



Saving Lucas Biggs

Marisa de los Santos , David Teague

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When thirteen-year-old Margaret's father is unfairly sentenced to death by the cruel Judge Biggs, she is determined to save him, even if it means using her family's secret-and forbidden-ability to time travel. With the help of her best friend, Charlie, and his grandpa Josh, Margaret goes back to a time when Judge Biggs was a young boy and tries to prevent the chain of events that transformed him into a corrupt, jaded man.

Saving Lucas Biggs Details

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Author : Marisa de los Santos , David Teague

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From Reader Review Saving Lucas Biggs for online ebook

Mary says

Imaginative time travel mystery told in alternating voices. de los Santos and Teague do a great job weaving the time travel into their compelling narrative about a young girl reaching back into the past to fix the future. Brave characters, lyrical storytelling, and a wonderful message.

Debbie says

This book was very cute and entertaining.

I had to keep reminding myself that the teenagers involved were only 13, however. They were super brave and intelligent which made for a great story, however, they seemed much older.

I was not that impressed with the method of time travel in this book. All the heroine does is lay down and concentrate. I like when there is a contraption of some sort, or maybe a black hole...

Another aspect of time travel that I always enjoy is when my character needs to try and assimilate. I also love when my character marvels over large or even very small differences in the way of life. This book didn't include either of these qualities. The heroine does not even appear nervous or intrigued to be in a different time. She just finds the guys she is looking for (easily) and sets off to get her business done.

Turns out that the book ends with a pretty nice message message about love in the here and now and what-not, but it almost rendered the time travel portion all for not!

Oh well.

Kelsey! says

In the time it took a man to speak a single sentence, I discovered three things: there's a reason a judge's robe looks like the Grim Reaper's; a blooming jacaranda tree can feel like a big fat slap in the face; and there is such a thing as a silent scream.

That first sentence makes this book sound amazing, but it's only downhill from there. For a book about a time-traveling 13-year-old, there wasn't a lot of time travel and it wasn't very interesting.

The characters weren't terribly exciting and the plot, intricate as it was at times, moved quickly through certain parts (like when (view spoiler)) To me, it also seemed as if the quality of writing slowly tapered off throughout the story.

Overall, it was fairly easy to read but not very memorable.

Lila Kims says

3.5 stars!

This was a light read but also a deep read. How does that work, you may be wondering? I don't know, but somehow it does.

This book was just *really* lovely. <3

The Reading Countess says

It had such great possibility. Time travel, historical fiction blend, boy-girl main characters that would invite all my readers in...I'm not sure how this one was selected as a Bluebonnet title this year considering the amazing list of other titles collected. I had a hard time understanding what was going on and I am not the target audience. This one will both confuse and bore kids. I fought the urge to abandon it too many times to count.

Rosi Hollinbeck says

My review from the San Francisco Book Review:

Margaret can't believe what she hears when Judge Biggs sentences Margaret's father to death. Arson? Murder? It simply isn't possible. Everyone with a brain had to know her father didn't do this. But it seems very powerful people are arrayed against him. One couldn't live in Victory, Arizona, or know the name Victory Fuel without realizing where those powerful people resided, and one of them sits before them all in his black robe with a gavel in his hand.

Margaret's best friend, Charlie, is with her every step of the way as she goes through this, but it is his grandfather Joshua who tells Charlie to bring Margaret to him. He needs to talk to her. It is Grandfather Joshua who knows the secret of Margaret, one that she doesn't even know herself just yet. Not completely, anyway. When they meet, he tells Margaret the only way to save her father is to go back in time and change something that happened almost eighty years ago. Yes, Margaret can time travel. It is something her family can do, but the dangers are great and there are no guarantees. History resists change, strongly resists it. And Margaret has taken the vow, held her father's warm hands in the courtroom after the sentencing and promised him. But, after talking to Joshua, after realizing there really isn't any other hope of having hope, Margaret goes anyway, meeting Joshua in the past, when he is young and when the story of Victory Fuel was young as well.

"But three days? It might be just enough time if everything went according to plan, but since I didn't have a plan yet, much less a backup plan, the idea of three days was sending me right to the edge of panic."

Margaret has a limited time in the past. If she doesn't complete her task and return to the very spot she arrived in the past by a certain time, the portal will close. And, of course, there are the dangers inherent in time travel. History does indeed resist in ways they could never imagine. History seems to become almost a corporeal enemy, standing between what should be right and what is so terribly wrong. When all hope seems lost, something completely unexpected happens.

Told from three different points of view over a long period of time, this is one of the most engaging novels of the year. The characters who tell this wonderful story are a girl, Margaret, and two male characters, one young, Charlie, and one old and young in different parts of the book, Joshua. Yet all have very distinctive voices and all are completely believable. This is quite a balancing act. The fascinating thing about introducing an element of fantasy into such a contemporary world with contemporary problems is that the fantasy becomes very believable if it is done well. And this is done very, very well. The authors carefully set up rules, as one must in a fantasy environment, and make sure they never waver from those rules. This feeds into the believability of the situation. Marisa de los Santos and David Teague have created great characters, great settings, and great tension in one great story. All of this is done by two authors, yet it is absolutely seamless. Don't miss this one.

Marleen says

Every time I read a Marisa de los Santos book, there's a sense of jubilation that bubbles up in me. Her narrative and choice of wording, make it so that I strongly believe in the cause the protagonist is fighting for. I immensely enjoyed the story of Margaret O'Malley, a thirteen year old, who thought that travelling back in time would no doubt save her daddy. It did not, well it might've indirectly, because Margaret came back, from the past, with a load of knowledge to better assess the present, so that she could save her daddy in the here and now. I'm sure you understand by now that this book is somewhat hard to explain. In any case, I loved it, and I fervently rooted for all the wonderful characters that the author brought to life. This was a very original story, featuring an accurate historical background, meaning the exploitation of the miners and their families by the mining company owners in the early 1900 - but still there were the magical elements that made an escape from the everyday possible.

Jeannie says

My son asked me to read this so we could talk about it, that makes my heart happy and so I did.

Wendy says

An absolutely beautiful book! Luminous descriptions, memorable characters, and an active plot about Things That Matter. My favorite kind of fantasy where magic slips in to realistic settings in a way that feels like it really could happen. I also loved the emphasis on family and friendship and the unabashed affirmation of goodness in this MG book. Finally, Marisa de los Santos knows how to write about stars!

Bethe says

4.5 stars. Great beginning with Margaret receiving devastating news in 2014. Josh has a shocking start to a new stage in life in 1938. One person ties these 2 characters' lives together, can they save him? Love the alternating POV, authentic voices to their eras, and a sprinkle of time travel! Storytelling excellence!

Brandy Painter says

Originally posted here at Random Musings of a Bibliophile.

I admit to being a sucker for time travel novels even though I end up actually liking very few of them. I liked Saving Lucas Biggs by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague.

This is a review of the ARC received from the publisher in exchange for a fair review.

This book sucked me in in the best of ways, I wasn't expecting that to be honest. But from the first sentence I was hooked, and I could not put this book down. This is how the story begins:

In the time it took a man to speak a single sentence, I discovered three things: there's a reason a judge's robes look like the Grim Reaper's, a blooming jacaranda tree can feel like a big slap in the face, and there is such thing as a silent scream.

How all these things come together and the character giving them voice are riveting. Margaret's father has been convicted of murder and the judge has just handed down a death sentence. Imagine how that would affect a thirteen year old, particularly when her father is innocent. Margaret is falling apart, in turmoil, and will get help from any source she can. Grandpa Josh, the grandfather of her best friend Charlie, suggests a way, one that would mean breaking all the rules her family lives by. Margaret's family has an inherited ability to time travel, something Josh claims to know from being well acquainted with Margaret's great great aunt. He tells her to turn things around she can go back in time and make the life of the judge, Lucas Biggs, different. The story is told in first person, mostly from Margaret and the Josh of the past as he is an integral part of Luke's story having been his best friend. Charlie gets a few chapters too. All the voices sound different enough to be genuine. The characters are interesting too, but not thoroughly fleshed out and nuanced. This is a short book and it is incredibly plot heavy. But the story is a good one, and the characters shine as much as they need to in order to tell it.

I enjoyed the history of the town of Victory, Arizona. Through Josh's perspective, the reader gets an up close view of what life in a mining town was/is like. There is a labor dispute and terrible things happen that affect the town for decades to come, right up to the work Margaret's father was doing and the events that led to his arrest. It is a fascinating story with many difficult issues and themes explored. I like how the authors included the harsh realities and truths of all these subjects. It is first and foremost a story of redemption, and how no one is ever too far gone in one direction to turn their life around and go a different way.

The time travel element is an intriguing one. At first I was highly skeptical, but it began to make sense in a way that fit perfectly in the book. I am fairly particular about the way time travel works and how it affects lives, and this book handles it exactly the way I like. As every character referring to it says, history resists. If you are familiar with the Oxford Time Travelers books by Connie Willis, what a time traveler can do works in same way here as it does in those books. It is never explained in more detail than those two words, history resists, but it doesn't need to be. It is shown perfectly.

I enjoyed this thoroughly and think it is fast paced and engrossing enough that kids will like it too.

I read an e-galley made available by the publisher, Harper Collins Children's, via Edelweiss. Saving Lucas Biggs is available for purchase today.

Marne Wilson says

I enjoyed this book immensely, and I'm not even a little embarrassed that the back cover says "ages 8-12."

Honestly, though, that seems a little young to me. My stepson is 8, and although I think he could read all the words, he's nowhere near ready to read something as subtle and sophisticated as this book. Thinking back, I probably would have been ready at about age 9, but I was a precocious reader. That being said, readers mature enough to grasp this story will find much goodness here. It went very differently than I was expecting when I read the description, and it really made me think.

(Note: I received an advance reader's edition of this book through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.)

Lauren says

I read a book called Saving Lucas Biggs by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague. The main character's name is Margaret. Her best friend in the book is named Charlie. Margaret's father has just been sentenced to death by Judge Lucas Biggs for murder. Margaret does not believe her father is guilty of the crime. To be able to prove him innocent, she will have to use the family's secret talent, one she's been forbidden by her father to use.

The book takes place in the mining town of Victory, Arizona. The only jobs available in the town are working for the mining company. Elijah Biggs was basically the dictator of this town until he retired and then Lucas, his adopted son who later became a judge, took over. The mining company makes all of the money because they control everything in the town. They also control the unfair court system. Whenever there are problems and accidents in the mine, they manage to cover it up and blame it on other people.

The main character Margaret and her best friend Charlie are both thirteen. I think Margaret is somewhat like me. She thinks things through and she will do anything to protect her family. To prove her dad's innocence, she used her forbidden time travel ability that she promised her father she would not use at any time. Margaret thought if she went back in time, she could fix all of the mistakes that had happened to Judge Biggs and he would see that her father was innocent. There are two words that can stop her from doing that: history resists. Is it really possible to go back and change history?

I think the author is saying it is possible for children to stand up for right and wrong. Children can make a difference. They don't have to just sit around and wait for something to happen. Margaret showed this in the book by being willing to go back and try to change history to benefit her dad in the future. She was willing to sacrifice more than her time traveling ability to learn more about Lucas Biggs so that she could hopefully change his attitude in the present time.

I learned a lot about mining and how it can affect the environment. Sometimes big companies overlook the safety concerns for more profit. The needs of the families and the employees were not the most important thing to them. Lucas Biggs who later became a judge was also caught up in money and that also clouded his judgment. Margaret helped him see what was right and re-connect with his own family.

I did not think that the time travel ability of Margaret was believable. I did feel like the rest of the characters and the book were. They reflected the qualities of everyday people in the real world. The author is qualified to write this book because they have kids the age of these characters and know how these kids think. They are my cousins.

Katherine Pershey says

So good! Can't say much because spoilers, but listening to this was like opening one great Christmas gift after another, it was so rife with stuff up my alley. I love great YA lit.

Amy says

This book is so well-written. It has those sentences in it that you want to write down on index cards just so you can carry them with you everywhere. You can pull them out and reread them to prove that language can be beautiful and expressive. I am looking forward to more joint ventures from this couple. Thank you for sharing these characters with me.
