



TimeRiders

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Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912.

Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010.

Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2026.

Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, ‘Take my hand ...’

But Liam, Maddy and Sal aren’t rescued. They are recruited by an agency that no one knows exists, with only one purpose—to fix broken history. Because time travel is here, and there are those who would go back in time and change the past. That’s why the TimeRiders exist: to protect us. To stop time travel from destroying the world...

TimeRiders Details

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Author : Alex Scarrow

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From Reader Review TimeRiders for online ebook

Tyrean says

I loved the concept of this book, and some of the character development was good. The action scenes are excellent.

What I didn't like:

The only swearing used, over and over again, is Jesus' name, which bugged me. I know not everyone shares my faith, but sometimes, in instances like this, I feel like I'm having someone throw their disbelief in my face over and over again. I'm not a fan of swearing in books generally, and this kind of ruined the book for me. I can't recommend it to friends, even though there were parts of the plot and character development that I loved.

- ??caro ??- says

I'm not going to finish this book! It really wasn't that bad but I'm just really not interested in reading more of this and it's been on my currently reading pile for over a month, so I don't feel too bad.

And YES, I'm shelving this as 'read' since I read it more than halfway through and could have spent my time reading other books instead!

Jonathan Terrington says

Having just read the second of this series I believe it is time I retrace my steps and quickly review this fine novel. Of course if you want a more interesting read jump on to the second review.

As far as YA reads go TimeRiders is brilliant. There's a lot of action, a lot of deaths and lots of technology. Not to mention that a few brilliant twists and tension exist in spade-loads throughout the gripping plot. Of the two I have read there is no doubt the first is superior in terms of plot and wow factor.

Alex Scarrow writes well with intelligence and creativity, not stooping to point out obvious facts through his characters. Rather each character tends to respond as a reader, an every-day man or woman thrust into the circumstances they face, would.

So, on to the intriguing premise and the reason I picked up this novel...

Time travel. If the whole complexity of the idea doesn't intrigue you then I don't know what will. Liam, Maddie and Sal are all plucked from various times in history by a man known simply as Foster. Each of them should and would have died on the Titanic, on a plane or in a fire. Saving them from such disasters, where no bodies would remain, allows for no time contamination as you may have already guessed.

The three young adults were saved for the purpose of fixing the time stream. They've been recruited by an agency that manipulates time travel. Turns out time travel fifty years in the future is illegal because of its reality altering ability. Its their job to prevent the changing of time, which can be detected as reality shifts. Of

course they have the aid of a human robot built like Arnold Schwarzenegger to help them and warnings from the mysterious agency...

What I did find interesting is that their base is set on September 10 and 11 2001 in New York. They basically have to live in a time loop that keeps them witnessing the terror of the Twin Tower explosions over and over again. In this instance however the author uses the incident as a backdrop, a setting rather than using it to depict the horrors consistently. Which I appreciate as a reader.

In short if you like time travel concepts then this is a brilliant book to read. It has great characters, action and well everything to make it a perfect page-turner. This is a book you can just sit down and read.

Alex says

(3.75)

Pierwszy tom serii Time Riders to fantastyczna podróż do przeszłości. Wartość akcji, wyraziści bohaterowie, humor, wszystko ciekawe i dopięte na ostatni guzik. Scarrow bardzo pozytywnie mnie zaskoczył i pokazał, że każdy może w jakiś sposób odcisnąć piętno w historii. *Jeżeli w czasie spodobał się nie tylko fanom podróży w czasie, ale też miłośnikom historii i osobom, które chcą przeżyć niesamowitą przygodę z barwnymi bohaterami w roli dowódców. Gorąco polecam!*

S.W. says

The TimeRiders is a great book that has hooked me for the rest of the series. The blurb for this book is brilliant. How can you not be intrigued by this?

*"Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912.
Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010.
Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2026.*

Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, 'Take my hand ...' "

These three teens are saved from certain death and catapulted into a world of time travel and mystery. They become part of a secret organisation that ensures history is correct. Maddy and Sal take on the roles of the support team at their New York base, guided by their saviour and mentor, Foster. Liam is the poor guy who gets the job to travel through time to fix things, accompanied by a half-human half-techno miracle named Bob, who is the brawn of the team.

The world has gone crazy and the team need to find out why, by going back in time to fix the future. Liam and Bob have plenty of obstacles to overcome as they pass through time to search for the cause of altered history. Whilst Maddy, Sal and Foster are fighting their own battles in the changed world that it has caused. Even though they are in different time frames, the whole team need to work together to fix the problem.

I really enjoyed the story, I think that Scarrow has done a great job. This is an action-packed adventure that has plenty of intrigue and imagination. The plot is set across multiple time frames and works really well. I'm very keen to move onto the next book in the series and beyond. (I understand that the 7th book has just been released - I'd better get cracking so I can catch up).

For any of my usual Middle Grade followers, here's a tip. The target audience for this book is YA and there is violence in some parts, so I wouldn't recommend it for Middle Graders.

Note: I don't claim to be a pro-reviewer, I am a reader. My reviews are based on my personal thoughts around the story that the book is trying to tell. I'd rather focus on the story (which is the reason I read) rather than dissect the book and pass comment on writing style, structure or typos.

To see more of my reviews please visit me at www.swlothian.com

edifanob says

Awesome read! Hard to put down. Can't wait to read the next book in the series. Fortunately there will be NINE books!!!!

Read my full review over at [Edi's Book Lighthouse](#)

Erik Fazekas says

Ou Kriste, tak toto teda skoncil! Perfektna kniha, perfektny napad, perfektné premyslene.

Zo zaciatku sa mi to ale nepacilo, prvych 100 - 150 stran mi pripadalo chaotickych, otvorim knihu a hned Titanic, potom pad lietadla, potom rok 2026, potom Kennedy, potom 2066, potom Hitler, potom dvojicky... a ja ze hello, mam statnicu z historie, ale ledva sa v tom orientujem takto, vela a naraz, ale potom som pochopil, ujo nam to musel vysvetlit a zaroven rozvijat pribeh, inak by sme knihu odvrhli, ze prva polovica je vysvetlovacia a az druha akcna a to nikoho nezaujima:)

Klady: Cestovanie v case je vskutku narocne, nieze len zavriem oci a letim a potom ma zrazu nieco vtihane spat, nie, treba vela energie, spustu dohadovania, a nie len ti zli menia cas, ale aj ti dobri, tym ze sa niekde zjavia, nieco spravia zmenia cas. Alternativnu historiю ma ujo perfektné premyslenу, a samozrejme mame radi Boba!

Urcite sa chystam na dvojku a dalsie, ze co s tym spravi...

P.S.: poslednych 25% som precital asi za hodinu, ako sialeny v autobuse, hltal som to kazde slovo, mozno len druhe, lebo som potreboval vediet ako to dopadne!

P.S.2: mozno moj nazor na knihu nie je vcelku objektivny, lebo som stretol autora!!! a je totalne sibnuty!!!

P.S.3: Kto nevidel trailer, pozrite si ho! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-rHIS...>

Jason says

3.5 Stars

This is an enjoyable first book in a neat time traveling young adult series. Time Riders is an easy read that will have you flying through the pages. The cast is a bunch of young likables that we simply need to know more about.

The premise is cool...a secret agency plucks our heroes out of time moments before their deaths. They are all

Silvanna says

Liam, Sal and Mandy are a team of time travelers sucked into a adventure that will change the course of world history. A fun read. Loved 'Captain Bob'!

Mark says

If books won accolades for the gripping start of their plots then this first volume in the series ought to have won award after award after award. It is a really clever concept where young people destined for a horrible death are rescued by a stranger suddenly appearing in the moment of catastrophe. The option given to them, either stay and die as was planned or take the step into the unknown and become a 'Time rider'.

The job of these new recruits is to live in one day of time continually repeated but watch for any slight change in the repeated action, changes that would signify someone had entered into history at a different point and had skewed history.

The flaw in the plotline was the fact that the timeriders themselves were aberrations in history. They ought to have died and therefore their presence in the 24 hour time capsule they inhabited was a sensitive balancing act. They needed to pass through each day without affecting or changing the throb of history other than the moment when they encounter glimpses of new details in an otherwise identical day.

This first novel in the series introduces the main characters and their first adventure which is to go back into time and prevent Hitler being advised against invading Russia. The plot and initial concept is excellent, the sadness I felt about this was it missed an opportunity to investigate in a quite ingenious and challenging way the alterations in history that might have happened. Scarrow chose instead to veer wildly into apocalyptic destruction and zombie terror instead of writing a more thought provoking and intriguing story.

Once again of course, this is a book for young adults and not picky hyper critical middle aged blokes so I would hate to denigrate the novel in anyway that would stop its target audience from picking it up. It is clever and exciting and I will definitely read another.

The relationship between the lad Liam and the artificial intelligence Bob is a delight and really works, what doesn't work is Scarrow's attempt to differentiate the young people by their idiosyncratic way of speaking. Liam's irish brogue, Sal's Indian street speak just clunk and grate. I really hope Mr Scarrow in the next book just makes use of 'Sal said', 'Maddy suggested', 'Liam shouted' etc.

So not a towering work of literature destined to stand forever, unless one of the timeriders slips forward and inserts it on a bookshelf in 2136, but well worth a read as a clever idea which, I hope, will be more honed and less self conscious as the series continues.

Julie says

Excellente découverte! Moi qui ne suis pas tellement branchée SF en général, j'ai vraiment apprécié ce livre. L'idée de départ est bien exploitée et l'équipe de Time Riders sympa à suivre. Cette saga m'a l'air prometteuse, je pense donc la poursuivre :)

Miruš says

Perfektné, perfektné, perfektné! E?o ?u?o kniha, ma? k nej ešte tak aj pokra?ko hne? po ruke, bolo by to ideálne. :D

Stuart says

"Let's take an episode from the TV series Time Tunnel and write it in print"

What do three random strangers have in common? Well imagine this, your having a normal day and then you are told by a complete stranger your about to die. You have a choice, either stay and face death or be pulled out from the situation you find yourself in and become a member of the Timeriders. Or is that Time Tunnel? To me, this does read like a lazy rip-off from the old TV series. There is even an episode similar to this novel.

OK sarcasm and rant aside, for a YA book (that being basically Parental Guidance in reading) it's not too bad. I certainly have read young adult novels in the past and have found they don't always fit the stereotypical demographic of said genre - this is a good thing.

Now you know how the book starts. Liam O'Connor is a deck hand on the sinking Titanic. Maddy is about to be blown to bits in an aeroplane accident and little Sal is about to choke on a lollypop (or something like that - oh it's a subway accident, silly me). They all take Mr. Foster up on his offer for a chance to escape their doom, shortly afterwards (well within ten pages) they are fully-fledged members and appointed 'Timerider', awesome. Well no not really, I found it completely implausible. Not the time machine part, more a guy from 1912 (Liam) is able to grasp the situation and changes so quickly. This could just be me, which is fine, it's all subjective.

Why do we need Timeriders? Well by the year 2024 a theoretical paper is produced wherein the practical application of time travel is made possible. By 2057 a time machine is made and an individual passes through into a different time. The professor returns, swearing to destroy his machine and all his work, due to what he saw. This was a bluff, and sometime in the later future the machine is discovered by Paul Kramer and Karl Haas, along with his tooting-rooting-killing-machines, OK marines. These guys are the antagonists, even though Mr Paul Kramer is just too nice for my liking. By this point (2066) the world is dying and no longer able to sustain life. Kramer decides to use the machine to go back in time and essentially change the future, wherein he finds himself at the Wolf's Liar aka *Wolfsschanze*. You might be able to guess where Alex Scarrow is going with this particular plot line - "*schnell schnell man amerikanische idioten*" or words to that affect.

The writing style is a little different for me, Chapters flow with a maximum of three-five pages, which makes this a very fast read. Prose is fairly basic in my opinion, the story-telling by Alex Scarrow is given to us straight out of the box - this for me, negates any future character development further on. Essentially none of the characters do evolve other than Bob, a cyborg who has a learning computer for a brain (hopefully not from the Early Learning Centre though!!). Which is kind of ironic.

I have a few other criticisms of the book; If I have to hear what a "smart lad" Liam is one more time, I might have to visit the writer. What is it with Liam's Irish accent? None of them miss *anyone* from their old life! Why wouldn't an agency such as this be prepared for changes in their own timeline. Such things as fuel and

internal power might help. Food and water also. This part just felt too convenient.

Now I feel like a dirty slutter for saying this, I actually wanted to read more, but know I shouldn't. I'm going to give book two ago. This one has dinosaurs in it apparently *shudders*.

Annabel says

Unf. I really wanted to like this book more than I did.

Time Riders has a simple but brilliant concept: time police. Whenever anyone goes back and tries to change the timeline, they dash in, guns a-blazing and fix it, along with the help of Bob, a sort of android-y being whose unemotional attitude leads to some occasionally hilarious oneliners. The main characters, (aside from aforementioned android) are Liam, a boy who should have died on the Titanic in 1912, Maddy Carter, who should have died in a plane crash in 2010, and Sal Vikram, meant to have died in a fire in 2026. Instead, they became Time Riders.

So, the concept is great, and the story itself is pretty good- although I will stress, it gets very dark at times. There's a great deal of death, graphically described, and some really cringey moments of destruction and horror. Without spoilers, one character gets treated to an absolutely nightmarish end (although time travel rectifies this).

The problem? Scarrow seems to think big, but his actual writing was... well, I don't know. To me, it felt amateurish. He tends to tell rather than show, and occasional moments of descriptive prose feel forced and unnatural. Some writers err on the flowery side of writing, some on the plainer, and I think Scarrow's happiest without heavy description.

There were also some truly astounding puffs of unlogic that annoyed me. For instance: it's explicitly mentioned, and referred to a couple of times, that Liam has a fear of water and can't swim.

Yes. So he willingly joined the crew of the Titanic, did he?

That one really stood out to me, although there were others, and occasionally there were small historical slip-ups that irritated me too. For instance, Hitler's mentioned to have come to power in 1932- it was '33, and I don't think it would take more than a Google search to find this out. This particular error can't be blamed on them changing the time-line; or at least there's no such explanation given. Otherwise, a couple of minor overly contrived bits of good luck for the protagonists pulled the story through for a happy ending, but I didn't mind this too much; it just barely made sense, and otherwise, the book would have had a seriously depressing ending.

Great concept, not brilliant execution. I'll probably read the next one though, simply because my brother lent them to me. :D Free reading is not to be sniffed at.

Aurora says

I picked this book up at Books-a-Million, a bookstore I don't usually shop at. I had looked at it several times at other book stores, but I had never bought it until that night. I have since learned that if I look at a book several times, but only buy it later, I will probably love it, and this is no exception.

TimeRiders is a time travel story about three kids saved from death to protect the future from time travelers who mess with time. There is more to the story, though, because the kids start to doubt that what they're being told is the truth. There is a bigger mystery behind this series than how to fix time.

It's a very good book, the first in a nine-book series, and I would recommend it to science fiction and mystery fans.

Visit the fan forum, where we have an ongoing discussion about how the series will end:

<http://scarrow.forumco.com/>

Petra says

Liam m?l zem?ít v podpalubí Titaniku, když se potopil. Maddy m?la zem?ít v letadle po té, co vybuchla bomba. Sal m?la uho?et v Indii. Liam je z roku 1912, Maddy z roku 2010 a Sal z roku 2026. Všem t?em byla nabídnuta možnost žít, ale už nikdy se nebudou moci vrátit do svých život? tak, jak je znali. Místo toho za?nou pracovat pro agenturu Jezdc? v ?ase.

V budoucnosti totiž lidé sestrojí stroj ?asu a lidé se tak budou moci vrátit do minulosti. A práv? proto jsou tady Jezdci ?asu. Mají zabránit a napravit zm?ny minulosti, které m?ly fatální d?sledek a zm?nily tak budoucnost.

Mám moc ráda knihy o cestování v ?ase a alternativní realitách, zm?nách ?asu a tak v?bec. Fascinuje m? to, protože bych se sama ráda do minulosti nebo budoucnosti podívala. Jen tak na skok a pak zase zpátky.

Knihou jsem byla velmi p?íjemn? p?ekvapena. P?íběh byl opravdu dob?e napsaný, nevadilo mi skákání z minulosti do p?ítomnosti, pak do budoucnosti a zase na p?eská?ku. Nebylo to rušivé a síš m? to víc navnadilo na ?tení, protože jsem byla zv?davá, jak se celá situace vyvine.

Postavy byly výborné. Oblíbila jsem si všechny t?i hlavní hrdiny, Boba i Fostera, jejich "u?itele". Veškeré popisy cestování v ?ase, d?sledk?, povinností, byly srozumitelné, nebyly zbyte?n? zamotané, šlo o logiku. A to se mi moc líbí.

Celkov? jsem z knihy nadšená a t?ším se na pokračování.

Aso says

Aihhh bukunya keren, sangat menghibur, menegangkan dari awal sampai akhir. My favorite character is Bob. Saya harap dia bakal muncul lagi di buku buku selanjutnya.

Lynda says

Review to follow
