



A Place in Time

C.A. Hocking

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Dan Campbell is a troubled man. Thirty years earlier, on his 11th birthday, he'd witnessed his father's murder, but something is wrong with the memory of that terrible day. Something he can't quite see, something just out of focus.

When he goes back to his childhood home to confront his memories and find answers to the mystery of his father's death, he is swept back in time to the day of the murder and what he discovers there will turn his world upside down, for no one and nothing is as he remembers.

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A Place in Time Details

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From Reader Review A Place in Time for online ebook

Judy says

This is a quick read about Dan, a man who goes back from England to his childhood home in Australia with his mother to try to deal with his annual depression around the time of his birthday and his father's murder. What he discovers changes his memory of his father and all the events surrounding his death. Like all time travel stories trying to figure out the ramifications of the present Dan's actions on his younger self's life kept me confused but engaged.

Jessica says

If there was one moment in your life that you, as the person you are now, could go back and influence (specifically to ensure that you could still end up as the person you are now), what would that moment be? And what if in that moment you discovered/remembered the very secret you'd buried and forgotten? I completely enjoyed reading this story. I kept wanting to go further; to discover more about that fateful moment in the main character's life. This story does not disappoint with its creativity, originality and imagination.

Carol says

An interesting time travel book, well thought out and a quick read.

Bethany says

Although this story seems to begin in Ireland, it quickly moves to Australia where Dan Campbell searches his past to uncover the truth about his father's death. The story takes the reader into an unknown realm where present seems to mingle with past in a very real and spiritual way. There were clues to put together and stones to turn over, revealing an unsuspected secret. The author, Hocking, won an Australian Writing Award for this book and it is understandable why, a very good read.

Nicola Mansfield says

Written by an Australian writer, this little crime novel surprised me to be much more than I had expected. A 40-year-old man suffers depression every year on his birthday since he witnessed his father's murder by a stranger when he was 11 years old. Now living in England, after much therapy and having the financial means he and his mum go back to Australia, to the scene to either jog his memory or at least put the past to rest. A well-written and engrossing read. Not what I had expected as it ventures off into a realm of magical realism which must be worked out as the story progresses. If you like your crimes to take place fully in the real world, this won't be for you. Otherwise, it is an intriguing look at when powerful emotions collide in

space and time. Whether the story involves time travel or something more mystical it is a lovely story of a family, mother and son, rescued from a life of abuse. Lovely writing. I'd certainly try the author again.

Christy King says

A Mother's Love

Sacrifices, lies for the good of the family, when your past isn't what you thought it was, and your present leads you to your real past.

This tale drew me in and gave me a role to play in the drama. Judge, comforter, getaway driver, confessor. I was there and played all those roles.

I loved this story and highly recommend it! What role will you play?

Alesa says

This was an okay story about rural Australia. But frankly, I didn't remember I had read it, even a few short weeks after finishing it. That's how little an impact it had on me. I went back and opened it in my Kindle to read it, and then kept thinking that it all felt familiar. And I couldn't even remember how it ended. I feel embarrassed...

Connie N. says

What a fascinating time-travel book with mind-bending implications, kind of a mirror-looking into a mirror-looking into a mirror type of story. The basic story is about a man who holes up every year on his birthday because of the murder of his father on that day when he was 11-years-old. He has had a hard time coping, even 30 years later, so much so that his wife finally blows up and insists that he go back to his old family home and face his fears. He and his mother go from England back to Australia to the farm. Dan decides to go to the house by himself and falls into a time warp where he is back in time to his childhood. He faces some uncomfortable and shocking revelations which affect his and his mother's lives profoundly. Totally interesting. Although it was a short book, I became engrossed in the story. Well written, because it focused on the main characters and the actual story, without going off on any tangents. I'll definitely be looking for more by this author.

JB Rowley says

Every year on his birthday Dan Campbell's secret creates a chasm between himself and his wife, Trish, and the domestic bliss he has created for himself in England. All Trish knows is that on his eleventh birthday, Dan witnessed the murder of his father and the killer was never caught. She senses Dan knows a lot more about what happened that day but neither Dan nor his mother Connie, who was also witness to the shooting, will talk about it. Frustrated at being stonewalled and treated like an outsider for the past eighteen years, the

feisty Trish demands that Dan confront his demons. She sends him and his mother packing to return to the scene of the murder: the family farm in Australia.

And so the mystery begins, for Dan and his mother and for the reader. Back in Australia, Dan recalls, scene by scene, the day of his eleventh birthday and the events leading up to the killing of his father. The story creates a web of intrigue that lures Dan toward the truth and keeps the reader turning pages.

When the final piece of the jigsaw falls into place to reveal the depth of Dan's secret, the reader is seized by astonished fascination. It's as if we have opened the door to a room anticipating a surprise to be waiting there for us and having some expectation about what the surprise might be but then we are confronted by something so far from what we were anticipating that we stand at the open door, mouth gaping, frozen to the spot.

I love a good mystery and I thoroughly enjoyed this one. It is well written and original. The author deserves the honour of being shortlisted for the Australian 2007 ACT Writing and Publishing Awards and the 5 stars I am giving 'A Place in Time'.

The Charmer: Lets Talk About Books says

I found this book very interestin, and I will be readin other books by this author.

How did Dan do it, is what I need to know. How? Why was it meant for him to do it? Was it to save them? And if so why?

I love time travel books but they always leave me with lots of questions.

Brian says

I really loved this book. It made me think of a short version of 11/22/63. I will definitely read CA Hocking again.

Diana Hockley says

Thirty years previously, Dan's father was murdered by a stranger and his mother assaulted. Now Dan, at the time of his birthday every year, falls into a month long depression and stays in bed for that time. His marriage is under threat and his wife insists that he has to face his demons for the sake of their children. He and his mother travel from the UK back to Australia and there the truth unveils in one devastating night.

Astounding, incredible, well written and a devious plot!

Highly recommended.

This is not a long book - only about 150 pages, but it's all there and I read it in a few hours. In my opinion,

this is a keeper.

KJ says

This was a great story that uses time travel as a tool for the main character to find the truth and heal. I love time travel stories and authors who can say only what they need to to get a point across. This an author I'll be able to learn from.

Ann237 says

Predictable

The book was an easy quick read. It grab you're attention right from the beginning which kept you reading and invested long enough, that you finished it even tough you knew were the storyline was heading. Even though predictable it still was a pleasant read, worth the couple hours Read.

Jess says

It's a time travel book in a sense but there didn't seem to be a rhyme or reason. At the end I just felt indifferent.
