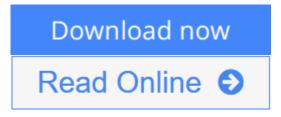


Maybe This Time: A Novel

By Jennifer Crusie



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Andie Miller is ready to move on with her life. She wants to marry her fiancé and leave behind everything in her past, especially her ex-husband, North Archer. But when Andie tries to gain closure with him, North asks one last favor: Since the death of a distant cousin, he's become the guardian of two orphans who have already driven away three nannies. North needs someone to take care of the situation?and he knows Andie can handle anything.

Carter and Alice aren't your average delinquents, and the creepy old house where they live is being run by the worst housekeeper since Mrs. Danvers.

Complicating matters is Andie's fiancé's suspicion that this is all a plan by North to get Andie back. He may be right because Andie's dreams have been haunted by North since she arrived at the old house, and that's not the only haunting. As Andie copes with the ghosts of her past and present, she begins to see that what she wants is the same thing that everyone in the house wants--a second chance--and that *maybe this time* she'll get it.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Product Description

The New York Times bestselling author of Bet Me, Tell Me Lies and Welcome to Temptation delivers her long-awaited new novel--Maybe This Time.

Andie Miller is ready to move on in life. She wants to marry her fiancé and leave behind everything in her past, especially her ex-husband, North Archer. But when Andie tries to gain closure with him, he asks one final favor of her before they go their separate ways forever. A very distant cousin of his has died and left North as the guardian of two orphans who have driven out three nannies already, and things are getting worse. He needs a very special person to take care of the situation and he knows Andie can handle anything.

When Andie meets the two children she quickly realizes things are much worse than she feared. The place is a mess, the children, Carter and Alice, aren't your average delinquents, and the creepy old house where they live is being run by the worst housekeeper since Mrs. Danvers. What's worse, Andie's fiancé thinks this is all a plan by North to get Andie back, and he may be right. Andie's dreams have been haunted by North since she arrived at the old house. And that's not the only haunting.

What follows is a hilarious adventure in exorcism, including a self-doubting parapsychologist, an annoyed medium, her Tarot-card reading mother, an avenging ex-mother-inlaw, and, of course, her jealous fiancé. And just when she thinks things couldn't get more complicated, North shows up on the doorstep making her wonder if maybe this time things could be different between them.

If Andie can just get rid of all the guests and ghosts, she's pretty sure she can save the kids, and herself, from the past. But fate might just have another thing in mind...

Amazon Exclusive: Susan Elizabeth Phillips Interviews Jennifer Crusie

Susan Elizabeth Phillips is the bestselling author of *Nobody's Baby But Mine*, *What I Did for Love*, and many others. She is the only four-time recipient of the Romance Writers of America's prestigious "Favorite Book of the Year" Award and was also honored with their "Lifetime Achievement" Award. Read on for Susan Elizabeth's hilarious and entertaining conversation with Jennifer Crusie:

Susan Elizabeth Phillips: Exactly why is Susan Elizabeth Phillips your dear friend?



Jennifer Crusie: Susan Elizabeth Phillips is everything I aspire to be in a writer, a Comic Genius with Incredible Insight into the Human Condition, so I stay close so I can be just like her. I remember the first time we met. It was in an elevator in Dallas. It was magic. She got off at the next floor.

SEP: What do you like most about Susan Elizabeth Phillips?

JC: I think it's her modesty, her willingness to give to others. And her shoes.

SEP: Which Susan Elizabeth Phillips book is your favorite, or do you love them all too much to choose?

JC: *Heaven, Texas* because I love a Cinderella story.

Also her last one, whatever it is when whoever is reading this is reading this. The one that's on sale now. That one. It's amazing and you should buy it. There's probably a button for it on here somewhere. Hit that button.

SEP: Oh, wait! This is supposed to be about YOU? Sheesh... For those who haven't read it and are waiting breathlessly, share a little something about your new book *Maybe This Time*?

JC: *Maybe This Time* is my version of *The Turn of the Screw*. It's about a woman who goes back to tell her ex-husband that she's marrying somebody else and takes a job caring for two orphans he's inherited who are living in southern Ohio. When she gets to southern Ohio, she finds out the kids are delinquents and the house is haunted. Also, the ex-husband? Still very hot.

SEP: What is special about this book?

JC: It's a ghost story! And a love story! With kids! It's a Romantic Comedy Ghost Story With Kids. By me!

(You don't have a copy because it's not out yet. We'll send you one as soon as we get them. Pretend you've read it and it's the most amazing book EVER. I did for you.)

SEP: What gave you the most difficulty writing *Maybe This Time* and what gave you the most joy?

JC: Difficult--Ghosts. Ghosts are not easy to write without getting cheesy. Also, I generally do not write horror so the I-wants-to-make-your-skin-creep parts were a real departure for me.

Joy--The kids. I'm living with two little girls right now, ages eight and 11, and I stole from them to write Alice. Alice was so much fun to write. Not so much fun to live with in the book, but to write? Alice rocks.

SEP: How do the stories you want to tell now differ from the ones you wanted to tell when you started writing? How are they the same?

JC: Such good questions. Are you a writer, too? Oh, wait. Never mind.

I had no idea how difficult writing fiction was when I started so I just wrote stories. Then I Learned My Craft. Now I spend a lot of time staring into space, thinking about how much I don't know and panicking. So it's harder. But the books are better, more complex, better structured, better written. Also I'm kind of over that Oh-My-God-They-Have-To-Have-Sex-Right-Now-Let-Me-Describe-It-In-Graphic-Detail. I figure anybody reading my books has either had sex or seen it on cable so maybe there's something more interesting in the characters' lives to describe in depth. Like, oh, GHOSTS!

SEP: You're an amazingly entertaining writer. Are you funny in real life? (I know the answer to this, but I'm thinking all of your readers might not.)

JC: Well, not as funny as Susan Elizabeth Phillips, who is a Comic Genius, but I have inspired a few chuckles here and there. Mostly, no.

SEP: Once I start a Jennifer Crusie book, I can't put it down. I know your loyal readers feel the same. What's your secret? (Please reply in 10 words or less because I hate making things too easy on you.)

JC: I do everything Susan Elisabeth Phillips does, except backwards in high heels. (That's twelve words. We can cut the "Elizabeth Phillips" part if you want.)

SEP: Did you finally get your messy office cleaned up so it looks as good as mine? (Oops... This is about you. I keep forgetting.)

JC: Yes. And then it got messy again. Because I'm a creative person and we creative people cannot be bound by the shackles of conventionality that stifle the expression of those who feel compelled to clean their offices. How's your office look?

From Publishers Weekly

Crusie (Bet Me) is back on her own--after a couple of books written with Bob Mayer--with a sweet, offbeat romantic tale of second chances. Thirty-four-year-old Andie, hoping to cut the ties that still bind her to rich ex-hubby North, winds up instead getting drafted to "fix" the troubled orphaned children of North's cousin, who live with a grouchy housekeeper and a crew of ghosts that have an interest in the kids and their gothic mansion home. But there's no ordinary fix for this unruly bunch of living and undead as Andie tries to cajole them all--troubled and lonely kids Alice and Carter, dead aunt May aiming for a do-over, newly dead Dennis, and ancient spooks Miss J and Peter--into moving on. Crusie's created a sharp cast of lonely souls, wacky weirdos, ghosts both good and bad, and unlikely heroes who are brave enough to give life and love one more try. You don't have to believe in the afterlife to relish this fun, bright romp. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From **Booklist**

Starred Review The plan did not include ghosts, or working, even temporarily, for her ex-husband, North Archer. The plan was for Andromeda "Andie" Miller to march into North's law office, return a decade's

worth of uncashed alimony checks, and depart to begin her bright new romantic future with writer Will Spenser. But somehow Andie ends up taking care of North's two young wards. The kids have already gone through three nannies, one of whom claimed Archer House is haunted, but Andie figures she can manage for a month. Until she starts seeing ghosts herself. Six years after her last solo effort, Bet Me (2004), RITA Award-winning Crusie triumphantly returns with a bewitching tale. Graced with deliciously original characters (including a housekeeper who could give Mrs. Danvers a run for her money), imbued with addictively acerbic wit, driven by a wildly inventive, paranormal-flavored plot that offers a subtle literary nod to Henry James, and featuring two protagonists who just might get their romance right the second time around, Maybe This Time is Crusie at her very best. --John Charles

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Moberly:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for us. The book Maybe This Time: A Novel has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication Maybe This Time: A Novel is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship while using book Maybe This Time: A Novel. You never really feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

Terry Smith:

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Manda Perez:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this Maybe This Time: A Novel.

Heather Garcia:

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