



A Matter of Time

Margaret Locke

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Nobody would blame widowed doctoral student Eliza James for giving up on Happily Ever After; at twenty-nine, she's suffered more loss than most people do in a lifetime. But Eliza's convinced her own hero is still out there, waiting for her, just like in the beloved romance novels she devours. Every girl deserves a Darcy, right?

Only Eliza doesn't dream of a modern-day affair: she wants the whole Regency experience. When a magical manuscript thrusts her back two hundred years into the arms and life of one Deveric Mattersley, Duke of Claremont, however, Eliza soon realizes some fantasies aren't all they're cracked up to be, especially when her duke proves himself less than a Prince Charming.

Deveric Mattersley has no interest in marriage. Determined to atone for his sins after convincing himself he's at fault for the death of his first wife, he decrees himself content to focus on running his family's estates, and on raising his son—until the mysterious Mrs. James appears. Who is she? What does she want? And why does she make Dev's blood run hot in a way no woman ever has?

A Matter of Time Details

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From Reader Review A Matter of Time for online ebook

Joanne Hetherington says

Good book and story.

Margaret Locke says

I do so hope you love Eliza and Deveric's story - I had so much fun writing, letting my imagination run free (okay, along with historical research) as to what it would be like to live in Regency England. And the ending gets me every time (even though *I* wrote it!). Thanks for giving A Matter of Time a shot!

Josette says

Who needs a DeLorean when you've got a magical manuscript? This book is perfect for anyone who's ever thought, "I was born in the wrong era. I should have lived two hundred years ago, when things were simpler, more courteous, less stressful -- a time that inspired so many beautiful romance stories."

That's just the sort of thing protagonist Eliza James is always saying, and in this second book by author Margaret Locke, Eliza gets her wish to travel back in time to 1812 England.

It all seems so perfect: Her best friend Cat found a magical manuscript (in Locke's first book, "A Man of Character") that allows her to bring to life any man she writes about. So, all she needs to do is write a fantasy man for Eliza and set the story in Jane Austen's England.

When it works, Eliza is ecstatic. A young widow, who dreams of meeting her Mr. Darcy and has all but made a career of studying England's Regency period, Eliza seems custom-made for the 19th Century.

But it won't be that easy in this tale that all but screams, "Be careful what you wish for."

Eliza wanted a fairy-tale love story. In her knee-jerk, naïve wish, that meant: meet a prince (or in this case a duke) and leap right into that happily ever after. What Eliza gets instead is the entire rags-to-riches fairy-tale -- complete with a "wicked stepmother" figure in her prince's mother, the Dowager Duchess of Claremont, who takes an immediate disliking to Eliza and vows to keep the odd American away from her son.

Eliza also has an obstacle in herself, as she inexpertly navigates 19th-Century England and all its mores.

Traveling back in time with Eliza is enthralling, and I found myself wanting to see, hear, and touch everything along with her. I even wish this book had been longer, so as to include more detail of the buildings, the clothing, and landscape.

This story is for everyone who enjoys a good love story -- Jane Austen fan or otherwise. The writing is approachable, and the story felt, to me at least, like a tribute to various well-known love stories, like Beauty and the Beast.

But for you Austen fans, you'll have plenty giggle-worthy moments too, reading about Eliza, who shares many of the qualities and experiences of Miss Jane Austen's heroines.

- Emma Woodhouse's independence
- Anne Elliot's hope for a second chance at love
- Catherine Morland's wide-eyed exuberance, as she delightedly finds herself in the halls of the impressive and imposing Northanger Abbey
- Marianne Dashwood's passion for life and love, and her too-frequent tendency to tell it like it is
- Fanny Price's devotion to the idea of family and a willingness to earn her keep
- Elizabeth Bennet's pride in not settling for less than she deserves

This book has it all -- humor, love, passion, heartbreak, redemption, and a fish-out-of-water aspect in Eliza that makes you want to root for her success.

Elissa Mahler says

I was blessed with a free copy of this book, and have chosen of my own volition to share my review here, with you!

Wow, truly a tale that spans time. Starting in the end of 2011, where the first book in series left off; and continuing on into 1812 (yup time travel)! A love story that truly passes the test of time. I won't go into story specifics, but will tell you that this book will keep you wanting more.

The story line is fantastic, with twists and turns; and time travel! This book is not the typical regency read, nor the typical time travel read; but is a magnificent melding of the two distinct genres. Characters are complexly developed, and life-like.

Overall: A not to be missed read!

Sharon Carr says

I absolutely loved this book. I enjoyed A Man of Character and couldn't wait to read this one. I fell in love with the characters in the first book, made new friends in this one and can't wait for more from Margaret Locke!

Terri Bond says

One of the best books i've read this year. If you liked the outlander series you will love this book

Isabelle Rio says

I just finished reading an advanced copy of this book. It was a very fitting follow-on to the first book in the

series, *A Man of Character*, which I loved. The characters (especially Deveric Mattersley) were engaging, and the story was captivating. I enjoyed this book just as much as *AMOC* and am now eagerly awaiting the next book in the series.

Sharon Wagner says

Great!

This book by Margaret Locke is absolutely wonderful! Loved every minute of it, couldn't put this book down! Deveric and Eliza were perfect together. All the characters were awesome! Can't wait to read the next book.

Foy Iver says

With November being absolutely insane, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to dedicate time (see what I did there?) to reading. But when I picked up the second installment in the Matters of Love series, I couldn't put it down!

Locke's talent for characters shines even brighter in "A Matter of Time": Eliza wins everything; Deveric gives my favorite moody hero with sex appeal a run for his money (Rochester :swoon:); I could've done with less Frederick but every potential stepmom needs a sickly child to win over; and, of course, buddies Arth and Coll are cheeky gold.

Locke has me hooked for the third installment.

Quinn Fforde says

I loved *A Man of Character*, and I was really looking forward to the sequel. I was disappointed to find that it just didn't work. As I was reading, two reasons for this came to mind. One, *AMoC* was contemporary and has a different rhythm than a historical novel. Of course, this is a contemporary woman in a historical setting; I understand that. However, *AMoT* tried to be a historical novel in most places. The wrong rhythm meant that the historical characters felt flat and forced. Deveric couldn't decide whether to be a duke or a mouse. The mother's resolution was ridiculous. Amara had the most life of any of them, and she was out of character several times. I didn't really care about any of them.

Two, time travel turned Eliza into an idiot. She is supposed to be a grad student who has studied Austen for years. Yet she makes the simplest blunders and seems surprised by the oddest things. On the first day, she thinks that the sisters don't appreciate what they have in their magnificent home, but two weeks later she is on about how bored she is. Bored? She is a life-long student now living in her chosen time period!!! There are tons of things to learn about and explore. I don't care if it is too cold to be outside much. She could observe the servants or examine the library or something! She has relevant and time-appropriate lessons to prepare, too, but she is bored. Maybe she is bored because she only looks up from her navel gazing to obsess over whether or not Deveric is attracted to her. In general, heroines that others find passive don't bother me, but I kept waiting for Eliza to DO something. I was seriously disappointed in Eliza.

I gave this three stars because there were some glimmers of interest in here. Also, the copy was typo-free as far as I could tell. In the end of the book, there is a bit about the third book, Amara's story. I will be back for

that one because it will be a contemporary again, and the author can do those quite well. I am crossing my fingers for better the next time.

Alan says

I was pleased to have won this book in the Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

This is the first time that I have read any books by this author and must admit that I am not a great fan of time travel. For once I rather enjoyed time travel, but then historical fiction is one of my favourite genres. I hope to read more books by Margaret Locke. Recommended.

Dora says

Characters I can cheer for

I was given this book by Margaret Locke, the author, and I have chosen to do a review of the book. *A Matter of Time* is the second book in the *Magic of Love* trilogy. I paid for and reviewed *A Man of Character* the first book in the series and loved it. These books are romances with a slight paranormal bent to them. Cat Schreiber, Eliza James' friend, has a manuscript that allows any male character that she writes as a love interest to become real. Eliza James who is a 29 year old widow has not had the best dating luck asks for Cat to write a story for her with a Regency era Duke along the lines of Jane Austen's Darcy. Eliza thinks that she is more suited to living in 1812 than 2012. Cat and Eliza throw a ball on New Year's Eve with everyone supposed to come in Regency era costume. Eliza meets Duke Deveric Mattersley at the ball and he seems confused. At midnight, they kiss and end up in his study at Clarehaven in England in 1812.

Life in Regency England is not as easy as Eliza had anticipated even though she had studied the period as a graduate student. She soon finds that simple things trip her up like manners, language, food, clothing, and chamber pots. As with all romances, this one has its bumpy parts but all in all, I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Dora says

Eliza James had faith her adventure would have the results she expected. Meet her own Mr. Darcy and made him fall in love with her. She was sure Cat had done things right and Deveric Mattersley, her duke, would be a sure thing. But, she found the Duke had his own story, his own issues and regrets. When the strange American woman suddenly appeared in his life, he was confused and attracted. Deveric Mattersley, seventh Duke of Claremont, had no life because he was drowning with guilt and the woman was shaking his defenses. I'm so glad I found this book! Regency era and Time travel stories had been two of my favorite do far and with this interesting, amusing and lovely story I spent pleasant hour reading and enjoying the plot development. Kept my attention all the time, not boring at all. Loved the narrations and description, chuckled with Deveric's doubts and Eliza's comments, felt emotionally with some scenes and finished the book eager for more. Good written story! First book that I read by this author and definitely, I'm going after Cat's story because I'm so intrigued with her.

Natasha says

This was a real page-turner. Once I began reading this book, I only put it down twice- to pick my kids up from school and to cook dinner. As I predicted, this book was far more enjoyable than Book One in this series. Thank you, Ms. Locke, for focusing the plot on the relationship between the hero and heroine. There were no distracting subplots.

Eliza James, a Regency-era obsessed woman from the year 2012, has traveled back in time to the year 1812 thanks to the creative writing powers of her friend Cat. Eliza has dreamed of falling in love with a Regency-era duke and living happily ever after. Reality smacks her in the face rather abruptly when Deveric Mattersley, the Duke of Claremont, and his family begin questioning her presence in their home. Winning the duke's heart is not as easy as she'd imagined either, especially when she's a poor American widow and he has no interest in marrying again. Just when Eliza considers giving up her romantic hopes, Fate intervenes and an unfortunate incident paves the way for a happy ending for Eliza and Deveric.

One question kept coming to mind as I read this book- If Eliza is a graduate student who has spent years studying Jane Austen and the Regency era, why does she appear a bit ill-prepared to live in this time period? She didn't know the steps to any of the Regency dances. She didn't know how to ride a horse. She couldn't play a musical instrument. Yes, I know her parents didn't have a piano, but she could have taken lessons as an adult. She couldn't sew or embroider. She couldn't cook. I daresay she probably couldn't paint with watercolors either. She didn't know how to teach, yet she volunteers to serve as governess to the duke's son. Eliza was not whisked away to 19th-century England without warning. She knew she would be going there on New Year's Eve. If I knew I was going to the 19th-century, I'd have sewn more than jewelry and a cell phone into my dress. I'd have worn a coat with several inside pockets. In these pockets, I would have placed several bottles of Tylenol, antibiotics, peroxide, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, a set of sponge hair rollers, and maxi pads. *Just my basic 21st-century necessities!* Yes, I know this small supply wouldn't have lasted forever, but it would have given me some comfort for a few months while I adjusted to 19th-century life.

4.5 stars

Alice says

Book 2. Eliza gets her Duke

In a Man of Character, Eliza asks for Cat to write her into a Regency Romance and send her back in time to find a love match with a Duke. I truly enjoyed this time travel story. The only part that rang somewhat jaringly came from the fact that Eliza was presented as a literature scholar working on her Ph.D. with a dissertation on Jane Austin. She was a expert in the Regency period. Upon her arrival she made consistent glaring errors in speech and behavior, which would have been fun if she were merely a Austin enthusiast. But for someone who was up to Ph.D. level it was disturbing. Calling people by their first names without their permission upon first introduction comes to mind. She even realizes that she is doing this, but seems to continue anyway. Later in the book she manages to calm down but is bemoaning the loss of plumbing and other modern innovations. I Also wonder why she didn't take a solar charger for her cell phone. Well maybe

I am being a bit picky, for I enjoyed it.
