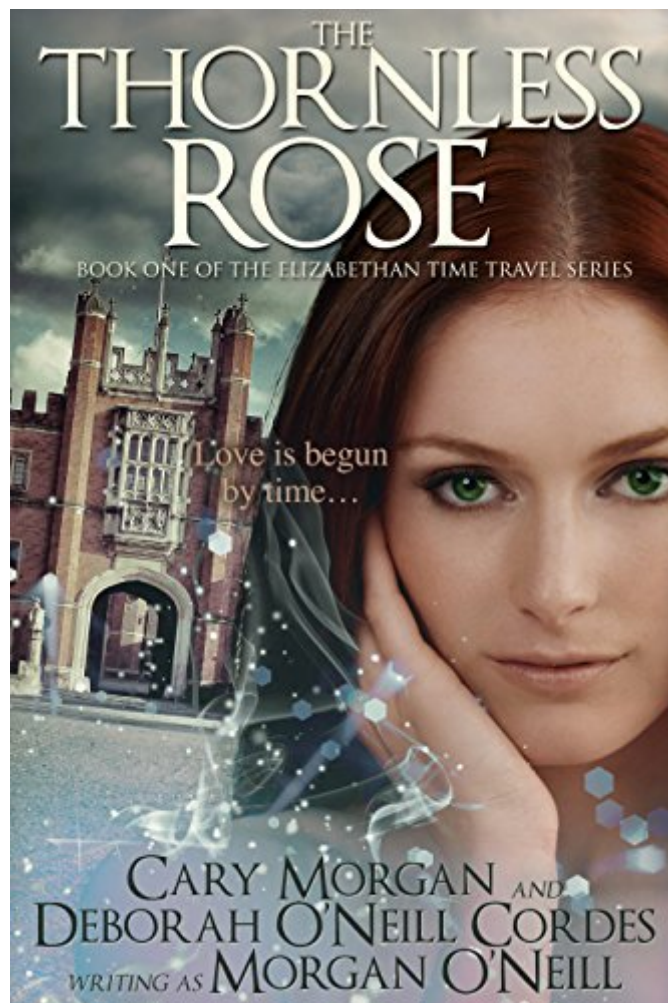




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# **The Thornless Rose (The Elizabethan Time Travel Series Book 1)**



## Synopsis

What happened to Dr. Jonathan Brandon, a dashing RAF flight surgeon, who disappeared from London in 1945? Kidnapping? Murder? Or did Brandon merely vanish of his own free will, seeking another life? American teacher Anne Howard is stunned by a different explanation—that her British grandmother's long-lost fiancé was unwillingly wrenched back through time, to Elizabethan England. Anne knows time travel is nonsense—until she is handed a fresh-cut thornless rose, a bloom extinct for over four hundred years! And then, when the impossible happens and Anne journeys back to 1560 London, she must somehow survive encounters with royal enemies, accusations of witchcraft and the possibility of never returning home. In the midst of the chaos, she meets Brandon. Drawn into the perilous web of Elizabethan court life, they must confront their growing feelings for each other, complicated by poignant familial ties, while struggling with the shared danger of knowing what the future holds.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I selected this book because I love time travel stories. I don't often read historical romances, and most of this takes place in the Elizabethan period, so I was unsure if I would connect with the

book. I thoroughly enjoyed it! The story actually encompasses three eras, including the present with the heroine Anne and her grandmother, the 1940s when Anne's grandmother's true love Jonathon Brandon was transported back in time, and the 1560s, which ties the storylines together. I knew very little about the Elizabethan era, so I found the contrast of Anne's present-day life and her need to adapt to this period very interesting. The description is so vivid I felt like I was immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of 16th century England. It also made me appreciate my modern luxuries. I found the story very well-written with a smooth and engaging writing style. Anne is a beautiful, courageous and determined woman, who seeks answers to the disappearance of her grandmother's fiancé in 1945. And Jonathon is a handsome, brave and compassionate hero. I definitely travel back in time for him. The plot had several romance and suspense twists I didn't see coming, making it a very intriguing and compelling story!

Morgan O'Neill (the collaborative pen name of Cary Morgan Frates and Deborah O'Neill Cordes) has created an entertaining and engaging blend of historical fact and fictional fancy in *The Thornless Rose*, allowing two characters who would not otherwise have met to not only meet but fall in love "centuries before either was born." The story begins on Christmas Eve 1945, when Dr. Jonathan Brandon, dashing RAF officer, decorated war hero, brilliant surgeon, vanishes from a pub in post-war London and finds himself in the same pub in Elizabethan times. We then move to London in 2014, when Anne Howard, American high school history teacher, is spending the summer with her grandmother, Catherine. Anne learns Catherine's secret: she had another fiancé before Anne's grandfather: a dashing RAF officer named Jonathan Brandon, who disappeared a week before their wedding. Because of a letter left in an old family Bible, she knows where, or rather when, Brandon is/was. It seems that susceptible people plus thin places equals time travel, and soon Anne experiences it for herself. Thus, a 21st century woman and a mid-20th century man meet, fall in love, and not so quietly insert themselves into history. The authors clearly did a great deal of research into settings, food, clothing styles, social expectations, medical practices, etc. Because of this, I was surprised when a character who is supposed to be a history teacher used the terms "Old English" and "Elizabethan English" interchangeably. It was believable that Anne would stumble in her actual use of the language, addressing her social superiors with the informal "thou" and mixing up verb conjugations, but I wasn't entirely convinced of the fluency of any of the characters. Still, that is a minor nitpick in an overall fun read with a convincing historical background. The book is alive with a real place in a real time,

populated with actual historical people and believable fictional characters. Heroes, villains, and salt-of-the-earth folks abound, variously threatening or caring for Anne and Jonathan. Queen Elizabeth I herself has an active role in the story. Although the time travelers try not to change history, Jonathan can't help using his medical knowledge to save lives, while Anne continually slips into contemporary idioms. A few characters know their secret, and not all have their best interests at heart. Humor, danger, and steamy love scenes abound. All ends on a positive note, but with enough unresolved to point to a sequel.

This is a fascinating, very suspenseful time travel romance that will have you holding your breath at times! Anne Howard is an American young woman visiting her grandmother in London for the summer. While going through the attic exploring she comes across a trunk with old letters addressed to her grandmother from a man she never heard of, not her grandfather. Catherine Hasting Howard decided it was time to tell her story..... She had fallen madly in love with an RAF surgeon and he with her. They were to be married on New Year's Eve. On Christmas Eve he disappeared with out a trace. Was it murder, kidnapping or something else? After hearing Catherine's story, and seeing his picture, Anne couldn't let it go. Catherine had moved on and met Arthur Howard and they lived happily together for 63 years. But she never forgot Jonnie. Anne has decided she wants to know more. She investigates some of their favorite places even the pub, The Bishop's Crook, where Jonathan disappeared. She started hearing strange voices, people dressed in Elizabethan clothing and even someone calling her name. When Anne confessed this to Catherine, she became very agitated, explaining that Jonnie spoke of similar occurrences. Anne was frightened, wanted to go home to America, but couldn't get a flight. Catherine insisted she be prepared for the worst, clothing, a knife, penicillin and other needs always on her person. It came in handy. On a beautiful day in London, with her Grandmother by her side, Anne disappears. Her life in 16th century London is frightening, suspenseful and an amazing love story. Before she is unable to find Dr. Brandon she is manhandled by rogues and ends up in a few harrowing adventures that will have your pulse pounding! Even after finding Jonathan, their lives became a life and death struggle with names the reader will find very familiar. I can't say enough wonderful things about this story. The prequel, Begun By Time is equally as captivating as The Thornless Rose. I'm hoping that the authors have another book in this series, I want to know a lot more about Sir Jonathan and Lady Anne. This will be a novel added to my Best of 2015 list. I purchased this book, and this is my honest review. Pat Fordyce

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