Mr. H. E. Bates has gone back to the war in A Moment in Time. No one will learn anything about the war from it, certainly not if they were in it, and even less if they were not yet born; but he has skimmed the top off its drama, its weather and its slang, and in this story of a girl who marries an Air Force pilot during the Battle of Britain has stitched them together with great skill as a background to a slice

of light romance.