has easily become one of my favorite books! I am not a fan of history and avoid it at all cost, yet the author writes with such ease and gives enough background info that it was easy for me to follow having no knowledge of these historical events. Who knows, maybe historical fiction will be my new favorite genre? I am anxiously awaiting the sequel!

Corinne says

What a terrific story! I was sucked in from the very first line:

April 30th, 1789
One thing about the past: I will never get used to the smell.

Excellent!

This book REALLY made me think about the brain-bending time travel question in a real and meaningful way. What if you traveled back in time, only to discover that things aren't exactly as they were taught in the history books? What if you got there and NOTHING was as it should be? What if this altered history made it impossible for you to get home... because home was no longer there?

From the blurb: Former history professor John Curry has been recruited by a time-travel company to scout the best vantage point for clients to witness the inauguration of the first President of the United States. There's just one problem: When he arrives in 1789, there is no inauguration—and no United States.

Great stuff, right??

I don't want to give anything away by trying to write a mysterious review. Just know that this is an exciting historical adventure story with great characters, a riveting plot, and yes... George Washington himself.

LaFata is clearly a lover of history and the tidbits that he sprinkles throughout build a rich world that feels full and complete, and quite dangerous.

Also... there is a recipe!

Paul says

What if...

What if we went back in time and met George Washington? Would we transfer some terrible germ to him while shaking his hand? Change history? I won't rehash the plot again - you've probably read the synopsis and already know what the story's about.

Firstly, I liked the science Chris has used. It's never going to please everyone, but his method of travel to a different time was as good as anybody else's including H.G. Wells.

Reading this book was a lesson in American history (with a little bit of music history thrown in). Don't let that put you off if, like me, you're not from the USA; it's still a fantastic read regardless...and you'll possibly learn something. I know I did.

Chris LaFata's writing style is excellent, and he has obviously done his fair share of research and heavy duty thinking before putting finger to keyboard. I liked the little details he includes in the book - like the cut and design of 18th century clothes, the types of public lavatories at the music halls in Prague, the vivid descriptions of street life in old New York. Our main character's friend Mark says, "I understand about twenty percent of what comes out of Perry's mouth" referring to a low socio economic Virginian character. I think in reality, he would understand a lot less of what was said...and the locals would understand almost nothing of modern language.

It's hard to imagine a time when there are no computers, no phones, no reliable mail service, no reliable news service, hardly any good roads, wild Indians, no sewerage and mostly crappy food...but Chris does a good job of creating that scary imaginary landscape in our minds.

I loved this opening story in this series, I appreciated the brevity of the book and now I'd like to meet George

Washingmachine too.

Looking forward to read

Tammy Cox says

Really enjoyed this book! Time travel, George Washington and a Freemason secret revealed! I was sceptical since I've never been THAT into early American history. I learned a lot in a story that was absolutely captivating. I can't wait for the second novel by this author.

Alan says

Chris LaFata shines in his newly released book, Washington's Providence. LaFata masterfully intermingles history, science, and intrigue as he takes you on a thought-provoking ride, sometimes on horseback and sometimes in a time machine. LaFata credibly creates a plausible condition, overcoming time-travel paradoxes, and generating solid character relationships. You won't always know what directions things will go, but you'll definitely know it's going somewhere.

If you know someone who is interested in history, time travel, or reading in general, now is a good time for a Christmas gift. I suggest ordering a copy of Washington's Providence at chrislafata.com.

Ferdinand Digiuseppe says

This was an easy book to read. The pages and chapters flew by. Written in a clear, straightforward style, I felt like I was listening to a friend tell a story. Very interesting to go back to a time in history that we generally don't visit often enough.

The plot was well thought out, although I felt he glossed over a paradox or two. When I think of some of those paradoxes it gives me such a headache I want to go back and shanghai my grandfather back to Italy before he meets nana!

Anyway, a great first effort. Looking forward to the sequel.

Gale Ingram says

This book really caught me right from the start, I couldn't put it down, it has a very unique story line, very different than anything I've read before. The characters were well written and interesting, the story took me on a journey that I didn't expect. Chris LaFata is a very talented writer and I look forward to reading more of his work.

❖ Quindi ❖ says

Chris Lafata's Washington's Providence is a book like no other in my opinion. I have read many time travel related books but most have failed to consist of factual history and carry out as well as Washington's Providence has. I loved it.

Eli says

Just a fun read. One part Science Fiction, one part Historical Fiction, all fun.

Grumpus says

This is my favorite time in American history. Like the author, I love history and I've read nearly all the books the author referenced in the acknowledgements and loved them all. I appreciate the research, recipe, and combination with my second favorite genre, time travel. All the makings of my ideal book.

The book did start out amazingly well, then slowed to a crawl in the middle and then rushed to an abrupt ending that left me disappointed. I have mixed feelings about recommending it and am only slightly curious about the sequel.

I wish it could have been more.
