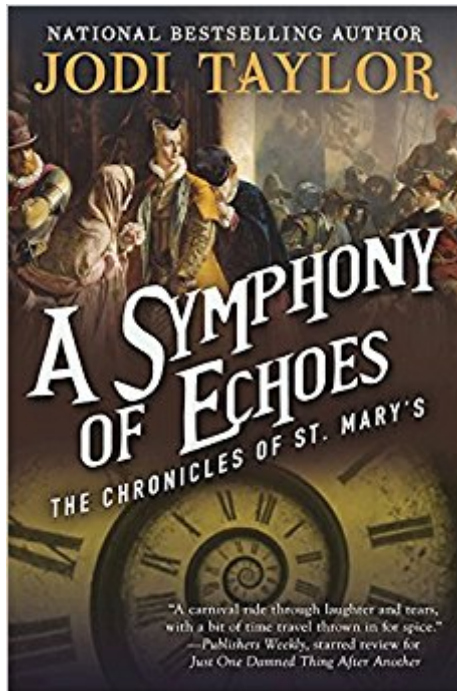




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A Symphony Of Echoes: The Chronicles Of St. Mary's Book Two



Synopsis

The second book in the bestselling British madcap time-travelling series, served with a dash of wit that seems to be everyone's cup of tea. Behind the seemingly innocuous facade of St. Mary's Institute of Historical Research, a different kind of academic work is taking place. Just don't call it 'time travel'; these historians investigate major historical events in contemporary time. And they aren't your harmless eccentrics either; a more accurate description, as they ricochet around history, might be unintentional disaster-magnets. The Chronicles of St. Mary's tells the chaotic adventures of Madeleine Maxwell and her compatriots: Director Bairstow, Leon 'Chief' Farrell, Mr. Markham, and many more; as they travel through time, saving St. Mary's (too often by the very seat of their pants) and thwarting time-travelling terrorists, all the while leaving plenty of time for tea. In the sequel to *Just One Damned Thing After Another*, Max and company visit Victorian London in search of Jack the Ripper, witness the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, and discover that dodos make a grockling noise when eating cucumber sandwiches. But they must also confront an enemy intent on destroying St. Mary's; an enemy willing, if necessary, to destroy history itself to do it. Skyhorse Publishing, under our Night Shade and Talos imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of titles for readers interested in science fiction (space opera, time travel, hard SF, alien invasion, near-future dystopia), fantasy (grimdark, sword and sorcery, contemporary urban fantasy, steampunk, alternative history), and horror (zombies, vampires, and the occult and supernatural), and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller, a national bestseller, or a Hugo or Nebula award-winner, we are committed to publishing quality books from a diverse group of authors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jodi Taylor is, and always has been, a history nut. Her *Chronicles of St. Mary*, a wild mix of history, adventure, comedy, romance, tragedy, and anything else the author could think of, began as a self-published book called *Just One Damned Thing After Another*. It's now a bestselling, wildly addictive series.

This was a lovely, light read with quick dialogue and a fast pace of action. I found it to be a little darker than the first book, with a bit more graphic violence. I bought it in the Kindle version, and found it totally unsuitable for reading on the commute because I simply didn't want to put it down. This second novel is episodic in nature, with a few mini-stories tied together, but I didn't realize this until more than halfway through. For those of you new to Ms. Taylor's series, please read the first book before picking up this one. *A Symphony of Echoes* is heavily referential to Volume I. There's enough explanation that a first time reader will understand the story, but having read the other first will give better understanding of what's going on. Somewhere along the line, Ms. Taylor has become a bit more repetitive with her St. Mary's tropes than necessary, almost crossing into the annoying... yes, yes, you don't need to tell us yet again that if St. Mary's is involved something must be blowing up, on fire, etc. Those minor criticisms aside, this was an amusing read. Max has grown since the last book, and continues to adapt and change as this story progresses. She realizes some hard truths about herself, relationships, and the consequences of decisions. Importantly, the other characters progress in their life journey, as well -- I can't abide stories where any of the characters, whether primary or secondary characters remain cardboard props -- and Ms. Taylor's writing satisfies nicely on this point. As usual, my recommendations don't deal too much with the plot of a story itself because I don't want to inadvertently give away a spoiler. But I will say that I'm eagerly awaiting Volume III (wherein we travel to Troy!) and pleased to have this book in my collection. It is definitely worth the purchase price!

You know how it feels when you discover a good author, a wordsmith? That's how I felt when I first

read Jodi's "Just One Damned Thing After Another" What a treat! The lady can write! And she can be laugh-out-loud funny. And in "A Symphony of Echoes" she's back to her old game. Another winner! Adventure, mystery, romance, humor... what's not to like!? Funny you should ask. Her stories move along a quick pace and are fun to read until she gets caught up in the past. Things slow down a bit, there, it seems history is a place she likes to wallow. In her defense, these tales * do * involve time-travel adventures so one might expect a bit of history to creep in if for no other reason than to keep things neatly oriented. But for me, there are places where the story slows. Please understand, it's more than worth the few places where historical details get a little thick, and if you're into history I suspect you will welcome the extra fabric she provides in her stories. In any case, I'm a fan, and I eagerly look forward to her next release. Do yourself a favor and check out her work!

This is even funnier than the first one and had me laughing out loud. If you liked that, get this; if you didn't, don't - and if you haven't read that one, don't start here because you'll be hopelessly confused, though probably still amused. There were a couple points where I'd have liked to kick Max for being an idiot, though. I understand why she's not a trusting person, but if you're not going to give someone the benefit of the doubt, at least use a bit of logic!

"A Symphony of Echoes (The Chronicles of St. Mary #2)" by Jodi Taylor continues the adventures of our time-traveling historians to the distant past. Sometimes these adventures are comic and zany, other times they are dramatic and tragic, with monumental consequences for our team. We start out with Max and Kalinda dueling with Jack the Ripper on November 8, 1888, in the Whitechapel section of London. Once again it seems like they've gotten in over their heads, and this adventure sets the tone for coming story. Jodi Taylor has an amazing grasp of ancient history and the ability to describe these scenes in a way that you are there, feeling. From Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket's murder to the court of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, Jodi Taylor describes these scenes in such detail that you can smell Becket's blood on the altar stage and feel the crush of bodies as they trample the mud in Mary Stuart's courtyard. Through all these events, Max and Leon's on-again-off-again romance is on-again and off-again. We can't say where that will go. The dialog between Max and Leon is priceless. These two are really a matched set, no matter if they're fighting or having sex. From the reader's standpoint, one's almost

as good as another. There is an intricate plot running through the book involving revenge, betrayal, great villainy, and two versions of St. Mary's in the present and future, and the story of people's lives played out as they disappear from the present and reappear in the long lost past. Even though you sometimes can't imagine what will happen next, it all seems to make sense and be wildly entertaining. With this second book, Jodi Taylor proves that she has a compelling story to tell, and those historians all have a timeline to explore for many books to come.

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