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Once Beyond A Time - A Troubled Family, Missing Child, And A “house Beyond Time.”



Synopsis

Christy Award Winner "Tatlock's lovely prose reminds readers why it is a joy to savor her stories." ~ Publishers Weekly
A troubled family, whose pastor father resigned in disgrace from a church in suburban Philadelphia, moves to an old house in Black Mountain, North Carolina. They soon discover that their new home, nearly hidden from view on the side of a mountain, is no ordinary place. The family can see and speak with people who appear and disappear seemingly at will. Some of the visitors seem to have lived there in the past. More mysteriously, some will live there in the future. Then, soon after their move into the old house, their eight-year-old son vanishes without a trace! Has he been kidnapped, or has he wandered off into the dark forest? Will the "house beyond time" provide the answers? Or does something more disturbing await this troubled family?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's something strange about the house Sheldon and Meg Crane have moved into at Black Mountain. Some have called it a gift, but to Meg and Shelton, whose lives have been shattered by Shelton's affair, see it as one more stress point they don't need. Who says sci fi and inspirational can't mix? Ann Tatlock has done an incredible job of addressing the issue of time as seen from man's eyes and from God's point of view. I don't usually care for books written in the first person or in present tense but her writing is so good, I was swept into the story without even thinking of those two personal preferences. Considering the theme of the book, present tense was the only choice - it just shows the further artistry of this wonderful book. Finally, I enjoyed a story where the romance happens between an already married couple trying to hold together and strengthen their marriage in spite of what life throws at it. We often think of romance stories as guy gets girl, girl finds Mr. Right. This book is as much about relationships as it is romance--it was the perfect blend. I read a review before I read this book that said "Once Beyond A Time" was the best book she had read in a long time. I've been reading a lot of good books lately, but I think I would have to agree --this one is awesome!

I wasn't expecting much, but this really was a great sci-fi novel! One star off because it was a bit heavy-handed with the religion, but it was one of the best books I've read all year. A captivating story line that left me in tears by the lesson at the end. What a beautiful story.

I really enjoyed how the author presented the storyline. Written in the first person but through every character's eyes. It helps us see and feel common emotions that many of us struggle with in life through another's experience and how to change our thinking and opening our heart again. I don't usually write reviews but this book deserved it but I'd hope others would be able to get lost in it too.

Tatlock does a masterful job of presenting several very different story lines without confusing the reader. A disgraced pastor relocates to a small town in North Carolina and is forced to deal with the scorn of his wife and daughter, the absence of one son away at war and another who disappears without a trace. Set in 1968, the various members of the family also receive supernatural visitors from the early 20th and 21st centuries. The author manages to blend the natural with the supernatural in such a way that the reader has no problem accepting these intruders as nothing out of the ordinary. A well-woven tale with plenty of surprises. The underlying theme deals with the nature and relationship of God, his creatures and time. There are points where Tatlock's religious beliefs tend to interfere with what is predominantly a secular and mainstream novel but not in such a

way as to deter the reader from turning the pages as quickly as he can. Highly recommended.

Wow! I absolutely loved this story. In the beginning, I thought the different view points would be confusing. Boy, was I wrong. That's what helped make this story so unique and spellbinding. Seeing the events unfold from each person's perspective worked on so many levels. A read I didn't want to put down from start to finish that contained tangible life lessons and valuable spiritual insight!!!

This is a bit difficult to write. The title intrigued me so I guess that's why I opted to read this book. The first few chapters were just not enough to hold my interest. I actually stopped and read another book. Then I went back and read the reviews on this book and my interest was piqued. So glad I didn't! A huge house in a suburb of Asheville, NC, a wife, her cheater pastor husband, their teenaged smart mouthed- sarcastic daughter. Her mental descriptions of things almost made me sick at my stomach. But it effectively created the character the author was going for. Then there was little 8 year old Digger, always sweet, always happy. The house is home to several other different people. Digger goes missing...the family is totally dysfunctional, but for some reason, they were chosen to experience this phenomenon. A page turner for sure.

This author was such a joy to spend time with! Time travel is not a subject I would normally delve into. I was intrigued by the synopsis and once I started reading could not stop. What an awesome read! Don't miss out on this beautifully written tale. I look forward to sharing the title and author with my book friends. (Yes, it was that good. ;)

Ann Tatlock entrances me with her writing and has quickly become one of my "must read" authors. In "Once Beyond a Time," a pastor and his family retreat to western North Carolina after his adulterous affair with his wife's young cousin. They rent an old, furnished house up in the hills, and soon begin to discover the house's oddities extend beyond the old furnishings. They "see" people, people who have lived in the house before, and some who will live there after them. And there, outside of time, eternal truths began to shape and form their souls. Set in 1968, the story is told from the points of view of the four main characters: Sheldon, his wife, Meg, their teenage daughter, Linda, and young son, Digger.

Ann's ability to get inside her characters' heads and make them spring to life is outstanding. Listen to Linda's voice: "The old man

turns his eyes back to me. Now that he's turned off the waterworks, I can see that his eyes are a deep blue, so much so that I'd say once, when he was young, they were probably his best feature. But that was before the rest of him shriveled up into this walking prune. C.S. Lewis gave us a wardrobe through which we could walk and see the great, eternal truths of our faith more clearly. Ann Tatlock has given us an old house in Western North Carolina. Never fear, "Once Beyond a Time" is not a story about ghosts: It's a story about love, failure, forgiveness, sorrow, and hope, told artfully and creatively. This is a book I know I will read again. I highly recommend it.

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