



The Time In Between: A Novel

By Maria Duenas

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The Time In Between: A Novel By Maria Duenas

The inspiring international bestseller of a seemingly ordinary woman who uses her talent and courage to transform herself first into a prestigious couturier and then into an undercover agent for the Allies during World War II.

Between Youth and Adulthood...

At age twelve, Sira Quiroga sweeps the atelier floors where her single mother works as a seamstress. At fourteen, she quietly begins her own apprenticeship. By her early twenties she has learned the ropes of the business and is engaged to a modest government clerk. But everything changes when two charismatic men burst unexpectedly into her neatly mapped-out life: an attractive salesman and the father she never knew.

Between War and Peace...

With the Spanish Civil War brewing in Madrid, Sira leaves her mother and her fiancé, impetuously following her handsome lover to Morocco. However, she soon finds herself abandoned, penniless, and heartbroken in an exotic land. Among the odd collection of European expatriates trapped there by the worsening political situation back on the Continent, Sira reinvents herself by turning to the one skill that can save her: her gift for creating beautiful clothes.

Between Love and Duty...

As England, Germany, and the other great powers launch into the dire conflict of World War II, Sira is persuaded to return to Madrid, where she takes on a new identity to embark upon the most dangerous undertaking of her career. As the preeminent couturier for an eager clientele of Nazi officers' wives, Sira becomes embroiled in the half-lit world of espionage and political conspiracy rife with love, intrigue, and betrayal.

An outstanding success around the world, *The Time in Between* has sold more than two million copies and inspired the Spanish television series based on the book, dubbed by the media as the "Spanish Downton Abbey." In the US it was a critical and commercial hit, and a *New York Times* bestseller in paperback. It is one of those rare, richly textured novels that enthrall down to the last page. María

Dueñas reminds us how it feels to be swept away by a masterful storyteller.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: Félix J. Palma Interviews María Dueñas

Félix J. Palma has been unanimously acclaimed by critics as one of the most brilliant and original storytellers of our time. His devotion to the short story genre has earned him more than a hundred awards. *The Map of Time*, his first book to be published in the United States, received the 2008 Ateneo de Sevilla XL Prize and is being published in more than thirty countries.



Félix J. Palma: *The Time in Between* features many real life characters. How did you ensure that these individuals were accurately portrayed? I imagine that you had to be especially careful given that people who knew them are still alive.

María Dueñas: Some of the characters in my book belong to our recent history and played a prominent role in the Spanish Civil War and WWII in Spain. Ironically, however, a few of them have been obscured by time, and so my task was to bring them back to the forefront in order to recreate some significant events during those febrile years. For this purpose, I used a wide variety of sources: academic works, archives, old newspapers and even interviews with people who personally knew these people. I was very thorough in my research, and I think the outcome has been positive. Many readers finally get to meet these historical figures and no one has complained that the personalities I've managed to reconstruct are inaccurate.

FP: It's unusual to come across a heroine who is a seamstress. How did you decide upon this occupation for Sira?



MD: I needed an independent female character who was able to support herself so that she could move about freely without depending on a man. In the late thirties and early forties few occupations offered women this ability, but a seamstress was one of them.

FP: Many novels take place during World War II and yet you've done a wonderful job of taking a fresh approach. Can you tell us about it?

MD: WWII took place when Spain was immersed in post-Civil War reconstruction so many people think that the war had no effect on Spain. But this is not true. Our territory was coveted by Britain and Germany,

and there was a lot of espionage in the country at that time. I also added a new ingredient to the traditional view of this period by incorporating a female character into the war game. I think the combination of both these things--an unexplored environment and a new type of heroine--is what sets *The Time In Between* apart.

Review

""The Time in Between" is an epic novel with an unlikely Spanish heroine, Sira Quiroga, that takes us through one of the most turbulent times in Europe: the onset of World War II. Sira travels on a journey through romance, love, loss, and intrigue, all while discovering traits that she never dreamed she had. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, and once I reached the end, I couldn't wait to start it all over again!" -- Daisy Martinez, author of "Daisy: Morning, Noon and Night" and "Daisy's Holiday Cooking"

"Engaging, romantic, vivid and captivating. Who knew a story about a seamstress in Spain could be so intriguing and captivating? If you love thick, juicy female-led novels that sweep you away from all sense of time and responsibility, you need to read "The Time In Between" by Maria Duenas." - Kathy Cano-Murillo, author of "Waking Up in the Land of Glitter" and "Miss Scarlet's School of Patternless Sewing"

"It's exciting to find a deftly paced first novel with an engaging heroine, satisfying historical detail, and emotional balance. Love it!" --Esmeralda Santiago "New York Times" bestselling author of "Conquistadora" and "When I was Puerto Rican"

"This thrilling debut is marked by immaculate prose and a driving narrative, establishing Duenas as a writer to watch." --starred "Publishers Weekly" review

"Evocative, tender and lush; a wonderful experience of times and lives in turmoil." --Diana Gabaldon, author of the "New York Times" bestselling Outlander novels

"How can a novel be both cruel and tender, dark and luminous all at the same time, and keep the reader glued to its pages with a complex, captivating narrative? Maria Duenas's novel manages to make this possible with a tale that is destined to become a literary classic." --Javier Sierra, bestselling author of "The Secret Supper" and "The Lady in Blue"

"Maria Duenas is a true storyteller. She weaves a spell, conjuring the heat and the glamour, the hardship and the thrill of Morocco and Spain in the late 1930s. The world of "Casablanca" comes to life as war breaks and Sira Quiroga, a beautiful and betrayed seamstress, is forced to discover her own strength. At a time when everyone must do what they can to survive, some will go beyond. Resistance will be formed and history will be written. Read this book and prepare to be transported." -Kate Morton, "New York Times" bestselling author of "The Distant Hours"

"An enticing debut novel from Spain, "The Time In Between" is luxuriously landscaped with exotic geographies and international intrigue. Maria Duenas delivers a hefty book that's as smooth to read as the tailored lines of the haute couture her unforgettable protagonist creates." -- Fabiola Santiago, author of "Reclaiming Paris".

""The Time in Between" is a magnificent novel that flawlessly brings together history and intrigue. Sira Quiroga - the seamstress - won't be easily forgotten." -- Juan Gomez-Jurado, author of "The Moses

Expedition"

A wonderful novel, in the good old tradition, with intrigue, love, mystery and tender, audacious and well-drawn characters." --Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Prize Laureate

"It is no surprise this debut novel was a runaway success in Europe. American fans of historical fiction looking for a dramatic, uncomplicated escape will be similarly entranced." --"Library Journal"

"Packed with engaging characters, flawlessly researched, and breathlessly paced." --starred "Booklist" review

"From a terrific opening line to the final page, chapters zip by at a pulsing pace." --"USA TODAY"

About the Author

María Dueñas, the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Time in Between*, holds a PhD in English Philology and is currently a professor at the University of Murcia. She has also taught at American universities, is the author of several academic articles, and has participated in various educational, cultural, and editorial projects.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Spangler:

The event that you get from *The Time In Between: A Novel* is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but *The Time In Between: A Novel* giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this *The Time In Between: A Novel* instantly.

Gary Lewis:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled *The Time In Between: A Novel* can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Connie Deroche:

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Louis Patrick:

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