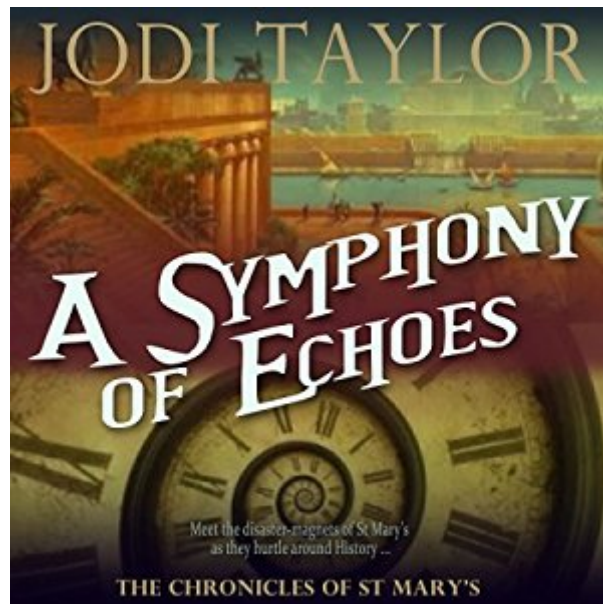


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A Symphony Of Echoes: The Chronicles Of St Mary's, Book 2



Synopsis

Book Two in the madcap time-travel series based at the St Mary's Institute of Historical Research that seems to be everyone's cup of tea. In the second book in the Chronicles of St Mary's series, Max and the team visit Victorian London in search of Jack the Ripper, witness the murder of Archbishop Thomas A 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.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Let me start this review by stating that this is a cute little series that is mostly harmless and doesn't deserve my forthcoming criticism. This is time travel in the light-hearted vein of Connie Willis' "To Say Nothing of the Dog" so you shouldn't expect much in the way of consistency and rules in the world-building. Still, there were a number of issues that interfered with my suspension of disbelief. Taylor uses hackneyed suspense building methods such as having characters whisper important plans to each other, without enlightening the reader. Characters also play "the pronoun game" to obfuscate a reveal, but likely the worst offense is the incessant foreshadowing, e.g. "Things were perfect that one moment, but 48 hours later, my whole life would change." In this series time travel exists, but the only people who are allowed to use it are a wacky collection of geek academics, each of which you have met before, e.g. the crazy R&D scientist who keeps blowing things up. These people are meddling with the time stream with almost zero government oversight (they answer only to their funding university). In case of catastrophic world destruction through time

alteration, there is no evidence of any Poul Anderson-style time police organization to put things right -- everything falls on the heads of our PhDs who are ill-suited for field work or combat. Couple this with a well-known group of terrorists who have stolen time machines, and you have the equivalent of handing a nuclear arsenal to some librarians and archaeologists with no supervision. They make it very clear in this book that they have absolutely no backup in the event of an attack by hostile forces, just a tiny in-house security team.

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