



The Life and Times

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She was dramatic. He was dynamic. She was precise. He was impulsive. He was James, and she was Lily, and one day they shared a kiss, but before that they shared many arguments, for he was cocky, and she was sweet, and matters of the heart require time.

The Life and Times Details

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From Reader Review The Life and Times for online ebook

Tasya Dita says

4.5/5 stars

okay wow if someone wants to publish this fanfic as a book, retellings of hp, **i would buy it**. i don't say this fanfic is perfect, it has it flaws, but it feels like hp.

first, the story sets in the marauders era. you might guess the main reason for me is jily, but we get so much more than that. we get involved in the drama of the other hogwarts students, mostly james' and lily's mates. it's not jily centered, and sometimes it's annoying especially when we get to the shippy shippy moment only to be interrupted for the drama i don't care about, but it also gives more insight of life in hogwarts during that time.

second, the marauders. it's really heartfelt to see how close and supportive they are with each other, since we know what happened in the end. they're hilarious and fun and the dynamic between them is undeniable. even i can't bring myself to hate peter pettigrew. i guess hogwarts' the marauders is one of my favorite brotp.

third, jily. by the time this fanfic ends (chapter 36, it shouldn't have ended yet, but it hasn't been updated since 2013 *sobs*) my ship hasn't sail. wow. but we have some shippy shippy moments and their banters are fun to watch.

the ending was kind of dark though, and it makes me deduct half star from the rating. the war has started and it just gets depressing *sigh* i guess it was inevitable, but still. i love it though, and i **highly recommended** it for potterheads who wanted to read about the marauders era!

Alena says

There are a lot of Marauders Era fanfictions out there, but The Life and Times is - in my opinion - the best of them all. To me, TLAT's characters are more three dimensional and realistic than in any other story, and the relationships between the characters (I would like to highlight that of Lily and James because it is the main romantic relationship) are as complex and compelling as the story itself.

There are many people who dislike The Life and Times based on its a) length b) elements of teen drama c) characters and c) plot. I would like to address each of these complaints in turn and at the same time show my love for this incredible story.

First and foremost, it's important to remember that this is a work of fanfiction, and therefore cannot be accurately judged against other, published works. It is an unrealistic standard to which almost all stories of this genre will inevitably fall short. So bear that in mind. Most of the authors are not published and given the nature of this type of writing, mistakes and grievances will happen that wouldn't if you were reading a book.

This ties into the TLAT's extraordinary length. Fanfictions are updated one chapter at a time (usually) with a break in between, and are often not written all at once and then published, but chapter by chapter. In that respect, fanfiction has much more in common with television than it does with books. They are simply not

designed to be read like books. Given that you can't physically turn the pages to check and see how much farther you have to go, fanfictions are also much more disorienting when it comes to judging their length, meaning that many VERY LONG stories are published without most people feeling as though they're long at all. Yes, when you put in terms of pages it may seem ridiculously lengthy, but when you're actually reading (and scrolling, making it impossible to tell how many pages are in, say, a chapter) it may not feel like a 2000 page story.

Okay, on to the complaint that TLAT has a too much teen drama. Personally, I didn't find the teen drama at all distracting, in fact I didn't even notice it, but when looking back I can sort of understand where those complaints are coming from. Friendships get messed up, people break up, there are heated arguments - none of this should be unfamiliar when reading fanfiction, and given that this is ALL ABOUT TEENS and not focused on their adult lives, I think it's becomes slightly more excusable if it does pop up every once in a while. However, even if some of the situations that arise are reminiscent of a shitty teen soap opera gone wrong, the way they are handled and the maturity of the characterization proves the story AS A WHOLE to be the very opposite.

The characters in TLAT are the best I've ever seen in a fanfiction. In my opinion, each of them is written to (almost) complete perfection. The tropes that haunt so many stories in this Era, and this GENRE are not present in my mind, or are at least twisted so that they are almost a parody. I don't really have anything more to say on the characterization, only that I don't believe them to be anything other than three dimensional.

I believe that TLAT is not for everyone, I believe that fanfiction is not for everyone, and I respect that if you didn't like this story you have every right to explain why, but I would definitely encourage anyone who hasn't yet read it or is on the fence about starting or who has AGES ago and can't remember if they liked it, to please try it out. It is a wonderful example of the incredible things that can be created through fanfiction, something that a lot of people think requires little talent and doesn't produce anything worth reading.

So please, read this story and join the club that rereads it every year and cries when they remember that it hasn't been updated since 2013.

Gianna says

Always rereading it, always loving it more each day. ♥?

Chelsea says

"It's best to just huddle up and ignore all of this, because all of this silly teenager stuff isn't actually any fun at all. It's rubbish. It's pointless. It's a waste of time and energy, and people's feelings get hurt."

SPOILER ALERT!!!

Jewels5 said it best. I don't want to denigrate their efforts, because it is very obvious that they put a lot of time, effort and love into this project, but unfortunately it was just a bloated, tangential mess. This is why books have editors. There was enough material here to easily have been 3 separate works, and they probably

would have been interesting if presented separately and more focused, but trying to shove it all into a single piece of work just made it frustrating and irksome to read.

This is billed as being a Jily story, but that's a stretch. If you're looking to read about them as a couple, don't bother because of the approx. 2500 pages, they spend approximately 3 of them as a couple. The other 2400+ pages are rife with female characters somehow acting ridiculously above their age (everyone throws around the love word and are with their partners for YEARS despite being in school) and simultaneously juvenile. It reminded me a lot of Mean Girls, only Mean Girls was funny and embraced its ridiculousness and that made it fun. This did not. I spent the majority of the time reading this HATING pretty much every single one of the female characters (and I still could not really tell you who Mary is or why she is in this. She's such a redundant character and having her and Marlene was overly confusing.) Also, if you're hoping to get any resolution on Donna, Mary, Marlene, Carlotta, or Shelley at the end, you're going to be sadly disappointed. And if you actually want to know how the whole attempted suicide mystery introduced at the very beginning shakes out...it doesn't. It's just dropped. The ending was abrupt and rushed and just dropped all the characters basically. There is no denouement in sight.

There's also quite a few less than socially aware moments. Donna Shackbolt (the token POC) starts off as kind of a curmudgeonly character and I liked her (because I am a sucker for a curmudgeon), but she quickly devolved into a stereotypical "angry black woman" caricature with some "Jezebel" archetype thrown in. There's lots of TALK about all the characters sleeping around (except the virginal, perfect Lily), but up to that point Donna is the only one that we SEE in a sexual hookup (not graphic, just very clear they are having sex). Even the school trollop, Carlotta, caused a furor just by kissing Frank, not sleeping with him. Jewels5 does Donna a real disservice and it read as vaguely racist.

Continuing the misogyny, at one point one of the characters that is an aspiring Death Eater uses the Imperio curse to sexually assault a girl. Surely this is a pivotal plot point that is handled with care and attention in this 2400+ page work? NOPE! It's mentioned over approximately 3 sentences and then is never addressed. I HATE when people use rape as a plot device and then especially when they do it insensitively. This was basically just thrown in there to motivate Snape. Victimized a female character to motivate a male character is a tired and disgusting cliché and THIS IS NOT OKAY! Does Snape see the light and correct his way? NOPE! So basically this was just thrown in there to say, "look how evil these guys are!". What's even more messed up? It was done by a character named "Saul Hester". Saul is a Jewish name and Hester is a German name...so basically she has a German Jew become a rapist in hopes of joining up with the wizarding world equivalent of Hitler. Surely that cannot be accidental?? Again, I got racist vibes.

Misogyny is also rampant in this thing. The women are constantly calling each other slags and sluts and hating on each other. Also, conspiring to screw each other over all in hopes of snagging that cute guy. A solid half of this work is just women being shitty to each other. Maybe that's some people's cup of tea, but I hated it. Maybe it's because I can't relate. When I have encountered shitty people like this, I just ditched them from my life and didn't put up with that nastiness. If anyone's friendship is like this, they need new friends.

The technical writing is good for fanfiction (sentence structure, grammar, etc.), but the overall structure is not well done. It reads like she just typed out whatever ideas came to her mind and didn't really chart out the plot at all. Chapters are insanely long and switch frequently between perspectives; sometimes this will at least be indicated by a line break or something, but sometimes it will just switch from paragraph to paragraph. At times it felt a bit like I was one of those bad guys in the Matrix that could just take over whatever bodies I want at will. It was distracting and confusing.

The one thing I did like about this work is the male dynamics. For as terrible as Jewels5 made the female

dynamics, I really enjoyed reading the Marauders scenes. I loved seeing the boys interact with each other and sincerely wished there had been more of a focus on their dynamics because I have always wanted to see Peter's story expanded on and why he would betray his friends.

And just to rant briefly because this is so fresh, but after reading so so so so many pages that is supposedly supposed to be about James and Lily getting together, in the final few pages Jewels5 decides to have Lily ruminate on how her and SIRIUS understand each other and James just doesn't. As the British would say, "Have you completely lost the plot?!"

Danielle says

I am SO GUTTED that I'm caught up with The Life and Times! I now begin the long wait for the author to update again (and she hasn't done since 2013!!) I think I'm going to go into book/fanfic mourning, nooooooo :(::(

Anyways, this is going to be short and sweet because I feel kind of weird doing a review of something that isn't even finished yet but what can you do?

I absolutely adored this fanfic... Although to be honest you, 'adored' is such an understatement because if it was up to me, I would totally marry this fanfic, that's how much I'm in love with it.

So, let me just point out that the Marauder's era of Harry Potter is my favourite thing about the whole world (I mean, Lupin is my favourite character anyway so how could it not be?!) and The Life and Times was absolutely perfect, it was exactly how I imagined all of the characters - they were hilarious and adorable, and I'm not gonna lie, I would totally date young Lupin... (and also James obviously, but I wouldn't want to come in-between him and Lily.)

I never ever wanted this to end as I know there is going to be a huge wait in-between chapters but I just don't think I can live without it!

I DEFINITELY recommend this to anyone who loves the Marauders because if you thought you loved them before... You will love them even more after The Life and Times.

PERFECT.

Gabriela says

As a "book" it gets 2.5 stars. As a fanfiction it deserves 4.5 or 5 stars, but my 4 or 5 stars are reserved for great books, and fanfic, even great one as this, does not compare. This version of James was the best one I have ever read, and same is probably true for Lily, although I can't say that with certainty. I was however disappointed in Sirius (who is my favourite Marauder era character), I expected more. It seemed that the author crossed the usual flat, one dimensional character that most fanfics use for James, but did not bother to do the same with Sirius (yes I know he wasn't main character, but still...) But all in all this was one of the best fanfics EVER.

Tina Cantin says

Another year, another excuse to read TLAT.

Renee Ross says

wow it's been so long since I've read this I barely remember how it goes but I do know that I loved it a lot

Rikkeline says

This is the best fanfic I've ever read. By far.

Only problem I have with this book is that it's not finished BUT THE AUTHOR HASN'T UPDATED IN 3 YEARS? Where is u? Pls don't leave me in despair? Pls?

Eva says

Not the faintest why I thought it was a good idea to reread an unfinished 2500-page fanfiction but I think it's safe to say someone else should make all of my decisions for me from now on.

The fact that this is widely regarded as the best Jily fanfic ever (and *it is* incredibly good), even though the main ship never even gets to share one kiss in it is a pretty good illustration of what a masochistic bunch we all are. Just in case the mere act of shipping a couple who is long dead before the first page of the story they belong in didn't tip you off already.

Book Ninja says

This book can be described in just one word. Beautiful. Everything was amazing. It was a page turner.

This book has not been finished yet. The author is still writing. Can't wait for her to upload new chapters :)

Lilyxjames says

"Don't chase the Quaffle if you see the Snitch."

Forever one of my most favorite pieces of writing ever written.

I am heartbroken that it is probably never going to be finished. Such a shame because it's a masterpiece.

The character development of the core set of flawed characters, following canon 100% and inserting in the

blanks with heart pounding events and moments, the growing fear and tension at the beginning of the First Wizarding War, incorporating countless actual Harry Potter characters who were only name dropped in the books and giving them unique personalities, AND making the reader care about them as much as about the main characters, laugh-out-loud hilarious and witty dialogues, the ambiance and atmosphere created making you feel like you are in the 70s Hogwarts yourself with these people you know horrible things are going to happen to, just 2-4 years later.... No words can describe how genius this fanfiction is. It should be its own series of books.

When Jules publishes her own original novel, I will be the first in line to buy it. She has such a unique and BEAUTIFUL voice, I want to read everything she writes for the rest of my life.

Dani says

Apparently today is "Dani is a quitter day" because, you guessed it, another DNF.

The worst part is, I freaking love this, so much. But, it's unfinished. So every scene, every chapter that I keep progressing and giving my heart to the the book and characters, it just looms over me like a storm that I'm never going to have resolution. This is the double edged sword of fanfic. People get busy, and they move on.

I know my crazy little OCD brain, that if I get to the last chapter and there is no ending, I'll go berzerk, so I'm saving myself the future heartache. Why you gotta do me like that Jewel5?!

Piper says

Don't believe the hype. Sub-plot ridden, clichéd popular girls with very adult characterization, Mary-Sue, perfectly adorkable Lily, one token POC with a nasty attitude and a very immature, drawn out fight between Sirius and James where they act like eleven-year-old girls instead of teenaged almost-brothers. It was ridiculous. Chock full of slut-shaming and virgin-shaming, too - a girl can't win with this story.

James is wildly out-of-character, barely acting interested in Lily in some parts. He's less the spoiled, sometimes gawky but show-offy popular kid we see in the books, and more of a wannabe James Dean instead. In fact, James in this story is more how I would have imagined Sirius acting.

And of course Sirius is a shallow ladies man! It wouldn't be a typical Marauder's Era fic if he wasn't bonking the entire school, even though the HP books imply that he didn't really notice girls much.

The length of this fic is equal to several Harry Potter books combined without ever reaching a climax. SPOILER ALERT! Despite the summary which claims it is the love story of Lily and James, you get little to no love for hundreds upon hundreds (and hundreds) of pages (each chapter is like 30-40 pages and there are 36 of them. Let that sink in.) I kept waiting for them to get together, but.... not until the bitter end is there a glimmer of hope for them. Good thing I wasn't holding my breath or I'd be passed out about 400 pages in. Can we say get to the point?

There are sooooo many characters, and we have to read about every detail of all their personal lives. It's just

too much. Even ensemble casts have fewer characters than this. And most of these side-characters are in or get into very adult-like relationships. Not all sixteen-year-olds are in long term committed relationships, but in this fic, it seems odd if someone is single. They've all paired off with their life mates in high school, which is a pretty rare occurrence in reality. Alice has been with Frank since she was 14 in this story, (aaaaand he cheats on her and she takes him back.) I mean, it's all just so unrealistic and cringe-worthy.

The only good point was no Blackinnon, which is the most ridiculous ship in the HP fandom, since Marlene is mentioned in a letter, not even by her first name. How anyone gets that Sirius had a relationship with the woman is beyond me. However, she is featured in a drawn-out subplot with an OC that bored me to tears.

The technical writing was good(sentences formed properly, paragraphing, punctuation, flow, style....)but the plot? What about the plot?

Oh yeah, the overuse of the words "bloke" and "bird" was aggravating. As someone who lived in England, I can assure you, normal people do not use these words that frequently. "Bird" is like calling a girl a "chick" so it's quite degrading. And bloke is used once in a while for a man you don't really know. So many other words, but in this never-ending story, it's bloke bloke bloke, all the time bloke. And it's not finished? WTF? I'm not sure how an unfinished "book" ended up on Goodreads.

Not my thing. Sorry not sorry.

Whimsy says

[James listening to the who..
Moony in St. Mungo`s..
Lily calmly knockin out a deatheater..
Lily gradually losing her friendship with Snape..
70`s and protests against magical government..
Sirius being unhappy..
Sirius recklessly caring about Regulus..
Marauders being brilliant.. well, as always ;-)
and Lily being truly this sweet,
