



The Accidental Time Traveller

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Life on Mars meets It's a Wonderful Life in this inventive romantic comedy that looks at what we can learn from the past....

Journalist Rosie Hartford is having an odd day. Or one hell of a hangover...

Having had a blazing row with her boyfriend - fellow journalist Will - she reluctantly sets off for her latest assignment: an interview with one of the residents of The Meadows, a grotty local estate about to become the set for a major reality TV show, The 1950s House.

But stepping through the front door, Rosie finds herself in a different house - and transported back in time. Everything is grey and drab - the food, the clothes, the TV. It's like the world is in permanent black and white.

It's not long before Rosie realises what's going on. She's obviously a contestant on the 1950s show! She's pretty miffed she's not been given warning, but she might as well give it a go - after all, the cameras are always watching and the first rule of reality TV is always keep smiling...

But what really sends Rosie into a spin is the fact that Will is there too - but here he is known as Billy and has been married since he was 16 to Rosie's best friend. In the 1950s, Will/Billy is a family man and devoted father, a side to him that Rosie finds hard to imagine. He grows vegetables, repairs shoes and even has a shed. He is, in fact, a grown up.

The truth slowly dawns on Rosie that this is reality, not reality TV. After she gets over the shock, she begins to embrace daily life 1950s-style. Gone are the excessive consumerism, drifting relationships and cheap thrills of the Noughties. In its place is make do and mend, commitment, duty and honour.

Together Rosie and Billy make a great team, covering dramatic local stories, and inevitably growing closer until Rosie falls in love with Will/Billy all over again. But now he has a wife and kids and is out of bounds...

Unless she can get back to 2008...

The Accidental Time Traveller Details

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From Reader Review The Accidental Time Traveller for online ebook

Joan says

Loved it. Rosie was confused about what she wanted from her life and her relationship to Will. As a news reporter she was sent to interview a lady who had lived in 'The Meadows' housing estate for 50 years. As she knocked on the door a peculiar feeling overcame her and when coming to her senses she was in a house like the 50's and so unexpected. At first she thought she had inadvertently become involved in a reality TV show about life in the 1950's. Eventually she had to accept that it was the 1950's and an alternate reality. She was still a reporter but everything else was different. Her best friend was married to Will and they had 3 children. She found it very hard to live without the mod cons of the present day, the strict social behaviour expectations and because of this she was perceived as a racy American. She comes to realise how much she loves Will and how she'd been pushing him away unable or too scared of taking the chance that he might hurt her. The 1950's Will opened her eyes as to what could be and she wanted that chance. When she finally wakes up in a modern hospital she discovers she has had meningitis and could have died without the quick response of the old lady whom she was visiting. Will had been by her side all that time but she wonders what really happened and her questions are put down to being a dream she had while she was ill. When she recovers they go back to thank Margaret Turnbull for saving her life and a truth is revealed.

Carol says

This had the potential to be a decent time travel book. Rosie, our heroine is suddenly transported back to the 1950's. It takes place in England. England was slow to modernize and was behind the US in modern conveniences and style. Rosie's immediate thought is that she is somehow part of a reality tv show taking place in the 1950's style stage set. Even though she sees the impossibility of turning an entire city retro and she is a news reporter she doesn't really investigate. She just continues to be confused and "Oh well." Unfortunately the author was not very imaginative and the plot was not clever. There were too many loose ends and it was less about the heroine and more about the lives of people who came before her. A confusing plot ingredient is that she meets her boyfriend's alter ego who is married to her best friend and yet they weren't even born yet in the 50's! It made no sense. She never looks up her parents or relatives. At the end of the story the author threw in an inadequate improbable explanation for Rosie's apparent time travel or dream. This might have made a decent half hour Outer Limits tv show but even then it would have been meh.

Kell says

I don't often read chick-lit, but this one kind of sparkles in the same way that a good rom-com film does. Yes, it's light and a little fluffy, but it's funny and sweet and sometimes serious too. I was surprised at how believable the whole thing was, despite the "time slip" element of the plot - it all slotted together very nicely. The characters were likeable and familiar, the situations were realistic and the developing relationships were wonderful to read.

It's a lighthearted look at how a modern woman copes when plunged into a time when all mod cons are

missing and she has to make do with what's available, learning new skills and discovering that she's capable of far more than she ever imagined.

As a bonus, there's a "which decade should you live in?" quiz at the back (incidentally, it turns out I'd be right at home in the fifties!).

Amanda Fairchild says

I so wanted to like this, and the first two pages are intriguing. I warm to the protagonist straight away. I'm sure she's about to travel back in time when she arrives at the 1950s housing estate... I'm all geared up for it, and then... Backstory!

Ok, fine, I hope the backstory won't last long...

But it does, *and* it introduces what seems like loads of similar characters and I can't tell one from the other and I just don't care, and - I stopped reading. I'm sure lots of readers don't mind being introduced to lots of characters at once, but I don't, I'm afraid. It's why I avoid police procedurals which also tend to introduce twenty characters in chapter one. It might be because I'm an introvert? I'm sure the book is good but it's just not for me - I'm sorry.

Christine Blachford says

It took me a couple of attempts to get into this one, but the words 'time' and 'travel' on the front had got me interested. The story follows a journalist who goes to interview someone about the 1950s and ends up in that time period. It takes her a while to adjust, but she finds herself adapting to life decades ago, and as you might imagine, she learns lots of lessons about herself and about life to bring back with her when she returns to the present.

It was an interesting read, not quite what I had hoped but still good enough to keep me going to the end and wondering what would happen to all the characters. There didn't seem a particular moral, most stories like this would involve the time travel element as a sort of punishment or lesson to be learned for the protagonist but there wasn't really too much wrong with her to start with. I was a bit confused by the way present characters were appearing in the past - parents of people and grandparents perhaps, but her friends seemed to be transported there. I suppose it was necessary, to have the fun section at the beginning where she thought she was on a TV show, but it made it seem more like a dream than the actual past.

Anyway, I recommend it for a nice bit of frothy nostalgia, and the way it all ties together at the end with some bonus character reveals is fun.

Wendy says

I enjoyed this amusing 'chick-lit' it was a modern take on the 'Wizard of Oz' to me. I borrowed this in audiobook from my local library and listened to it on my way to and from work. The characters were likeable though not all of them well described. Some of the storyline was a little predictable but then most

chick-lit is, this didn't really stop me from enjoying it and finding it an amusing 'read'.

Tria says

Not bad but not brilliant. I like the concept surrounding how Rosie ended up in the 1950s, but the extended "oh this must be reality TV!" bit was simply irritating and I never really warmed to Rosie as a character - which isn't great when you're reading a book written in first-person POV!

Some of the highlighting of the differences between views then and now was done well, but the book could have done with a better proof-reader and, all in all, ended up being just not my thing at all. For anyone who knows my love of time fantasy, they'll know how much it means that I say that of a book with time travel of a sort as its central theme.

I'm not sure I'll ever bother reading this again, and in light of that I'm glad I didn't get it in paper. It could have been so much more than it is, but thanks to a POV character who is quite difficult to like, doesn't pull that off. Pity.

Michelle says

I listened to this on talking book, it was a good choice as it wasn't too demanding so didn't need my close attention. An enjoyable read about a journalist who finds herself living in the 1950s. Lots of interesting social history, we forget how much easier our life is now with washing up liquid, hot water, electricity and birth control. Rosie misses so much about life in the present day, and finds herself amazed at the attitudes towards women that existed. It's quite a romance, which to be honest I found tiresome.

Heather says

A light read that is really enjoyable. Some plot challenges re time travel that don't quite fit but generally handled well. Shouldn't be compared to Time Traveller's Wife as quite different genre - not intended to be at same level. Fabulous reminder of patriarchal society in 50's, we have certainly moved on. A pleasurable, satisfying, light read.

Fina Andres garcia says

Muy entretenido!

Me llamo la atención la portada, en blanco y negro y apenas un toque de color, luego la sinopsis me intrigo y la verdad es que ha estado muy bien, eso de volver a los años 50 tiene su punto, sin móviles, sin Internet y sin todas las comodidades actuales. Lo único malo es cuando se extraña mucho a alguien y encima en el pasado esta casado con tu mejor amiga y con hijos. Ha sido muy divertido, esta contado en primera persona por Rosie y tiene muchos puntos de humor, al principio se cree que esta en un reality y busca las cámaras por todas partes, la toman un poco por loca por sus comentarios e ideas modernas, como periodista vive

muchas aventuras y enseguida demuestra todo lo que vale en un mundo de hombres. También hay momentos duros que afrontar y están muy bien tratados. Las costumbres de esos años muy bien detalladas.

Rosie es una chica valiente, con muchos valores y siempre dispuesta a ayudar, a pesar de sus sentimientos es incapaz de hacer daño a nadie.

La única pega para mí es que tiene muchas expresiones difíciles de traducir a nuestro idioma y suenan algo raro.

El final ha sido muy bonito y emotivo, cobra todo sentido y parece todo tan real, aparecen sus amigos en la actualidad y tras la experiencia vivida reconoce sus sentimientos y deja de tener dudas tanto ella como Will.

El epilogo me ha parecido muy original. En resumen es un libro sencillo, muy bien contado, entretenido y que deja un grato recuerdo.

Lo recomiendo, a mí me ha dejado con ganas de más.

Alison says

Rosie is a reporter for the local paper, she's been in a relationship with Will for a while but feels he may never be ready to take their relationship further - she fears he's a manchild.

Sent to interview one of the first residents of the local estate which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, Rosie comes over all peculiar and wakes up in the 1950s.

At first Rosie thinks she is being set up as a contestant on a TV programme called The 1950s House and gamely plays along until she realises the set is too large and too realistic. Strangely many of her Noughties friends are in the 1950s, but with very different lives. Will is now Billy and has been married to Rosie's best friend (Caz) Carol for 11 years and they have three children.

Rosie sees that maybe Will could be responsible and a father, she learns how much she takes for granted in the Noughties - mascara and washing-up liquid included. She also sees how hard life was and how badly women were treated and how few options they had.

This was a good book - in the end it was a bit Freaky Friday whereas I was hoping for something a bit more, but nevertheless an interesting read.

Sandra Gallegos says

No está mal, pero tampoco es que sea gran cosa... Es todo muy confuso, además, sobre todo al principio y al final, pero desde luego engancha y los personajes tienen ese algo que te hace querer seguir leyendo y descubrir qué les va a pasar.

Ahora mismo estoy sin ordenador en casa, así que me explayaré en cuanto recupere mi portátil.

EDITO (7-6-16):

Este libro ha sido interesante gracias a ese viaje en el tiempo que hace la protagonista, ya que ella es una mujer del siglo XXI que acaba llegando, de manera misteriosa, a los años cincuenta, a los que debe adaptarse porque no sabe ni cómo ha llegado allí, ni si podrá volver.

El cambio que ha dado el mundo en los últimos cincuenta-sesenta años queda reflejado en este libro y es algo

que se agradece, porque, aunque todavía queda muchísimo camino por recorrer, resulta alentador ver que hemos sido capaces de avanzar, de progresar, de aceptar ciertas cosas que hace medio siglo eran impensables. Como novela con una trama y unos personajes sólidos, el libro quizás deja un poco que desear, flojea en algunos aspectos, pero como muestra del avance de la humanidad en apenas cincuenta años vale su peso en oro.

La protagonista, Rosie, es periodista y debe ir a cubrir una noticia relacionada con una famosa barriada cuyo origen se encuentra, precisamente, en los años cincuenta. Sin embargo, antes de conseguir llegar al hogar de la señora a la que debe entrevistar, Rosie sufre una especie de mareo y, cuando vuelve a abrir los ojos, se encuentra en un lugar muy diferente.

La revista para la que Rosie trabaja le había informado de su intención de hacer un *reality show* acerca de la vida en los años cincuenta, por lo que, cuando la chica empieza a ver, poco a poco, que aquello poco tiene que ver con el siglo XXI, asume que se encuentra dentro del *reality* sin que su jefa la haya avisado siquiera. Rosie intenta hablar con algunas de las personas que conoce, como los señores Brown, en cuya casa ella debe alojarse, pero todos la miran como si estuviera loca cuando ella menciona el *reality show*.

Hay algunos detalles, sin embargo, que hacen creer a Rosie que realmente ha viajado en el tiempo, y es que acaba de conocer a dos personas a las que, de hecho, ella ya conocía: Will y Caz, su novio y su mejor amiga respectivamente. Sólo que, en los años cincuenta, se llaman Billy y Carol... y están casados.

Ninguno de los dos reconoce a Rosie. Ninguno de los dos la entiende cuando ella intenta hablar con ellos como cuando hablaba con el Will y la Caz que ella conoce. Will, su Will, es una especie de niño grande obsesionado con el fútbol, con las televisiones de plasma, y que no parece estar del todo seguro de querer comprometerse. Caz, la amiga de Rosie, vive con su novio y tiene su propio trabajo, y ni ella ni él tienen intenciones de casarse ni de tener hijos. Caz no tiene instinto maternal y su novio es profesor de guardería, así que ya tienen bastante.

Sin embargo, Billy y Carol tienen tres hijos. Tres hijos que se parecen mucho a sus padres y a los que Carol cuida y quiere más que a nada en el mundo. Y Billy sólo tiene en común con Will el aspecto físico, ya que Billy es mucho más maduro y disfruta estando con sus hijos. Pese a que no haya amor entre Billy y Carol, como ella admite en una ocasión, ambos son felices y se las arreglan bien juntos.

Rosie apenas se lo puede creer, pero este es, de hecho, uno de los detalles que la hacen darse cuenta de que realmente ha viajado en el tiempo. No sólo porque, en la casa donde se aloja, la señora Brown y su hija, Peggy, son las encargadas de cocinar, limpiar, lavar y tejer mientras el señor Brown se sienta a leer el periódico; no sólo por el hecho de que, debido a su forma de hablar y de vestir, Rosie sea tomada por americana, ya que los ingleses son tremendamente conservadores, al menos en esa época; no sólo porque tiene que soportar comentarios machistas sin que nadie proteste, más bien al contrario: si ella protesta, ella tiene la culpa; no sólo porque no puede ir sola a tomar una copa sin que la tomen por una prostituta.

No sólo por todo eso, no. Rosie llega a creer que esos detalles han sido investigados a fondo por la revista en la que trabaja, así que supone que tiene que aguantarse y ofrecer un buen espectáculo. Pero no piensa lo mismo cuando descubre lo de Will y Caz.

La verdad, a medida que leía este libro, no podía evitar apenarme y enfadarme a partes iguales por todo lo que Rosie tenía que soportar (aunque ella es bastante pava, todo hay que decirlo). El machismo de los años cincuenta... Madre mía, con la iglesia hemos topado -." En ese sentido, como he dicho, ha resultado ser una lectura interesante, porque, claro, no puedes evitar comparar y te alegras enormemente de no haber nacido en

los años cincuenta. Yo es que llego a tener que vivir esa época y me acaban quemando por bruja o algo XD

En ese sentido, pues, ha sido muy interesante leer este libro. El estilo de la autora engancha y la forma en que la protagonista va abriendo los ojos te hace querer seguir leyendo para ver qué hará a continuación, qué le tocará soportar ahora. Hay, sin embargo, unos cuantos fallos de puntuación, y Rosie quizá está demasiado empanada o demasiado ciega, o ambas cosas a la vez.

Quiero comentar un detalle del final que es, por tanto, spoiler.
(view spoiler)

El inicio del libro, eso sí, resulta muy confuso, porque vemos a la protagonista yendo a trabajar, subiéndose a un taxi para acudir a esa entrevista que tiene que hacer, y casi de repente se nos cuenta todo lo que le pasó el día anterior. No sé, hubo ahí un par de saltos que me dejaron muy confundida y tuve, de hecho, que releerme ese primer capítulo para tratar de entenderlo, porque lo siguiente es que Rosie ya está en casa de los Brown y es como... ¿Qué ha pasado?

Así pues, lo positivo de este libro es precisamente lo que sucede en los años cincuenta y la evolución que ha dado el mundo desde entonces; pequeñita, pero ya es algo. Ha sido una lectura confusa, pero interesante, aunque, en lo referente al romance, me ha dejado bastante indiferente. Le daría un 2'5 si pudiera.

Adeline Kam says

Hmm....this is a good book to read. 1st time I am reading a book by this author. Not bad a story. And lessons for us to learn as well. A story about a reporter from the 21st Century, Rosie Hartford, going back in time to the 1950s. There she met her boyfriend who is married with 3 kids & to her best friend; and other acquaintances from her 21st Century. What I learnt is life in the 1950s are very simple - No Technology, and they live do with it. Overall life is simple, no branded stuff, no color TV and so forth. And Rosie begins to appreciate life more and the people around her. And I do too! A good story to read.....easy breezy. Recommended.

Amy Gilchrist Thorne says

It's not exactly great literature, but I enjoyed reading it.

Rachel says

Noughties girl reporter Rosie falls through a crack in time (or does she?) and lands in the drab greyness of the 1950s. Is it another virtual reality show - The 1950s House? But where are the hidden cameras? Why is her boyfriend Will called Billy and what's happened to her best friend Caz?

This is an undemanding but utterly enjoyable read (I raced through it in two sittings). Sharon Griffiths is a good storyteller and setter of scenes. More please.
