



The Mesmerist

Pam McCutcheon

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An antique hope chest containing five unique objects . . . five people inexorably drawn to the items inside . . . each sent to the past where they must accomplish a task and find their own path to true love with the help of a magical matchmaker determined to bring soul mates together, even across time.

On the eve of her wedding, dog trainer Gina Charles finds her fiancé *in flagrante delicto* with her maid of dishonor, so she flees to a hotel in a nearby town. Unfortunately, her room already has another occupant—a ghost with compelling dark eyes who cuddles up to her in the middle of the night.

Gina reluctantly agrees to help the ghostly mesmerist, Drake Manton, learn how he died. When her investigation leads her to the burned-out Chesterfield hotel, Gina finds a hope chest in the ruins and is drawn to the melted dueling pistol inside. When she touches it, she and her faithful terrier hurtle back in time to 1883 where she comes face-to-face with the very alive, very sexy mesmerist.

Now all Gina has to do is prevent Drake's fiery death so she can return to her own time. Or will she give up her life in the future for a lifetime of love in Drake's arms?

Originally published as *Enchantment* by Zebra Ballad.

The Mesmerist Details

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Time Travel Romance

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From Reader Review The Mesmerist for online ebook

Shan says

Such a sweet time travel book

I must admit I thought this would be sappy and cliché but it was a really good book. The characters were well defined and very likable. It's a sweet book with romantic love scenes but not gratuitous sex scenes.

A definite must read!

N.R. Tomasheski says

I want to state up front that I am not a big reader of the romance genre - I've nothing against it, but they're typically not the sort of stories I enjoy. This one bridged genres so masterfully that I was hooked from early on, and plan to read the rest in the series at some point. Each book is written by a different author (members of a writers group) with the same premise: a Hope Chest sends the protagonist back in time, to meet his or her soulmate.

In The Mesmerist, a compelling unsolved mystery forms the basis of the plot. The characters - the fated lovers, to be sure, but also the rest of the main cast - are well-developed and natural. The setting, at times, feels unresearched, but never enough to pull me completely out of the story, and as we're dealing with time travel, a certain suspension of disbelief ought to be reasonably exercised!

Maudley says

Charming beginning to an intriguing series.

Rachel says

Meh

I preface this review by saying I know how time consuming writing is. And sometimes, a great idea just doesn't come to fruition as we hope. And once we get going...sometimes it's easier just to run with what we have than scrap it and start all over again.

Review:

I honestly only stayed until the end to pass the time & find out how it ends.

The heroine wasn't likable to my way of thinking. She was TOO stereotypically "21st century woman." Some of the interactions had me rolling my eyes and others were just downright boring.

I felt the plot was too glossed over in many aspects. This book takes place over a 6 month period of time, but

much of it is showing versus telling.

There wasn't a real sense of 'feeling' between the 2 main characters and I certainly didn't feel anything for either of them.

I mostly plodded through to the end to see how the author wrapped it all up...and it was basically lackluster as I expected. (**SPOILER ALERT** It would have been far better to have Gina actually go back to her own time & have Drake pine for her...and Gina pine for him. And have some 'twist' that gets them back together with the reader feeling a profound sense of relief. (Because, honestly, I FELT no emotion reading this book.)

Emily says

I loved the time-travel aspect of the story. Although I was able to pick out the actual murderer before the characters the author kept that a secret well for most of the story. I love the combination of paranormal, time-travel, and romance. I will definitely read the other Hope Chest books.

Pandora says

Interesting, fun story

I liked Ms. McCutcheon 's way of bringing one of the main characters into the past. It was clever and thoughtful. I also was gave to see who was really responsible for taking care of the hope chest.

Marti says

An enjoyable afternoon's read. This is a sweet, sometimes silly, entertaining romance.

P D MacMillan says

Cheesy? This romance is limburger! The first page has our heroine betrayed by her fiance (in the back seat of the limo, no less) with her maid of (dis)honour. But her mother still wants her to go through with the wedding cause the prospective groom is rich! Ugh!

Having thus established that the 21st Century sucks, our heroine stumbles on a lonely but handsome and virile ghost, and then on a hope chest, which contains an object which, only on the solstice day, will vault her back to the 19th century when her ghost is still very much alive and available. She knows he is doomed to die in a fire on the next winter solstice day, but not the actual circumstances of his death. The plot is naturally consumed with her efforts to prevent that early death.

Oh, I forgot to mention: our heroine has an adorable cairn terrier named Scruffy (same breed as Dorothy's Toto) who will do anything she wants, cause she's a dog trainer by trade. Said trade she was willing to give

up when she got married. Say, is this the 21st Century or the 1950's? Gotta wonder, truly! I will NOT forgive this author for the groaner when the ultimate villain threatens to kill her "and your little dog too!"

Our hero is a budding hypnotist, or mesmerist as they were known in the 19th century. He only has a vague idea of the uses to which hypnosis can be put, but our heroine will help him develop a successful therapy practice and market himself to the local public. She shows herself to have a lusty libido in between times.

Will our heroine choose to go back to the 21st century after helping out her virile mesmerist and saving him from a fiery death, or will she stay with him despite the inconveniences of a 19th century small town life? Suspense, suspense! Take 3 guesses and the first two don't count!

Dana Wood says

I really liked the mesmerist as a ghost. But once Gina traveled back to the past, he turned into a pumpkin with his personality and she turned into a crazy psycho trying to get him to leave the inn. And the time travel part was not explained and it was just ????.

Kyra Carr says

The Mesmerist: A Mesmerizing Romance

This was a really unusual and very entertaining romance. I'm not usually a fan of time travel romances, but I was attracted by the title, and stayed because this tale was so much fun! Ms. McCutcheon had me laughing out loud, thrilling to the love-making, and amazement at the way she brought all the crazy ends together to a happy ending. Bravo to Pam McCutcheon!

Mary Barrett says

5 ?

Great time travel adventure! This is true beginning book in what promises to be a very enjoyable series. I have always loved time travel stories and these look to be a grand adventure, sweeping this heroin into 1885 to save the life of the ghost she encounters while staying at an Inn. I loved the first book so I am ordering the full set of books in the series. Well done, ladies.

Christi Rose says

In the space of a few pages, it opens with any Brides devastation of self worth and

It opens with a Bride's devastation, in less than one page! And the emotional rollercoaster never lets up! Heartbreak, new attractions, self-worth, suspense, murder, friendship, laughter, trust, learning to truly love.. It's all here! Driven by unique and well developed characters , I HAD to read straight thru!! Well worth the

list sleep!

Colleen Murphy says

Interesting time travel info on mesmerism and a nice romance.

Great history on mesmerism- beginning of therapy. Nice time travel romance. Enjoyed the dog training aspect too! Quick enjoyable read!

Chloe Williams says

What a nice surprise! I'd only read one other book by this author (My Favorite Husband) and it was a huge disappointment. This one had me hooked since the first page. It was well paced, intriguing, and laced with enough comedy and romance throughout the whole book. I also loved how Gina the heroine was such a resourceful kickass girl and wouldn't take no for an answer. She was entertaining as hell to read.

It was a pretty clean romance, showing how good books don't need sex scenes to be described as if it was a scene from a porn movie. A very well done piece of work by the author.

Jemma says

I believe in time travel after reading this book, never have I lost time while reading a story quite like this one, I am a fast reader but even I was shocked at the speed in which I devoured this story.

It completely captivated me, I feel as if at the beginning, I took one big inhale and by the time I exhaled I was done.

I loved both characters and side characters and felt connected to their story throughout.

The only Criticism I could give and also the reason I couldn't rate 5 is merely that I felt more time could have been spent while Drake was a ghost, I would have liked for the two main characters to have been more connected before Gina traveled back in time.

The ghost dynamic was what roped me in to read initially and it just felt rushed and underdeveloped.

But other than that like I said before it was "a couldn't put down read"...

and a book I will remember and even come back to enjoy again.
