



West of Paradise

Marcy Hatch

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Katherine Kennedy has it all—she's beautiful, wealthy, and engaged to a man who, at one time, seemed perfect for her. Only she can't marry him, and she can't say why. All she knows is there is suddenly nothing she wants. Not her fiancé Antonio. Not any of the hundred thousand things her money can buy.

Jack McCabe comes home from the war with a pretty medal and a lot of ugly pictures in his head. He has nowhere to go, nor anyone to go with. All he has is a vague sense of discontent, a restlessness that will not abate.

Separately, Katherine and Jack are drawn to Paradise Tours on the privately owned Cristobel Island, a resort promising life-altering adventure. Just choose the time and place. Suddenly they find themselves over 125 years in the past, 1881 to be exact. Neither of them knows the other is a fellow time-traveler.

For Jack McCabe it's the life he craves, and he's at the top of his game—until his run-in with Alanna McCleod, the beautiful but deadly train robber. Katherine no sooner lands back in time than she is mistaken for Alanna McCleod and can't understand why—until she sees the wanted poster.

Set in the Old West, this high-spirited tale of mistaken identity, romance, and murder is part historical fiction, part time travel fantasy, and completely captivating.

West of Paradise Details

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From Reader Review West of Paradise for online ebook

Susan Swiderski says

According to the saying, you can't judge a book by its cover, but most of us are guilty of doing just that at one time or another. If you look at the cover of this book, and assume it's a standard run-of-the-mill cliched cowboy story, you'd be waaaaaay wrong. It isn't a standard run-of-the-mill cliched ANYTHING. It's fresh and imaginative, well-written, and a thoroughly enjoyable tale from start to finish. Matter of fact, I'm not sure, but I think the author may have invented a brand new genre. A hybrid, and a darned good one.

Whether you're a fan of well-researched historical fiction, of the Old West, of time travel, adventure, or romance, you'll find something to rave about in this book. A brilliant scientist owns an exclusive island getaway, and he invites some of his guests to reeeeeeally get away... by traveling into the past through his secret invention. (Not a big deal is made about this... it just IS. And somehow, the author makes it seem totally acceptable and plausible.) Our get-away-from-it-all hero precedes our heroine into the Old West, and establishes a new life for himself there. By the time she arrives, he's become a bounty hunter. The trouble is, our poor unsuspecting heroine is the spitting image of the thieving murderous woman who darned near killed him five years earlier. And so it begins. The question is: where will it end? But um, don't be in too big of a hurry to get to the end, because the journey is delicious ... whether it's on horseback on a miserable rainy day, or in a hot overcrowded train, you'll feel like you are there. Total immersion.

Great story. I can't say enough good things about it.

Krystalyn Drown says

Who hasn't fantasized about traveling back in time, seeing what life was like back then, and playing dress up in the elaborate clothing of days past? Jack McCabe and Katherine Kennedy get to do just that. Both are unsatisfied with their lives and are chosen to journey back to 1881. Jack loves it so much, he goes native. Katherine expects a vacation. What she doesn't expect is to get mistaken for a wanted train robber and captured by bounty hunter, Jack. Soon, she's on her way to her own hanging

West of Paradise is full of plenty of twists to keep you interested. Both Jack and Katherine are likable characters, and I cheered for them both to have their happy endings. There are plenty of details to make you feel like you are dropped in the middle of 1881. It's also great fun to see cameo appearances from legendary people of that time. Marcy has crafted a debut novel that's part time-travel, part historical, part romance, and all fun.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Anne says

This was an excellent book. Had me turning the pages and wondering how it was going to end!! Great storytelling and characters were really good. I can't wait for the next adventure. Highly recommended.

Jemi Fraser says

What a fun read! The plot is unique and I loved all the unexpected twists and turns along the way! Time travel, danger, romance, mystery all blend together to create a great story. Can't wait for the next book!!

Luanne Smith says

What a fun read. I won this novel from Marcy on her blog, but I would have bought it anyway. I enjoy time-travel stories and the dilemmas they pose for the characters. Marcy did a great job with this one. Has all the twists and turns you hope for.

Lexa Cain says

When wealthy Katherine wants a one-of-a-kind vacation, she gets more than she bargained for as she's transported back through time to the wild west of the 1800s. Being a smart, tough CEO, she examines all the details and thinks she's got everything under control. But pride cometh before a fall. Katherine discovers her biggest nemesis is herself! Well, not really—it's her ancestor and spitting image, Alanna McLeod.

The author writes the villainess so well that I was scared of her—and I'm hard to scare! This incredibly cold-hearted woman is a true match for Katherine. Both women are clever and determined, and they face off in a thrilling story with plenty of twists and turns. The part I loved best was the intellectual conundrum: if Katherine manages to kill Alanna, does she cut off her own ancestors and her own life? If she doesn't kill Alanna, can Katherine go back to her own time knowing the truth about her ruthless ancestor and the origin of the money that funded her corporation?

It's this ethical dilemma that sets the book apart from other novels. I had no idea what Katherine was going to decide or even if she and her hunky paramour Jack could evade murderous Alanna's clutches. To find out what happens, you'll have to buy this exciting book!

Tyrean says

Time travel, romance, the wild west, a strong heroine and a strong hero, mistaken identity, and some exciting plot twists are all combined flawlessly for an excellent and exciting read!

Marcy Hatch has taken the time to really get to know her characters: somewhat spoiled Katherine Kennedy who is searching for some meaning in her life, and Jack McCabe who needs to find a place that he can recover from war and find a use for his skills. At first, the build felt slow for both of these characters, but once they travel in time, more layers of their characters were revealed and they each compelled the story forward with their need for belonging, justice, and purpose.

In addition to fully fledged characters, Marcy Hatch has taken the time required to do full research for the era presented. The west felt gritty, dry, and real.

It's hard to write a review without revealing too much, but all I can say is, excellent plot twists await you if you open this book. It's a tough one to put down.

Angela Brown says

This is one of those stories that you can enjoy whether you love a touch of time-travel, old west adventure or romance. That's because Marcy Hatch has succeeded in melding all these into a wonderful read.

I won't give anything away, but I'll say that just when you think you understand everything that's going on, just when you think you've figured everything out, Marcy twists the plot and gives the reader a surprise to enjoy.

Well done!!

LadyCalico says

This was a very original and different time-travel book with most of the action taking place in the old American West. The Western would have been a great story even without the time-travel complication thrown in. My one complaint is the last three pages, I wished the story had ended three pages sooner because I thought that confusing stuff about the need to go to Greece detracted from the story. Maybe it was supposed to be the beginning of a sequel, but I wished the author would have saved it for the next book.

C.D. Coffelt says

A Most Excellent Read!

Jack and Katherine, two people living separate lives, completely oblivious to the other. Both wanting the unattainable and finding it in the most unlikely place. In the past.

West of Paradise is Mr. & Mrs. Smith meets Wild, Wild West in a plotline from The Time Machine. And somehow makes it all completely believable. Combined with intrigue that keeps the reader on their toes, a paradox that kept me guessing until the end, and a storyline that made me want more; this novel has enough twists to satisfy everyone.

I expected a lot from Ms. Hatch since I've read other manuscripts by this debut author. An honor to be sure. But this one is one of those books that far exceeded my expectations. Good storyline. Great writing. I know this author has a brilliant future ahead of her.

Highly recommend.

Dianne Salerni says

West of Paradise is a time-traveling romance, with the emphasis on the romance, adventure, and a setting in the Old West. It is not science fiction. Just like in Connie Willis novels *The Doomsday Book* and *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, the mechanism for time traveling is not explained because it's not important to the plot. You just have to accept that it exists and go along for the ride.

Jack McCabe and Katherine Kennedy both sign up separately for the experience. Neither is happy in their current lives, and Paradise Tours offers an adventure of a lifetime. Jack, who goes into the past first, almost immediately has a near fatal run-in with a female outlaw. After surviving a gunshot wound, he finds a niche in the 1880s as a bounty hunter and “goes native.”

Katherine never intends her trip to be anything more than a visit to the past—where she gets to wear beautiful 19th century gowns and gloves and fancy hats. But her vacation is hijacked by a roguish bounty-hunter mistaking her for the villainous woman who shot him five years prior. And when Katherine sees the Wanted poster, she realizes Alanna McLeod has to be her ancestor—one she's never heard of.

Jack is determined to bring Katherine/Alanna to justice in Abilene in spite of her protests of innocence. Neither knows the other one is a time-traveler, although the reader waits breathlessly for one of them to figure it out. Meanwhile, Alanna's former partner, Will Cushing, hears of her capture and rides off to intercept the pair—not to rescue Alanna, but to get his revenge on her.

West of Paradise is a fast-moving adventure/romance with a vivid and accurate historic setting, seen through the eyes of two modern main characters. Marcy Hatch creates a varied and likeable cast, and a plot with unexpected twists. Her style is engaging, entertaining, and likely to produce compulsive page-turning.

As a full disclosure, I served as an early reader for this story in its manuscript stages. However, familiarity did not in any way dim my enjoyment of the finished, polished version.

Mina Burrows says

I'm a huge fan of historical romance as well as paranormal books. Marcy's *West of Paradise* has both and what a fantastic read! I haven't read a good time travel book in a long while, so I was do. Have you ever wanted to trade your current life for one in the past? Our two main characters, Katherine Kennedy and Jack McCabe decide to do this and like any good story, they have no idea what awaits them. Both Jack and Katherine have their own reasons for traveling time and essentially it's to escape their current realities and responsibilities. Jack manages to find his own path in the past in the Old West. As the story unfolds, he's created quite a life as a bounty hunter and in his mind he's content until he meets the confounding Katherine Kennedy. Like Jack, Katherine longs to escape into the past, but when she arrives, her life spins wildly out of control from a case of mistaken identity. Can you imagine be mistaken for an infamous murderess and thief? And worse, having one of the best bounty hunters on your tail? As much as Jack wants to capture the elusive, Alanna McLeod, Katherine halts much of his progress. Katherine is pretty amazing, but does she have what it takes to survive the Old West? This story takes you on a wild ride filled with bank robbers, murder, deadly

family ties and of course romance. If you're looking for time traveling romance adventure with taste of the Old West, then you'll definitely want to check out Marcy Hatch's *West of Paradise*. I really enjoyed it and I think you will too.

Charity Bradford says

I should admit that Marcy is a friend and fellow moderator over at Unicorn Bell with me. She is also with the same publisher I am--WiDo Publishing. This is her debut novel and holy cow does she come out swinging. I read her book in one day. It's been almost a week and I've put off this review for one reason.

I'm not sure what to say. I've been trying to think of real "review-type" things to say, but I can only think of a few and I'm afraid you'll think I'm just being nice to a friend. But that's not it at all. The fact is I got lost in the story and didn't pay any attention to the writing. I felt fear for Katie, angry at Jack for being such a jerk in the beginning, but grew to like him as much as Katie did.

Marcy floored me by making me feel like I really was back in 1881. The style is different, but the details were as good as the Louis L'Amour books I read as a teen. Didn't see that one coming did you? Yes, it was awesome. And when our characters were in the "near future" time of their actual time, Marcy had nice little details that made it feel real and totally possible. Nothing way out there crazy, but just little things that still gave it the flavor of "not now".

The best way I can sum it up is--*Back to the Future III* meets *Somewhere In Time*.

Patricia says

This is a cute time travel story of mistaken identity. It was clear Ms. Hatch put a lot of effort into research and I felt as immersed in 1881 America as the characters. The plot had enough twists to keep me engaged and the romance was believable. My only hangup was editorial, which is why I gave the book 4 stars. If you can get past that, this is overall a delightful read.

Deborah says

I love time travel novels and I've been on a spree lately, reading anything I can that has anything to do with it.

But this book, I don't even know why, was not very engaging.

I think it's a good western romance, if that's what you're looking for, but as a time travel romance it was somewhat lacking.

Don't get me wrong, the premise was nice and I liked that they didn't go into technical details, otherwise it would've been more sci-fi than romance, but something in the words left me empty.

Maybe I am just more accustomed to a certain flowery language, as I am an avid fantasy reader and not

much of a contemporary fan at all.

Or it might've been I just couldn't feel for the characters ... is it just me or was Katherine doing , kinda , nothing really? I prefer a kick-ass-heroine. Sorry. :)
