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# This Time With Love: A Christian Romance (The McKinleys Book 1)



## Synopsis

THIS TIME WITH LOVE is book 1 in the Christian romance series The McKinleys by bestselling author, Kimberly Rae Jordan. Follow the stories of Eric, Brooke, and Victoria as their present lives are impacted by decisions and events in their past. This heartwarming Christian romance series of love, faith and family is sure to inspire and move you. Six years ago, a new found faith changed Anastacia Stapleton's perspective on her life and relationship. When the man she is living with refuses to consider marriage, she knows she has to end things with him. Realizing that she can't continue to live the way she has in the past, Ana runs away from LA and its temptations to the one place her boyfriend had said he'd never go. Minneapolis, Minnesota. As Ana Stapleton becomes Staci Moore, she feels secure in the life she has created for herself and the child she hadn't realized she carried when she left LA. Eric McKinley had abandoned the faith of his childhood when he was still in his teens, but after enduring a life-changing trauma, he finds himself once again turning to God. This change of heart prompts him to return to the family he'd become estranged from years ago. Though he thought he had put Ana Stapleton and his feelings for her firmly in his past, Eric realizes nothing could be further from the truth when he runs into her at a singles retreat over the New Year. Coming face to face with Eric and the emotions of their past relationship has Staci contemplating another disappearance • hopefully before he learns of the child she never told him about. Six years and many counseling sessions later, Staci knows that what she and Eric shared in the past had been anything but healthy. Even as she tries to resist his presence in her life, her heart is drawn to him once again. She can see the changes in Eric, but Staci is scared of reverting back into the person she'd been when they had been together. As Eric learns about the depth of pain Staci endured as a result of their relationship, he tries to make things right, but will it be enough to help her trust him again? Or will his role in her life never go beyond father to the child they share together? Other books in the McKinley series by Christian romance author Kimberly Rae Jordan: This Time with Love: Eric's story Forever My Love: Brooke's story When There Is Love: Victoria's story This set leads into the popular Christian Romance series, BLACKTHORPE SECURITY. Be sure to check out that series as well. Guarding Her Heart Signs of Love A Matter of Trust Proof of Life Beauty from Ashes A Sense of Security

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Stacie left the two year relationship with Eric, she learned to depend on herself. It was after she left him that she discovered she was pregnant. When Eric returned home from a business trip and found Stacie had left, he was angry and devastated. Why had she not let him know she was unhappy? After six years, Stacie and Eric run in to each other at a Christian retreat weekend. Can Eric accept their child? Is this God's leading them back to each other or is it just "by chance"? This is a great love story about being transparent and praying before we get into unhealthy relationships.

Although this is a good story of forgiveness and second chances, I do take exception of the casual way this writer gloss's over Eric's father's adultery. Eric's eventual forgiveness of his father's adultery and Eric's own poor judgement in his relationship with the mother of his own child is the way all Christians should be. But the bottom line is that adultery is wrong in every way. We want to believe that forgiveness is given with a true heart, but the reality is that it is always there in ones mind no matter how much you may want it not to be there. The spouse will always be asking the question,(why was my love not enough)?

I almost didn't finish this book. The characters were annoying, especially the main one Staci. Her constant complaining about Eric, her judgmental demeanor, and her self righteous attitude gets under one's skin and the whole boom went back and forth with I love him, don't want him, who he used to be, didn't want to be a father poor me, he didn't love me, etc. It makes you want to slap her and tell her to get over herself. And another thing that bothered me was how much junk food she fed her daughter. It was like she was trying to make her a fat little person and to be sure she would be a handicapped person so she would have to depend on her mother the rest of her life. This could have and should have been better written.

Although predictable the first book in this series carries more weight than most Christian romances. Anastacia Stapleton and Eric McKinley were a couple six years ago, living together in Los Angeles until Ana couldn't live any longer and left. Since then both Eric and Ana have become Christians and Eric is surprised to recognize her when he attends a church retreat. When she left Ana went to the one place Eric said he would never return to, Minneapolis, Minnesota. While both of them are cautious they both have some feelings left and with proximity and recalling their history and their new standing in life they are able to become cautious friends but Ana has another problem, she can't tell Eric the reason she left him.

Staci has finally decided to go to a singles retreat. It's there she meets Eric again after 6 years. They'd been in a relationship but after she became a Christian, she left without telling him why and where she was going. Eric became a Christian several years after Staci left. When he finds out he has a daughter, he wants to be involved in her life, both their lives. She's not sure she wants him involved.

4.4 stars: This Time with Love by Kimberly Rae Jordan Six years ago, Staci was Ana the concert pianist who was living with Eric when she became a Christian and knew she had to leave; now, they meet again at a Christian retreat, and have to deal with sharing the daughter he didn't know he had and figuring out if they can love each other. (Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The following notes may contain spoilers.) Plot and Setting: 4 -- Plot has unique elements and no major holes, but a few shaky bits and/or a slight lack of focus. The long-lost-love-and-surprise-child story is a bit cliché, but the additions of the issues both Staci and Eric bring with them and their changed

lives as Christians add unique elements to it. I did feel it ended pretty abruptly, leaving us to presume that all the issues got cleared up, both in their relationship with each other and with the Alicia situation that's tossed in at the end. Setting is clear and believable. Timeline may be a bit hard to follow. It would be nice to have mention of the months to help us see time passing.

**Characters: 5** -- Relatable, realistic, interesting, dynamic characters. Staci grew up starved for love, and in her first life with Eric, she tried to earn his love--though he did love her, and was just hesitant to say the words due to his father's actions. In their years apart, each came to Christ, but still have to deal with their issues. We also get glimpses of Eric's panic when he returned to where he was previously held captive, and of the strength and love involved in Staci caring for Sarah, with all the special challenges dwarfism entails. Even minor characters have depth, as do the relationships between characters. The glimpses we do get of family and friends show unique characters, with depth and variety.

**Mechanics and Writing: 3.5** -- Scattered typos, punctuation issues, or word errors, but nothing that seriously hinders understanding. Some dropped words or incomplete edits, or spelling 'Tori' with a Y one time, small things like that. Basically needs another run-through by a proofreader. Also, one whole chapter had oddly smaller font than the rest. Good use of POV (Eric and Staci). Generally skillful writing.

**Redeeming Value: 5** -- Well-developed, central, uplifting themes. God's timing is perfect. If Staci hadn't left when she did, things would have been much worse. Then, when the time was right, God orchestrated the seemingly coincidental meeting at the retreat. Staci also learns to not let fear hold her back when God is directing her. And both Staci and Eric are good examples of becoming new creations in Christ. Sex, alcohol, violence, etc, are not glorified at all. I appreciated the acknowledgement that their previous (pre-conversion) sexual relationship made it tricky to be around each other. They were real about that struggle while carefully remaining pure.

**Personal Enjoyment: 4.5** -- I loved it. Highly enjoyable and very entertaining, with perhaps an issue or two that tempered my pleasure. One I'll definitely read again.

Good Book! I enjoyed reading the story. I love the characters. The book is well written. The book shows we serve a Lord of second chances. It was great to see how in the story they both had made mistakes in the past and as Christians now, the Lord brought them back together for a chance to work things out.

True love is never lost it sometimes is put on hold and then appears when least suspected...this is a good clean Christian love story of finding the way back to one you truly love even though it might not be the time you want it to be but it has to be on God's time..

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