

MADDIE AND NORSEMAN EXCERPT:

Both men wore just what Maddie would have expected Viking men to wear when they weren't in a battle. Ivar's baggy breeches were caught tight about his ankles, while the visitor had tucked his into calf-high boots of leather. Their buttonless long-sleeved shirts reached to their thighs, secured about the waist by a leather belt. The visitor had a cloak fixed on one shoulder by a brooch with an intricate pattern on it, indecipherable in the shadows thrown by the lamplight.

The newcomer glanced up and caught Maddie's gaze. A tingling sensation rippled the length of her spine. Nothing like that had ever happened to her before, and her breath caught somewhere halfway up her throat. "What do you intend doing with the women?" he asked as he passed both necklaces back to Ivar.

Ivar looked just as bemused as he had when they'd first told their ridiculous lie. "What do you suggest I do with them, Erik?"

Erik? That figured. The shortness of breath returned. Somehow Maddie had known all along that would be his name. She'd always had a thing for the name, and knew that if ever she were fortunate enough to have a son he would be called Erik. It embodied all her ideas of what a Viking was and what he did. Erik the Red, who colonised Greenland, Leif Ericson who landed on what he called Vinland—both Vikings of great repute.

For the first time a touch of amusement crossed the craggy features. "Now, I could suggest a few things. If, as they say, they arrived here through no plan of their own, but were sent here by the god Thor, then I would say it has been ordained that they belong to you."

"Now, just a minute," Maddie cried. "We belong to no one."

Amber, who had been very quietly sitting with her hands clenched on her lap, now grabbed Maddie's arm. She looked even more frightened, her lips trembling again.

Erik's eyebrows went up, and he made a soft sound of derision. "Then I suggest you leave." He waved one of those large hands again. The stab of pain Maddie felt at his harsh words was stupid. Hadn't they wanted to get out and away?

Amber tugged on Maddie's wrist. "Right, let's go. We don't want to wait around for them to change their minds. And the chances of getting the necklets back now are slim."

"But where will you go?" Ivar asked. His frown showed real concern. Maddie warmed to the man—he really did seem to be a kind-hearted soul.

"Anywhere," Amber muttered.

Maddie resisted the pull on her wrist. "He's right, you know. Just where will we go? We can hardly wander around Jorvik looking for somewhere to stay. If, as I imagine, it's as it was in..." Maddie chewed on her lip and turned to Ivar. "What year is this?" She quivered inside as she waited for his answer.

Erik made a soft sound of derision, but Ivar answered, "It is eight seventy-nine." He was obviously well educated or he would probably not know the date. The quivering inside Maddie turned into a full-fledged tremble.

Amber looked as if it was her turn to faint as she whispered, "Ye gods."

"Likewise." Maddie rubbed at her eyes with her fingertips. This was taking on the proportions of an unbelievable flight of the imagination. "Do you mind if we take a look outside your door?" she turned to ask their reluctant host.

He nodded, looking more confused than ever. Erik bent close to his friend and muttered something Maddie didn't catch. She hoped he wasn't encouraging Ivar to push them out and lock the door on them. Their chances of finding another haven were pretty slim. Sure, they'd wanted to escape, but the more she thought about it, Maddie knew that the devil they knew was far better than one they didn't.

And there was another reason she didn't wish to leave after all—a reason she wasn't about to delve into right now.

Ivar seemed a very charitable man, even if his friend didn't. They'd been very lucky to land in his workroom, and Maddie dared not contemplate what their fate could have been if they'd ended up in the hall of a group of drunken warriors.

Ivar picked up the lamp and went ahead of them into the workroom. Erik stayed behind in the living room, holding the curtain aside. Maddie felt his gaze on them as they crossed the small space. As Ivar pushed the bar from its slots, she glanced back. With the firelight behind him she couldn't see Erik's expression.

Ivar opened the door and gestured for them to go before him. Maddie's knees wobbled as she stepped forward. It was very dark, the moon hidden by clouds so that all she could make out was a rooftop about twenty feet away with a coil of smoke rising from its centre.

A cool gust of wind swept along the narrow street that was made up of slats of worn timber, and she shivered. "What season are we in?" she turned to ask Ivar as an owl hooted mournfully and a dog barked in the distance. The smell of wood-smoke, damp leaves, and cooked meat filled the crisp night air.

He shrugged, looking baffled by the question. "Winter is just over and we are heading for spring."

If we go out there," she said to Amber, "we not only have nowhere to go, but we'll freeze to death in these garments. I don't know about you, but I reckon we're far better off staying here if Ivar's willing to let us. I suggest we hang on—at least until tomorrow."

Amber was peering around the doorway, clinging to the wooden frame as if she feared they might float off into the night if she let go. "You're right," she whispered in a shaky little voice. She held onto Maddie's arm for dear life, and Maddie felt her shivers. "He seems pretty trustworthy. I'm not so sure about his mate in there though." She jerked her head in the direction of the other room.

“He’ll probably go soon.” Maddie turned to Ivar. “Could we stay here this night, please?” Whether it was her imagination or not she wasn’t sure, but he looked pleased with that question.

REVIEWS:

5 stars By S.A. Martin

“This well-written and well-researched time travel romance caught my interest from the very first. Maddie and her friend Amber share a love of the Vikings. They speak fluent Norse, and Maddie has dreams of a Viking lover. By accident, they get sent back to the Viking period, the year 879. They are still in York, England, but at that time it was Jorvik. Maddie gets the surprise of her life when she meets her dream lover. Erik is a trader whose ships travel to faraway places to find goods for sale. But things begin to go wrong. Amber is kidnapped, and Maddie must find her. In this, Erik helps her, for love has kindled between them. Their search takes them to Rouen, France, but they are unsuccessful. Maddie fears that Amber may return to their own time, and they will forever be separated. Now a boatload of challenges face Maddie. How and when will she find Amber again? She wonders if Erik cares enough for her to join his life with hers. Does she love Erik enough to stay in his time period?

The author apparently did a vast amount of research and has written a fast-moving novel with many well-developed characters. **I highly recommend this time travel romance.**”

5 stars **Enjoyable Time Slip** By Rosemary Morris

Maddie and the Norseman begins in modern day York. I really enjoyed the description which takes place in Maddie’s dream. “Light and slender, the body of the ship gave way with the movement of the sea....

“Suddenly, a large rock seemed to grow up from the sea, dark, menacing and dangerous – towering over the ship. Maddie held her breath, but not from fear”

Still in her dream, Maddie turns her head and sees him clearly and sees him mouth her name. “Tall as an oak, the man who constantly filled her dreams stood out against the sky – hair flying behind him, those magnificent eyes of his clashing with hers.”

From then on I wanted to read Maddie and The Norseman’s story in this fascinating time slip, romantic novel. Maddie, a 32-year old history teacher from Australia, and her friend Amber, who is working on Viking excavations, are fascinated by Viking history. Both of them studied the old Norse language, which enables them to communicate when they are transported back in time to Jorvik - the Viking name for York, dressed as Viking women for the re-enactment society that they are members of.

I compliment McGill on her knowledge about Vikings, and her ability to recreate their world in Maddie and The Norseman. I also compliment her on writing a novel with a spirited heroine and an admirable hero, who does not take advantage of Maddie. Of course, he is suspicious of the woman from the future, but only time will tell whether or not he accepts the truth, after many conflicts and danger. When I reached the last pages with a satisfying ending, I wanted to read more. I hope McGill will write another novel set in the Viking era.

5STARS **VIKINGS & ROMANCE** BY Curious Reader

“I was drawn to this story because of my interest in the Viking settlement in York, UK, after visiting the museum there several years ago. I also enjoy the occasional time travel book to

experience the struggles of a person from modern times plunged into the past and forced to survive in a strange environment. Maddie and the Norseman satisfied me on both counts. The book brought to life the Viking world of York (and France) that I had glimpsed from relics in the museum. Maddie and her time-travelling friend Amber face many challenges and don't always respond in ways they expected. I also got a sense of Maddie's quest for family. Her earlier interest in Vikings came from her adoptive family and, in the course of events, she acquires a family that echoes the original one that enriched her life. I recommend this book to readers who like history, stories with appealing characters, and romance."

4 stars By Sherry Ellis readsbychoice

"I thought this was a good story. Poor Maddie I really felt for her. Trying to connect with her new life, searching for Amber her best friend after being kidnapped, trying to handle two little ones and wanting her Norseman. I honestly didn't think it drug out, I thought it interesting."

4 stars stars **For fans of time travel romance** By A.M. Westerling

"This book is well written, well researched and a great overview of life in Viking times. It's the story of Maddie, an Australian woman who with the help of a mystical necklace travels back in time to literally meet the Viking man of her dreams.

I have to say that time travel romance is not my genre and that might affect my judgment on the story. I didn't find Maddie's motivation and reactions believable at times, and *spoiler alert* I didn't find it believable that Maddie's friend Amber would return to the future without saying good bye.

However, if you're a fan of time travel romance, then I'm sure you'll enjoy this story as it certainly does bring you back to Viking life in the 9th century."

On KOBO Lillian Mack 4 stars

"The author had me right there in the longboat. This is an extremely well-written time travel. I felt the sea, the confusion of Maddie and Amber, the journey, I don't want to spoil the story, but readers should be prepared for one whale of a journey."

Robyn –Once Upon A Romance

I was totally caught up in this story. Time travel is such an unbelievable concept and I often have trouble following it in a story. I thought Tricia McGill wove a colorful tapestry of time travel. One that makes the reader believe it is possible. The characters are so realistic and have such depth to their character. I was drawn to them and wanted to find out if Maddie could ever find Amber and what she would choose to do about Erik.

The romance that blooms between Erik and Maddie is pure and sweet. When they finally made love, I wept with joy. I wasn't sure if Maddie would stay with Erik or return home with Amber if they found her. The waiting almost did me in. I can't tell you what happens, but I laughed and cried to the final page. A masterfully woven tale that transcends the boundaries of time.

Matilda Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

"Madeline, a widow from Australia, has come to England to see her friend who is like a sister. They both share an interest in the Viking period; Madeline even has dreams of a handsome Viking man. Only when they touch matching necklaces, something strange happens to them that they never imagined could be.

Erik is a Norse trader in the year 879AD. When he finds Madeline and Amber at a friend's house, he is very wary of the newcomers. Amber is kidnapped, and Eric begins to change his mind only when Madeline begs him to help find Amber.

Not being able to refuse her, they set on a journey to find Amber. Yet, instead of finding the woman, they find misfortune and moments of joy in their perilous journey. The question that looms in the back of Madeline's mind is, how long will she have with her Viking love before she needs to go back to her own time?

I thought this was a good book to read. I enjoyed the characters and the picture they paint of times past."