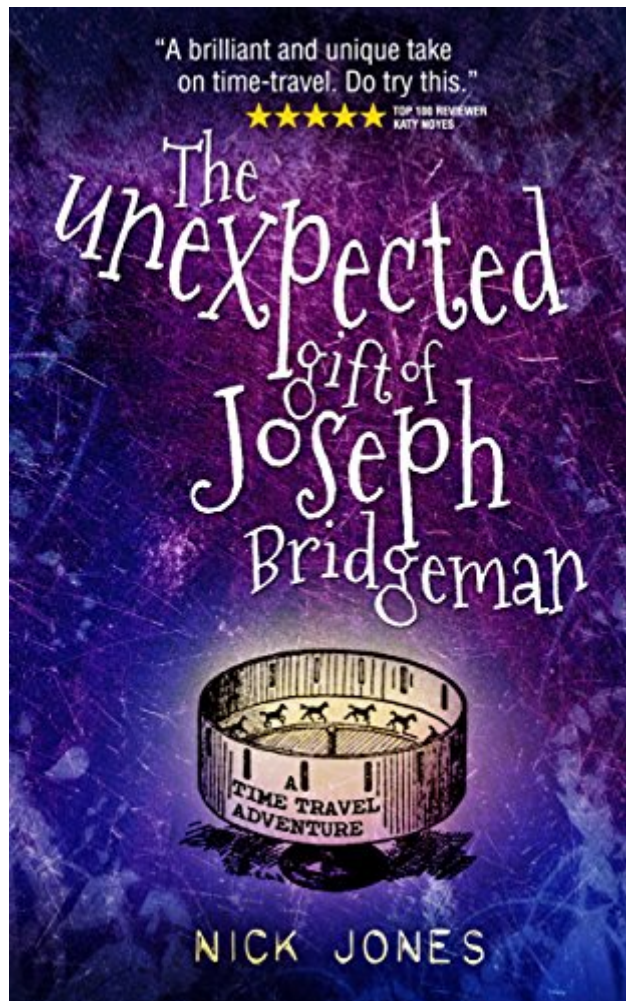


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The Unexpected Gift Of Joseph Bridgeman: A Time Travel Adventure (The Downstream Diaries Book 1)



Synopsis

How far would you go for someone you love? In 1992 Amy Bridgeman disappeared. Her brother is going back to discover the truth about Joseph Bridgeman – a reclusive insomniac with a weakness for The Beatles™ on vinyl – accidentally discovers he can time travel. With the help of Vinny, a local record shop owner, an old school friend and Alexia Finch (his hypo-time-travel guru) Joe sets out to change the course of his life. He needs to get back to 1992, the year his world fell apart, the year his sister, went missing. The only problem (apart from his clothes disappearing) is that the further back he goes the less time he gets to stay there. Can Joe master his new-found gift before time catches up with him? Expect action, drama, adventure and of course the unexpected! RECENT FIVE STAR REVIEWS "If you're a fan of Time Travel, this book is among the best" "Another offering of pure delight from author Nick Jones." "Love, love, love this series!! The humour is outstanding and the characters come to life. I wish I could give it more stars!" "If Nick Hornby and Michael Marshall Smith had a child, Nick Jones would be it. Read this." "This man writes great books – it's that simple!" "A wonderful writer. I love this series! It's time travel you can actually understand." "Absolutely loved this book. Similar to Time Travellers Wife. Edge of your seat stuff, can't wait for more books by Nick Jones. Excellent" Action, romance, intrigue and comedy combine in this, the first book in The Downstream Time Travel Adventure series. Previously Published as Downstream Season 1™.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While this is, according to the title, a novel about time-travelling, it is not really science fiction or fantasy. Instead, and much to my surprise, it is a very well-developed, sometimes funny, sometimes touching character study of a man in his mid-30's whose personal and professional lives are spiraling downhill. Joe Bridgeman is haunted by the disappearance of his little sister, for which he feels responsible, twenty years earlier. At first he is haunted by all-too-realistic dreams of the day he lost her, then he finds he begins to dream about past events in the lives of people he comes across. Unable to sleep and face these painful memories, both his and those of others, he goes to see a hypnotist. But whatever she does to him works in a strange way: instead of just dreaming about things in his past, he is sent back to those moments and finds himself reliving them. He doesn't know if this newfound ability is a blessing or a curse, and when he tries to use it to solve his problems he finds he has little control over it. It sounds convoluted, but it isn't, and despite the fantastic elements the story is very grounded in the day to day details of an average man living an average life...except for his secret power. The story is told in the first-person and in the present tense, neither of which I'm usually enamoured with, but, in this case, they lend an intimacy and immediacy to the narration which had me living through Joe's adventures along with him. The characters are well-rounded, and this confidently-written story never veers toward cliché, making the trip Downstream one that I think most readers will enjoy.

To be honest I only chose this book because it was cheap on and sounded kind of interesting. I was actually really surprised at how much I enjoyed it! The book's greatest strength is the story-telling, which is masterful at giving you just the right amount of character building, plot and clues to keep me hooked the whole way through. I loved the mystery behind Amy's disappearance and the way it unfolded. The 'rules' of time travelling were logical enough to follow without being too complicated so that the story could take centre stage. I also loved the ending, which resolved almost all of the important bits (I did want to know what happened with Mark though) while still leaving it wide open for a sequel, which is supposedly coming this year and which I will definitely look out for. If you like a fantastical adventure mystery with some great characters and an excellent story then check it out - I recommend it.

The author is very clever as I suppose one must be when writing a time travel book. The twist at the end is a case in point. I'm not going to spoil it, but I was all set for another ending, but this one made sense also. The main gist of the story is that Joseph wants to find out what happened to his sister who disappeared 30 years ago. Everything in the book is to that end, but his adventures leading up to it will certainly hold your interest. I found myself wanting to know what happened to her almost as bad as he did. That's how immersive the story is.

I didn't expect to like this as much as I did. I needed a quick summer read - I keep coming back to this one in my head over and over. It was well-developed and not too science-fictiony - which can really be a bummer for me for time travel books. This is a sweet sibling story, with a quirky lead character that feels like a multi-dimensional person, not just a book cliché. And, coming from an American, it's super British and I found that charming. Definitely worth your time.

I am often not near my computer when I finish a kindle book so I seldom write reviews, but when I finished this book I went right to see if the next book in the series was out yet. Sadly no, but I will be looking for it in the future! Although time travel books are not a new thing, this was different than most that I have read. Joseph is not traveling to big historical events, when he realizes he is able to travel in time his focus is to see if he can save his sister who disappeared when she was 7 and he was 14. We learn about how his family deals with the tragedy and what his life is like. The characters are interesting and well developed and Nick Jones's writing style is easy to read and keeps you interested. I guess I can't claim I couldn't put it down as I started reading it last night and only read a bit of it but I enjoyed it so much that I read the rest of it today. So looks like the next book won't be out for a while, while I wait I will be reading Nick's other books. Maybe starting tonight?

The first half of this book was somewhat hard to get into, but it does pick up and get more interesting. For me, though, that was the point when I suddenly became aware of the writer's insane overuse of italics, and once I noticed it, it became annoyingly intrusive. Since you can't do italics on reviews, I'll substitute asterisks. For example: I've done *similar* things to do with stress or smoking or eating disorders, she pauses. Okay, so not *quite* like this, but it's the same principle. She leans in and I smell her shampoo again, clean and soapy. We send you *back* and I program you to jump *again*. Virtually every conversation contains these *unnecessary* italicized words, as though I *might* not understand what the author is *saying*. I find myself

wondering now how much more enjoyable the book might *be* if it wasn't for all the over emphasized words. It's unclear if I'll be able to finish (I'm nearly to the end) because of how jarring it is. At one point I counted *five* italicized words within one paragraph and that's five too many. If the author does a revision and someone takes out the italics, this would be a better book. There are other issues with the story - the first third could be streamlined a bit and there are some continuity missteps - but I think it would flow infinitely better sans italics. Sorry, I mean it would flow infinitely *better* sans *italics.* - There, I italicized the word italics. 2.5 stars; could be 3.5 or higher with a judicious revising.

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