



The Coffee Shop

Lauren Hunter

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If Derrick thought experiencing alternate timelines and glimpses into the future was strange, then he had no idea it was about to get a whole lot more strange.

When Derrick Sloane meets Annie Maddock and falls madly in love, he believes he's met the girl of his dreams. Only he then awakes to discover she is exactly that...nothing more than a dream. Disheartened, he goes to the first coffee shop he can find. There he meets Annie. She is at the same table, reading the same book, and he fast realizes his dream has shown him his own future. But when a misstep alters that perfect future he tries to fix it, every attempt only making it worse.

Dreaming the future can be a nightmare when you see what's coming...and can't do anything to change it.

The Coffee Shop Details

Date : Published October 14th 2011 (first published October 13th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Lauren Hunter

Format : ebook 245 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Time Travel, Romance, Contemporary, Time Travel Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review The Coffee Shop for online ebook

Books says

The story alternates between what seems to be reality, dreams and dreams within dreams. After experiencing a romantic relationship of five months in a dream one evening, with Annie Maddock - a girl he has never met before, Derrick Sloane is cruelly awakened by the ringing phone. But imagine his surprise when he really meets Annie at The Coffee Shop: just as he had in the dream.

The events leading up to the meeting is frighteningly similar. A truck had lost its load in the street causing a traffic pile-up, which in turn caused Derrick not to be able to get to his usual morning haunt for his usual morning coffee - hence the detour to The Coffee Shop.

Derrick (a very likeable character), is a successful businessman who is out of his depth when it comes to dealing with personal relationships and his feelings for his loved ones. Despite his wealthy status, he is a remarkably unselfish person capable of making life-altering personal sacrifices to protect others from harm. He cares deeply for his friend dr. Brian Taylor who had been his friend since childhood and with whom he regularly enjoyed a game of racquetball. But then his own life changes, when along comes Annie.

Annie, an uncomplicated girl who enjoys the simple things in life, provides a welcome contrast to Derrick's life in the competitive corporate world; just the kind of woman he wants to come home to. As their relationship progresses, he discovers that Annie has the intelligence and potential to be more than the health store clerk that she is. He mentions this to her. That night in his dream of the future, Annie is a business woman and no longer the home maker he loved in the first dream. He soon realises that trying to change Annie to what he thinks she should be, is unwise, as the result might not be to his liking or her benefit.

I couldn't help but grin from time to time. As Derrick is the only one experiencing the dreams and alternations between present and future, he comes up with some ideas, statements and suggestions which seem ludicrous to Annie. Thinking Derrick slightly crazy or ill, she then summons his friend, the good doctor, who most of the time, displays remarkable faith in Derrick and tries to help him figure things out.

There are some truly heart-stopping moments when the lives of both Brian and Annie hang in the balance. Derrick has to do some fast thinking to prevent disaster. All these dreams and shifting timelines present him with choices which will determine the ultimate fate of Annie, Brian and himself. When he does something in the present, it changes things in the future.

The dialogue is highly stimulating; full of banter, humour and wit; and the rapid shifts between dream and reality, future and present, keeps the reader intrigued. The somewhat poignant romance may even make your eyes mist over. I absolutely recommend this book to anybody who wants to read a romance with an unforgettable twist and a healthy dose of suspense. "The Coffee Shop" will pleasantly surprise you!

Posted by BOOK BABY REVIEWS

Vichy says

I am feeling speechless. Half the book was so enjoyable and easy going about a man and a woman who simply met and just as simple, fell in love. The reader watches them through their clever dialogues and you know they are two smart people deserving of each other so much. And then it happens. Things are going

upside down - inside out. And then I thought "oh my God, what a brilliant idea this writer had". I can not reveal more because I don't want to spoil the plot. Just unbelievable.. I 'm shocked by the depth of emotions this novel evoked in me.

Wanda Hartzenberg says

Annie and Derrick Sloane meet at a coffee shop, they talk, they like each other but their meeting is destined, or is it?

I loved the dialogue in this book, at times it had me giggling and at others I was wondering if I should go and get the tissue box.

The story is all but simple. Derrick dreams, over and over again. His dream starts out with how it came to be that he landed in a way of route coffee shop called The Coffee Shop and so came to meet the woman of his dreams, Annie.

First off the story is told from the perspective of Derrick, this took me some getting used to, and I am not used to reading of men, so completely love struck.

Each time Derrick dreams he comes to realize that his actions change their possible future together. The more he tries to change the more things changes, small things at times and at other times these changes are huge. He tries to circumvent this in order to ensure the perfect future.

I found the idea of the observer changing the fact of the situation purely by observing the situation portrayed time and time again in this book. The small changes are all caused because Derrick has lived through that situation before and so he changes his actions minutely at first.

The story line is expertly constructed and I am very glad that I had the chance to read the majority of the book in one sitting, this is not a book that you can interrupt frequently nor can you take up another book at some stage. It is hard enough to keep track of events in one sitting and I have to say this is also expertly done; I admire the fact that the author could get the reader to feel some of Derrick's own confusion at his situation and at its outcomes with such flair and apparent ease.

My one and only criticism is that the situations got to be a bit much for me. For the same reason I loved the book it also makes me hesitant to unconditionally recommend it. The pace of the book picks up and keeps escalating in the second half of the book. This serves to add to the confusion and desperate actions of Derrick but it became a bit emotionally draining for me. As I am sure it would on Derrick was this true. I personally still would have preferred a bit less futures in the book. Ironically, I am sure that makes two of us. Me and Derrick both. So my criticism might be no more than a declaration of genius.

This book is marketed as a supernatural romance but it is primarily a romance.

I give this book a four star rating and recommend it to anybody who loves romance and a challenging read.

More about the author copied verbatim from the copy of The Coffee Shop

Lauren Hunter is a writer of Regency and paranormal romance novels, with plans to write in a variety of other genres, including time travel, angel, ghost, and contemporary romance, as well as more Regency and paranormal.

Besides novels, she also writes poetry and short stories, with her poems appearing in anthologies from England, Holland, and the US. Appearing in a number of The International Library of Poetry's anthologies, she has received the Editor's Choice Award and was published in The International Who's Who of Poetry 2004.

<http://www.wix.com/lhunter1/romance>

<http://laurenhunter-1.blogspot.com/>

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://www.longandshortreviews.blogspot...>

What would happen if the lines between dreams and reality were blurred? If you couldn't tell whether a dream was just that, or it actually occurred? Over and over again, things become more confusing. Wouldn't you feel as if you were losing your mind?

In *The Coffee Shop*, the hero, Derek faces this dilemma. On a not so normal day, just one small change in his routine changes his life- in ways that are unimaginable. What appears to be a routine love affair isn't.

Annie is an intriguing woman. She's got silly quirks that make her delightful and charming. I love the banter between Derek and Annie. It's witty, fun, and kept a smile on my face while reading it. Falling in love doesn't take very long for this couple.

Derek is interesting and charming in his way, too. He's funny, sensitive and caring. What more could you ask for in a guy? He's fascinated with Annie and goes out of his way to spend more time with her. He's also sensitive to Annie's issues and doesn't push her.

I'm a mix of emotions when it comes to this story. The concept- brilliant! The execution of the concept into the story, however, gets very confusing quickly. It was hard to tell what was real and what wasn't. When I first found out that things weren't what they seemed, I was enchanted. What a clever twist! The problem: There wasn't a clear explanation to why this was happening, and with so many changes, it was difficult to follow along very well, and I ended up really confused. I had to go back a few times and see what I missed.

The writing is beautiful. The love story between Derek and Annie, I enjoyed. The way they were with each other, the snappy and fun dialogue. When it came to the ending, though, I had more questions than I got answers for and it left me a little puzzled.

If you enjoy a love story with a bit of a science fiction twist, *The Coffee Shop* offers readers a different tone on a romance story. If you're looking for a story that makes you think, to consider the "what if's" spend some time at *The Coffee Shop* today.

Lisette says

What if you kept re-living your life all over again where certain minute actions changed the outcomes of what you'd previously lived before? Derrick Sloane was experiencing exactly that and spent his time desperately trying to fix the little things that have gone wrong along the way in hopes of making things better. Yet he fails to realize that by changing those things, he ends up changing a whole lot more than he bargained for.

The reason behind his doing is none other than Annie Maddock, a woman he met randomly in a coffee shop within his dreams. What he doesn't know is that Annie's tied to him in more ways than one. From the moment he set eyes on her, Annie is all he's ever wanted. Thoughts of her invade his every waking moment every minute of every day and he will not rest until he comes face to face with her, once and for all.

Taking matters into his own hands, he sets out to find her and ends up at the very coffee shop where they'd met in his dreams. Every detail of that moment jars him to the very core as he realizes his dreams are

showing him things that have yet to occur. What he doesn't know is that one wrong move will change the timeline completely. When he finally comes to this realization, he's intent on correcting every little wrong-doing.

As he struggles to correct what he's done wrong, it also puts a strain on his relationship with his best friend, Brian. Brian quite clearly gives him his two cents about what he thinks of Derrick's infatuation with Annie. Derrick refuses to accept this and tries to fix things with Brian in the process.

As the timelines become further jumbled, Derrick strives to find his way back to the very moment when he and Annie first met. In his mind, it's his only way to truly correct the timelines and make things happen as they should have. Yet there's something he never really counted on in the first place - losing his heart to Annie completely in the process.

This was a very intriguing book. I confess I read it twice just to make sure I understood everything correctly. It's that good, I tell you.

Lauren weaves such a tale of romance and intrigue that keeps the reader in suspense with every turn of the page. Granted, there are quite a few twists and turns thrown unexpectedly into the mix, but they make the story that more riveting. I truly recommend reading it, as I'm sure you'll enjoy the book just as much as I did!

Michelle Cummings says

While I would call this a time travel romance, it's really not. More like a repeating dream of a future romance (read the book's blurb for a better description!)

What I really enjoyed was that every action by the main character caused a ripple effect to happen to future events. He kept trying to go back and change what he saw as bad things from happening in the future. Some of this was pretty mundane and very frustrating. But I'm glad I stuck with it, because he soon realizes that regardless of what you change, some endings cannot be changed. And what you do with that knowledge defines who you are as a person.

Lynda Dunwell says

Just the book to curl up with on a rainy afternoon when you can't be bothered to go out to your own "coffee shop". Once started, not to be put down, the characters are engaging and the plot twists and turns.

Margaret says

As I started reading I wondered what was going to happen. I was a little confused at first because I did not know where the story was going to start and who the main characters were. But after I was introduced to the main characters, very creatively, I got the feeling that this book was going to be a funny one.

As I read more I started to get to know the characters. Derrick, to me, is the type of guy who in high school, did not know how to talk to a girl he likes. And every time he opens his mouth in the book, I am laughing about how much he puts his foot in his mouth. Annie comes across as the shy type. She has a down to earth personality and does things on her own and her way. These two characters together remind me that not

everyone is perfect, and that a relationship is meant to be fun.

I love the dates that they go on, especially the first one. The lunch in the park was extremely funny. I love what Annie says when she finds out that Derrick is rich. It is the type of thing that most of us think of when we think of a rich person who has nothing to do but spend their money. Their weird sayings during the dates have me agreeing with what they say and laughing along with them. I am getting extremely entertained whenever they get together.

Just when I thought I knew where the story was going, a curve ball happened. It was definitely straight out of left field. It did, however, make the story a little confusing as well as interesting. I officially cannot wait to find out what will happen next. I love when authors throw curve balls, but I did not like this particular curve ball.

By the time I was done reading the book, I realized why the author wrote what she wrote. Trying to find the perfect life is not what it is cracked up to be. Just because you think you can change the past does not mean it makes the future you want.

This book was funny and confusing all at the same time. I am glad I had the opportunity to read it. I have to say that my opinion of what happens in dreams, the ones you remember, might actually happen.

Julie Ramsey says

The Coffee Shop

Derrick had a great life. He was wealthy, good looking, a best friend, and a great place to live. So what was missing. As Derrick gets in his car, his driver lets him know a truck has turned over in the road and they would have to go a different way. He decides he wants coffee. So on the alternate route he sees a local coffee shop. He opens the door and a man walks into him, spilling coffee all over himself and walks by Derrick and almost gets hit by a car. Derrick shakes his head and looks around. A woman who is sitting by herself at the only empty seat in the shop, is smiling. He gets his coffee and introduces himself. Annie sees the man at the door. He is very handsome but knowing her taste in men he would be a jerk. So they sit and talk together and enjoy each others company. They agree to meet again and something more grows from each encounter. As their love grows, Derrick realizes what he has been missing, Annie. After what feels like months of a wonderful relationship with the woman of his dreams, Derrick wakes up. He wakes up, shocked and a little confused. It felt so real. He goes downstairs almost expecting to see Annie. After getting in the car, his driver informs him that a truck has been turned over in the road and they would have to take an alternate route. So he starts to scan the area to see if he can see the Coffee Shop. Sure enough he sees the coffee shop again. Again he walks in and sees Annie. He is in shock, how can this be happening. He does things a little different this time but he doesn't care he has met his Annie. When he wakes again and it is what he feels is 5 months in the future and things are different, he realizes somehow he has changed his future by doing something different in his past. So he must find a way to fix his timeline, stop the tragedies that keep popping up and hopefully save the love of his life.

This was a very good book. I was a little worried at first. It starts off as a great love story. Is thought to myself, wow these 2 are really meant to be. Then he wakes up. It is a little confusing at first but once Derrick figures it out, it is easy to follow. Talk about ups and downs and awe and oh No's!! A rollercoaster of a book. It will make you tear up and make you think. What would you do if you knew what was going to happen in the near future? What if it was about someone you love? Could you save one life even if it costs others? Awesome book...PG rated so it is good as a YA book.

Complimentary Book given for a free review. Come see this review and more on juliesbookreview.blogspot.com

Rute Canhoto says

Após concluir a leitura de "The Coffee Shop" a 6 de Março de 2012, comecei a debater-me com a classificação a atribuir-lhe. A verdade é que houve partes de que gostei muito e outras de que não gostei nada. Sendo justa, na medida em que mantenho os mesmos critérios de avaliação que segui no que concerne a outros livros, dou-lhe então duas estrelas.

O início é um pouco confuso, dado que o narrador vai mudando à medida que se altera o ponto de vista das personagens. Por exemplo, uma personagem vai na rua, é ela o narrador, até que se cruza com outra e o discurso muda para essa nova personagem.

O encontro entre Derrick e Annie é interessante e leva-nos a conjecturar quanto ao que irá resultar dali. No entanto, tenho que salientar que me perdi com bastante frequência nos diálogos, pois era difícil perceber quem estava a falar. O que é claro na mente do autor (que é quem está a criar a cena e a visualizá-la na sua imaginação) nem sempre chega com nitidez ao leitor. Dava jeito que houvesse mais indicações em vez de um diálogo corrido. Ainda em relação aos diálogos, por vezes tornaram-se aborrecidos, sem acrescentar nada à narrativa. Isto para não mencionar a quantidade de vezes que é dito "oh"...

Dei por mim a cismar quando haveria um pouco mais de ação. E se a pedi, ela chegou depois sob a forma de loops temporais. Esta alternância entre sonho e realidade, passado e futuro, foi boa no que toca à alteração do ritmo da narrativa. Porém, os loops são tantos que me deixaram frustrada. Afinal o que aconteceu entre Derrick e Annie? Qual a hipótese que se concretizou? A estória termina com mais um loop, o que deixou enfiada. Afinal ficamos sem saber o que acontece ao casal. Parece que acabam por se encontrar no "mundo real", no "presente verdadeiro", mas e depois? Tantos finais apresentados e ficamos em suspenso...

Review

After completing the reading of "The Coffee Shop" on 6th March 2012, I began to wonder about its rating. The truth is that there were parts that I really liked and others I didn't like at all. Being fair, and keeping the same evaluation criteria I used in what came to other books, I rate it two stars.

The beginning is a bit confusing, since the narrator changes as the view of the characters changes. For example, a character goes on the street; she is the narrator, until she intersects with other person and then the speech changes to this new character.

Derrick meeting Annie is interesting and the episode leads us to conjecture about what will result from there. However, I must stress out that I got lost quite frequently in the dialogues; it was hard to tell who was talking. What is clear in the mind of the author (since she's the one who's creating the scene and viewing it her imagination) doesn't always come clearly to the reader. It would be nice to have more information instead of a straight dialogue. Also, in relation to dialogue, sometimes it became tedious, without adding anything to the narrative. Not to mention the amount of times "oh" was said...

I found myself wondering when there would be a little more action. And if I asked for that, it arrived later in the form of time loops. This alternation between dream and reality, past and future, was good when it comes to changing the pace of the narrative. However, the loops are so many that they left me frustrated. So what happened between Derrick and Annie? What was the hypothesis that came true? The story ends with another loop, which left me bored. In the end, we don't know what happened to the couple. It seems that eventually they meet in the "real world", the "true present", but then what? So many possible endings presented and we are left hanging...

Serenity says

I guess I've expected too much from this book. I wanted to read exciting time travel romance but then it's not even close to exciting. It was cute at the first but then everything gets confusing as I turn pages.

Linda says

Derrick Sloane was one of the richest men in the country, if not the world, and yet he couldn't make a decent cup of coffee to save his life even with buying a top of the line machine. He needed coffee to start his morning and his limo driver knew where to take him to a coffee house that pleased him. They took off down the street, but a truck had lost its load and the street was blocked. Derrick was nothing without his coffee and asked Lawrence to take him anywhere that he could get coffee. Lawrence told him to a place called The Coffee Shop and from its outer appearance, Derrick hoped the coffee was good. As he entered the door a man on a white cell phone bumped into him, spilled some coffee on his white silk shirt, then rushed across the street to blaring horns of traffic. Derrick went to the counter, ordered coffee, but there was only one seat left in the store and he asked the lady if he could sit. He was tongue tied and acted like a high school freshman when he tried to strike up a conversation with the beautiful woman, but when she left he asked if she would be there the next day.....

Annie Maddock couldn't hide her smile when a rude man bumped into another and spilled coffee on the man's pristine shirt, and when he asked to sit with her she said yes. She was attracted to him but tried to brush him off as five years ago she let her feelings for her boyfriend get out of hand and when he tried to change her into what he thought she should be their relationship quickly died and she vowed never again.....

Lauren Hunter certainly does keep readers on their toes as they try to keep up with the action! This book was part funny, part wild, and part sad, but oh it is well worth reading! I could say more, but feel I'd give away the enjoyment so ENJOY!

Heather Badgwell says

What if you were absolutely certain you have met your soul mate, then found out it was all a dream? It all felt real enough for Derrik Sloan, but was it? Can you change your fate in just a sentence? Annie has no clue what is going on, but Derrik is getting more and more confused as time goes on. This book is so amazing to begin with, then it takes twists and turns that you never see coming. I couldn't stop myself from reading it well into the morning hours. You HAVE to read this to understand it. Its amazing!!

Katrina says

Lauren Hunter has certainly had a big job with this book. She has cleverly woven dreams, within dreams, within reality and a aspects of Time travel if you may call it throughout this story. Read the blurb to find out more about the storyline.

I must say initially at first I thought ohhhh what a sweet love story, - Derrick was such a sweetheart, a gentleman, funny, witty and will make you giggle and I still do..Annie being a very cautious yet sensitive type. Two very different people crossings paths. A love that can be altered by decisions ... Derrick finds out

along the way .

I'm reading along enjoying the momentum and then a curve ball is thrown in.. I must say I got a tad confused, had slight whiplash in some spots but then I realized that Derek was having dreams of his , future, reality and more dreams within dreams. It all became clear !! lol.

As things altered with Derek's life and his dreams, his situation became worse not better, and saying this Derrick learnt that the future he wanted will not necessarily go the way he wants as he alters it along the way. I found this concept very clever on Lauren Hunters part. I found the story filled with alot of questions and at times alot of conversation blending within the story .

This is one of those books where you need to absorb everything - a kind of puzzle you work out along the way until Lauren has thrown in twists and turns and makes the story very unpredictable.

Likable characters with heart and soul, I found the characters very realistic and well is love and life ever easy !!

The romance was sweet, high school type, Derrick was funny and I'm sure that you will find yourself giggling along with his witty comments and often finds himself with his foot in his mouth on many occasions.

An ending you wont see coming . Unpredictable, clever, love and humour all put together in an intriguing story.

Enjoy life on the path it takes you, even though we may want to change things , alterations can have that boomerang effect. Love while you can, enjoy life to the fullest because one day you may just release it was all just a dream ;)

Margaret Lesh says

Just when I thought I'd figured out where this story was going, it took another twist. The romance between Derrick and Annie starts with an innocent meeting at The Coffee Shop due to a chance occurrence; Derrick's routine is altered, and he ends up somewhere he's never been before. The two begin their romance, and it's sweet and funny. Annie is a quirky, offbeat character. The banter between them feels natural and the romance sweet until Derrick wakes up and everything has changed.

Although this story unravels at a leisurely pace, it was a page turner for me as I wanted to figure out just what the heck was going on. From a writing standpoint, I'm impressed with the level of intricacy on the author's part with weaving the story line in and out and jumping backward and forward in time.

I really liked the character Annie's intelligence and wit, and it's interesting to wonder how circumstances and events can be shaped or altered by one simple change in one's actions, like taking that flight or missing it. Or maybe this book is about something else altogether?

