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Time And Again



Synopsis

Rediscover the beloved classic, *Time and Again*—hailed as “THE great time-travel story” by Stephen King, now with masterfully restored original artwork and an all-new foreword by Audrey Niffenegger, New York Times bestselling author of *The Time Traveler’s Wife*. When advertising artist Si Morley is recruited to join a covert government operation exploring the possibility of time travel, he jumps at the chance to leave his twentieth-century existence and step into New York City in January 1882. Aside from his thirst for experience, he has good reason to return to the past—his friend Kate has a curious, half-burned letter dated from that year, and he wants to trace the mystery. But when Si begins to fall in love with a woman he meets in the past, he will be forced to choose between two worlds—forever. Praised as “pure New York fun” by Alice Hoffman, *Time and Again* is admired for its rich, painstakingly researched descriptions of life in New York City more than a century ago, and for the swift adventure at its core. With digitally remastered art, fall in love with this refreshed classic all over again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The great time-travel story." (Stephen King)
"Go back to a wonderful world and have a wonderful time doing it." (New York Times)
"A cult time-traveling favorite . . . This one is pure New York fun." (Alice Hoffman, author of *The Dovekeepers*)

Jack Finney (1911–1995) was the author of the much-loved and critically acclaimed novel

Time and Again, as well as its sequel, From Time to Time. Best known for his thrillers and science fiction, a number of his books—including Invasion of the Body Snatchers—have been made into movies.

I must confess that I read this book 30+ years ago, but it has always stuck in my memory as an interesting book. I saw one of my co-workers reading it and told him that I remembered a book by that title from years earlier. I gave him some of the plot and he confirmed it. It's next up on my "to read again" list. This is initially set in New York in the 1980's. Time travel has recently been discovered. Something happened in NYC a century earlier that needs resolving in order to preserve the present. A man elects to go back in time, only to find that life a century earlier is kinder and gentler. Should he stay or return to this present?

This is a time travel book but without the bells and whistles of technology. Simon was selected by a super secret off the books government entity with the information that he was special, very few people passed the entrance requirements and until he did pass, he would never know the details of the project for which he was being recruited. It is not a spoiler to let readers know that after a lengthy orientation procedure, Simon entered training to use a specific method for time travel, a sort of advanced yoga or meditation method that required a lot of information about the desired time and place of the destination. The information was gained through a lot of research by teams assigned to the secret organization. Simon then entered into an appropriate trance and woke at the time and place desired. As with any good tale, there are conflicts. The huge conflict at the center of this book is the effect on changes in the past. How will they affect the present? Can there be changes in the past that will make significant changes in the present? Are all changes in the past significant to the present? How can we tell? Then there is an ethical conflict. Will military forces take charge of the project? How about business interests? Or will this project only be used for good (whatever that is)? There is a romantic interest. Julia, Simon's love interest in the past, seems to be in an abusive relationship. Can Simon rescue her? How will that affect the present? Possibly due to Julia, Simon develops a love for the past and thinks about staying there. Can that be done? All of these complex parts make for a very entertaining story, but they are not the best part of the book. The description in very detailed minutia of daily life in New York around 1880 will appeal to lovers of New York and historians interested more in social customs. Details of how to wash and attach a collar (for men) and the various layers of clothing necessary for modesty (women) are interesting. The details of building construction, the operation of firefighting teams, the history of 1880s

disasters, and the familiar names of the startup ventures of some of today's familiar businesses will keep the reader going from page to page without regard to time (pun intended). And there are illustrations, giving the reader the sense of reality that being there is possible, at least for Simon.

I recently read Stephen King's time travel novel 11/22/63 and couldn't put it down. My all-time favorite book. My friend recommended Time and Again, given my love of 11/22/63. Time and Again was fascinating and, even though not exactly historically accurate, really gave the sense of what it was like to live in the 80's (1880's that is!). The time travel actually seemed so plausible. Yes, I had a few questions like what currency he brought with him (wouldn't people think it odd that his dollars were from 1970?) but all in all, it was interesting and made me really want to go back in time to a more simple day! I work in downtown NY so it was also interesting to get some history of the buildings I pass every day!

I have loved this book since I first read it as a kid back in the early '70s. This was one of the first books that really made history come alive for me, and got me hooked on time travel tales. Re-reading it after many years, I was afraid it would not live up to my glowing memories of the book, but was delighted to find that the story works as well as ever. I like the fact that Finney does not waste a lot of time making his method of time travel scientifically plausible -- who cares how he does it? The important thing is that he *does* it. Like all great speculative fiction, the important thing is not the mechanism but the implications of the mechanism. Finney creates a completely engrossing human story that explores the implications of the ability to revisit earlier times.

It is so hard to seek out a book that will create a world which you love so much that you wish to crawl through the pages into it, so I will not make that kind of promise, but that is what this book did for me. In a way, it is a very plain book -- it rarely speaks of something the reader cannot see, its concerns seem very based in the idea of telling the story at hand -- it feels in no way fantastical. The frills are on the inside, tangled in the ideas that the book's premise is built on. If you step back, you realize what an achievement the book is, and how subtle the brilliance is. Revolutionary, really, and on par with THE TIME TRAVELLER'S WIFE, while being not at all like it. So, if you like time-travel books, or historical fiction, or romantic-without-ever-saying-it books... or just books that Stephen King lauds on the front cover: get this book. Read it. (There is a sequel and I have yet to read that.... I have that inherent fear of sequels ruining the original, or not understanding what else there is to

say on the subject. That being what it is, I also loved this book, these characters, this reality enough that I will give up and in shortly enough. But do not think this is a Series Book at all.)

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