



## **23 Minutes**

*Vivian Vande Velde*

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Fifteen-year-old Zoe has a secret ability: she can travel back in time twenty-three minutes to relive events she wants to change. But Zoe has learned from experience that this is more *curse* than *gift*. Things almost never end well and people just tend to think she's crazy.

But when she steps into a bank to get out of the rain and finds herself in the middle of a robbery gone horrifyingly wrong, Zoe knows she's the only one who can help. The problem is, she has only a limited number of tries to make things right. Plus, a single mistake could get her killed—and not even time travel could bring her back from that.

Zoe has always considered herself a loser, about as far from a heroine as a girl can get. Now she has to dig deep to find a strength she never thought she possessed.

## 23 Minutes Details

Date : Published April 5th 2016 by Boyds Mills Press

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Author : Vivian Vande Velde

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## From Reader Review 23 Minutes for online ebook

### Amani A says

23 Minutes by Vivian Vande Velde is a science fiction book. It is about a girl named Zoe who experienced a bank robber scene that killed multiple people. Luckily for her, she has the gift of turning back time. By putting her arms around herself and saying the word, "playback" she can go back in time 23 minutes. Her goal is to stop the bank robbery without anybody getting killed in the process. However, she has only ten tries to get it right. This book is filled with suspense and it is so interesting. It has multiple conflicts in it that keep the reader on the edge of their seats. I recommend this book for someone who is looking for an interesting, but quick read. I also recommend this book to boys and girls who are in middle school.

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### Brina says

"Nie wieder zurück" hat mich schon lange vor dem Erscheinungstag angesprochen und war auch bei vielen Buchbloggern in aller Munde, sodass ich schnell neugierig wurde und dem Buch eine Chance geben wollte. Geschichten über Zeitreisen fand ich schon immer sehr spannend, dementsprechend hoch waren auch meine Erwartungen und ich muss sagen, dass ich nicht enttäuscht wurde.

Vivian Vande Velde besitzt einen recht angenehmen Schreibstil, der sich spannend und flüssig liest und ich somit durch die gerade einmal knapp 210 Seiten nur so durchgeflogen bin. Ich muss zwar auch zugeben, dass ich besonders auf den ersten zwanzig Seiten ein paar Probleme hatte, mich an den Schreibstil zu gewöhnen, allerdings hat er mir dafür später umso besser gefallen.

Die Geschichte ist schnell erzählt: Zoe verbringt den Tag in der Stadt und geht, nachdem der Regen immer stärker wird, in eine Bank, um sich dort aufzuwärmen. Doch schnell ist die Ruhe vorbei, denn nur wenige Minuten später stürmt ein Bankräuber die Bank, bei der es auch Tote gibt. Zoe muss handeln, denn sie hat ein Talent, mit dem sie alles ungeschehen machen könnte, denn sie kann in die Zeit zurückreisen. Einziges Problem: Sie kann immer nur dreiundzwanzig Minuten zurückreisen, sodass jede noch so kleine Minute zählt.

Die Mischung aus Thriller und Fantasy ist hier besonders gut gelungen. Ich muss zwar sagen, dass ich finde, dass Zoes Fähigkeit fast schon als zu selbstverständlich hingestellt wird, allerdings hatte ich dennoch meinen Spaß an der Geschichte und konnte mich zumindest teilweise in Zoe hineinversetzen. Das Thema Zeitreisen ist zwar nicht unbedingt neu und bietet somit nur wenige Überraschungen, allerdings wirkt hier alles sehr stimmig und auch die Begrenzung auf dreiundzwanzig Minuten fand ich interessant, da die Geschichte so stets temporeich verläuft.

Das Cover ist schlicht, passt aber aufgrund der Uhren im Hintergrund dennoch sehr gut zur Thematik, sodass man sich hier nicht beschweren kann. Die Kurzbeschreibung liest sich gut und hat direkt mein Interesse geweckt, allerdings finde ich im Nachhinein, dass diese auch gleichzeitig zu viel verrät.

Kurz gesagt: "Nie wieder zurück" ist eine temporeiche und spannende Geschichte, die mich zum Großteil auch aufgrund der Protagonistin Zoe überzeugen konnte. Ich hatte somit meinen Spaß an dem Buch und kann "Nie wieder zurück" nur empfehlen.

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## Molly says

One of the best books that I have read. I loved every single turn and I could not put it down. I have never read anything quite like this.

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## Ed says

I love the theme, how this girl has to stop anyone from dying in a crime scene, as she learns a lot of things during the adventure.

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## Samantha says

Fifteen-year-old Zoe has the ability to travel back in time, but only 23 minutes. When she is trapped in a bank during a robbery and witnesses the death of two people up close and personal, she uses her ability to travel back in time to try to change the outcome. Zoe knows this is dangerous and she knows things may not turn out the way she hopes, but there is one particular life she is determined to save, no matter what. Zoe's gift has its limits and she must use her knowledge of the gift, the situation, and the people involved to try to change the future for the better. Only things don't really work out for Zoe because there is one thing her gift doesn't provide, and to access that one element may take more courage than Zoe has. Vivian Vande Velde takes a gift many may love to have and shows readers that sometimes gifts have a down side, and Zoe's certainly does. Readers will enjoy the journey they take with Zoe, learning about her sad and terrible past, her uncertainty for her future, and her passion and determination to set things right. A good read for students in middle grades and up. There is gun violence and a few curse words, but the story has a great deal to offer students looking for a good mystery-adventure with a strong heroine.

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## Kira Simion says

I honestly did not think was going to be good. (I am sorry for my preconceived misconceptions). I saw the cover and the shortness of the book/novella and thought 'meh.' I was wrong; I am happy.

**4.5/5 stars rounded up! (Would read again haha).**

### CONS:

- First of all, *the cover*. I picked up this short story and my first thought was that the cover was pretty ugly. I'm sorry (somewhat) but I don't like it. (My opinion). The orange does *not* go with the black and white look. It just looks silly. If you wanted something orange, try the crime scene tape in the eye, but that would still be yellow to be honest. The black and white picture was okay, but I recommend just using a different photo altogether or putting the title around the eye. Something aesthetic or appealing to the eye.
- Next is *the length*. I thought the book itself was too short! I wanted to know what happens later! To Zoe, to

Daniel, to the development of the power, etc. I want a second book just as good or better!

•*The names.* They didn't seem to fit the characters, but that may just be me.

### **PROS:**

•*The idea.* I really like the idea of time traveling with strange limitations and I really wanted the limitations to be because of some significant thing (and that's why I want a second book). I like the idea but the twists in the time traveling idea made it even better.

•*The characters.* Umm this may be my first novel/short story by this author, but these characters are/were intriguing, entertaining, clever in some ways, and to me, realistic. I immensely enjoyed reading about Zoe and Daniel and their alternate people when Zoe went back in time. The communication between the two was enjoyable too.

•*The action.* I ONLY accept flashbacks when they are good for the plot, not take away from the action that should happen now in the book, not a long flashback that then turns into 10 years later or 10 years earlier. The action in this book starts in the beginning, *even* after the flashback. I had fun with that.

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### **Emily Ann says**

4.7/5.0 This book could be extremely frustrating sometimes, but it was a good quick read.

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### **Bookworm Emmy says**

I really liked this book!????????????????????(???)?

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### **Eva says**

Super well written. The kind of thing that was probably left open ended on purpose but ALSO I want a SEQUEL.

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### **Nicole says**

Eine temporeiche Erzählung, die mich total gefesselt hat.

Die beiden Hauptcharaktere gewinnen im Verlauf der Geschichte an Sympathie. Bis kurz vor Schluß war mir nicht klar, welches Ende dieses Buch für uns bereit hält. Vieles war für mich nicht vorhersehbar und die Wendungen finde ich tatsächlich spannend und interessant. Die Frage nach dem Parallelen Leben ist hier gut ausgearbeitet. Ich hätte auch noch 200 Seiten mehr gelesen. Bemerkenswert fand ich, dass immer wieder aufgezeigt wird, dass man sich in seinen Annahmen massiv irren kann - und welche gefährlichen Konsequenzen das unter Umständen mit sich bringen kann.

Für mich ist das Buch ein Highlight und ich werde mal recherchieren was die Autorin sonst noch so geschrieben hat.

Ausgesprochene Empfehlung für alle Fans von Filmen wie "Lola rennt" und "The Butterfly Effect".

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### **Jenni says**

Zoe can rewind things for 23 minutes, exactly. So when she accidentally ends up in a bank during a bank robbery, she knows this will be a time that she needs to rewind again, to see if she can make a difference. Quick read.

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### **Lydia Ramsey says**

Very cool sci-fi kids read with a little bit of strong language but not enough to make it inappropriate for middle school. If you need a quick read and want a satisfying ending, this is a great choice.

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### **Aldiejo says**

I enjoyed reading the start of this book. The problem was it was a bit repetitive. Yes I know its about a girl who can go back 23 minutes. But still.

Also I feel like the ending was so sudden. Yes there was some good interesting plots. But, I wish it was more interesting.

I loved the character Zoe, and how different she is compared to other YA books.

I did like it but, I wish there was more.

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### **Cheryl says**

Yes, it's a YA Time Travel thriller. But even if you don't like all those motifs, you'll probably enjoy this.

Vande Velde is a wonderful writer, no matter the genre or age level she is exploring. Style and story both are thoughtful & fun. I will continue to read everything by the author.

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### **alicat says**

This might have been the fastest I've ever read a book. I finished this sci-fi thriller in a couple hours and enjoyed the fast-paced and high stakes ride it took me on. Zoe has a special power that allows her to travel back in time twenty-three minutes to relive the past and change the future. She can use this ability she calls "playback" up to ten times with a few other minor rules explained within the book. However, going back doesn't always improve the outcome of events and once the final playback is done there's no reversal. She gets caught up in a deadly bank robbery and tries to right the situation but struggles with each attempt. And if a mistake gets her killed, there will be no do-over for that.

Zoe strives to arrive at an outcome where the least amount of lives are lost and battles with the question of valuing one life over another. For a fifteen year-old, she has a surprisingly level head that helps her assess each playback and continue forward (or is it backwards?) except one wasted for a freak out. It was interesting to see how the supporting characters actions changed depending on how Zoe improvised the playback and it kept the scenes from being too repetitive.

Some other reviewers have complained about the “romance” which I find a bit silly. There is no romance. Zoe thinks the twenty-four year old private investigator, Daniel, who helps her prevent the crime from escalating is cute and nice. She may have a crush on him but what teenager hasn't ever thought an older boy was cute? The two never act on anything romantically because well they're a little preoccupied with not dying.

I don't really have any complaints besides the cover being totally bland and things being a little simple. There wasn't much time for backstory to Zoe's ability since everything happens so fast. Pick this up if you want a quick sci-fi thriller.

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