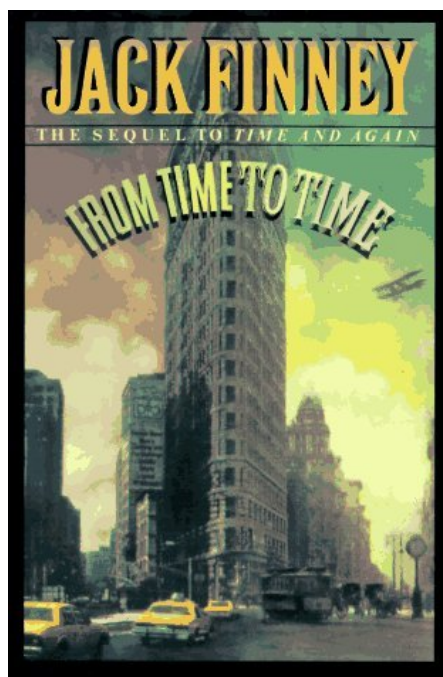




From Time to Time

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Sequel to Time and Again. First printing.

From Time to Time Details

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From Reader Review From Time to Time for online ebook

Carol says

In reading the acknowledgements in 11/22/63 Stephen King thanks Jack Finney for his time travel novel Time and Again. That reminded me that I had never got around to reading the sequel.. Ugh. It was not very good. I wish Jack would have stopped at Simon Morley's first time traveling adventure which is a classic. Inconsistent is the only way I can describe this book. Some things were barely mentioned yet vaudeville which isn't even that crucial to the story receives the attention of many many pages. Find another time travel book to read and skip this one.

Gretchen says

I was a big fan of Finney's "Time and Again" but I was hesitant to read the sequel because I didn't see a good reason why there needed to be one. "Time and Again" had a nice tidy conclusion that I found to be both unexpected and satisfying. I didn't want it to be ruined by a sequel that was written many years later.

However, much like with "Time and Again", I immediately got sucked into "From Time to Time". I found the beginning of the novel to be captivating and fresh. Unfortunately, I felt that it went steadily downhill from there. The events in the time travel portion of the story itself felt somewhat forced, very coincidental and, to be honest, a lot like they just revolved around Finney's desire to recreate the history of the Titanic. The biggest disappointment for me was that the very storyline that I found so interesting at the beginning of the novel was never revisited as the story progressed nor given a proper conclusion.

I'd still recommend Finney to anyone interested in reading a novel about time travel, but I'd suggest that you stick with "Time and Again" and skip "From Time to Time" unless you are interested in reading it for its value as a period piece.

Stephanie says

I enjoyed this book, though not as much as Time and Again, which better captured the wonder of being able to travel through time. In this story Simon Morley revisits the present after living in the 1880's with his wife and son for some time. He's really just dropping by to see what's going on, but is pressed by Ruben Prien to go on just one more mission, to 1912, to try and prevent WWI. Simon goes, but his interest and amazement at the changes in NYC from the 1970's to 1912 somehow ring false, since he was already living for 5 years in the 1880's. He shouldn't seem so surprised at the lack of an Empire State Building.

Finney also spends an inexplicably long time delving into the world of vaudeville, which was interesting at first, but eventually got tedious, since it really had nothing to do with the actual story. I was interested to see if he would encounter Julia, or his son Willy, in 1912, but that never happened. Overall, it was still a good read, but I think with better focus and editing it would have been much better.

Davide Crudo says

Picked this book since it's the sequel of "Time and Again".

As the previous book, the first 15% of the book is spent to nicely develop the sequel where a series of events will lead to another mission.

Unfortunately, afterwards, it becomes just a showcase of events from the past. The author picks some newspaper articles, citing them and developing a story on them. Sadly these stories are just a distractions, besides few interesting events.

At around 90% the book picks up the real story and quickly finally develops it and with few interesting turn of events wraps it up real quick.

I would still read it to know what happens after the first book, but not really a game changer.

Kate says

While it is clear, at least to me, that the characters wrote the book Time and Again, sadly, the sequel did not live up to the magic and wonder of the first book. The good news is that this was a relatively short book and it fulfilled not only the monthly tag, it gave me a chance to read a sequel to a book I enjoyed a lot.

Now the bad news. I'm not sure if it was Jack Finney's editor who had the idea to put out a sequel twenty-five years later or Jack himself that loved the time period and wanted to visit it one last time before his death shortly after he completed the book. The end result is not a pretty one. The book felt disjointed in several places, it certainly did not have the flow that the first book did. The book dragged in many, many places and I wondered why on earth Jack Finney felt the need to go on and on about certain things in the book while at other times he rehashed the same things from the first book that only needed a paragraph to remind the audience about (for example The Project and Simon Morley).

There are old photographs in this one as well but again, the magic is just not in this book at all and I felt myself just want to get through the book. Never a good sign!

Ted says

What a shockingly bad book. This book's prequel, "Time and Again," is a kind of masterpiece of science fiction, mainly because it effectively communicates the wonder at the thought of stepping back in time and how a real human being might react to such an event. This book, on the other hand, is plodding and dull. Where Finney tried to insert historical set pieces, the reader finds long expository passages on aspects of 1912 New York life that are only marginally related to the plot. What could have been a great page-turner, a novel connecting the Titanic to World War One and the moral dilemma of altering history, is diluted with poorly-incorporated research and awful plotting.

Susan Bleyle says

I read this book quickly over our hurricane "break." I highly recommend this to any time travel novel fans.

Cathy Crawford says

I did not realize until recently that this sequel was written long after *Time After Time*, and I admit it makes sense that it was at the end of Finney's career and had a sometimes rambling narrative that fixed on certain aspects of exposition that did not advance the plot. A shorter story than its predecessor, it unfortunately feels longer due to these detours, specifically into the world of vaudeville and the background forces in the conflict that culminated in World War I.

The most disappointing thing, and one that had me flipping back to make sure I hadn't missed a chapter, was the way in which the time anomalies that protagonist Si Morley learns about on his trip back to the future (people who have memories of the Titanic sailing into New York Harbor safely, a campaign button from Jack Kennedy's 2nd run for President) are never explained beyond a theory that altering the past had somehow caused a second "future" to proceed. This was a fascinating idea, the kind that has time travel fans jumping up and down in their seats. And it was abandoned with no satisfying explanation at all.

Disappointing as well was the lack of a moment when Si gets to see how his wife and son have fared in the "future" of 1912, when all his attempts to avert disaster are done. The book felt as if it had been badly edited as a result, or it had been largely abridged (albeit inconsistently, as the pages of vaudeville descriptions can attest to).

But this book did have the feeling of awe that the first did, in Morley's realization that he had stepped into a different world, the description of the mild May evening in 1912, at L'Heure Bleu (The Blue Hour) at a time before much of the ugliness of the 20th Century had begun, before World Wars, and nuclear weaponry, and the Influenza Outbreak, and, presumably, disillusionment with Hope in the new century. This was well conveyed, and there are images in this book that have stuck with me ever since I first read it in the 1990s.

I have read many books that were the last book of a famous author, and this feels like those; a bit rambling, a bit tame, and clearly the work of an elderly person. Beautiful, uneven, a tad bit tedious.

Dan G says

A semi-great time travel novel, *Time and Again*, was followed up with this-certifiably one of the worst books I have ever read.

The action begins with Ruben Prien recovering memories of the time travel project he was working on, a project that disappeared when Si Morley changed history at the end of *Time and Again*. Prien finds another person who had time-traveled successfully; the traveler goes back to 1882 and stops Simon from stopping the creator of the project from being born. Are you with me?

A concerned Simon goes back to the present (1975 in the book) to see what shenanigans Ruben and the boys are up to. The novel heads downhill from there. Ruben recruits him to stop World War I from ever occurring. And how does he do this? He has him go back to 1912 to stalk "Z" a mystery member of President Taft's cabinet, in order to find out his identity. Simon does so-and stalks Z for pages upon detailed pages. Then once he finds out that Z is Archibald Butt, he returns to 1975 to give Ruben this info, to which Rube says "you and I must've been the only two people who didn't know that."
GAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!! Once again, we get an "AHA! I knew it all along!" moment.

Anyway, Finney's idea is that the sinking of the Titanic set off the series of events that started WW I. Why?

Because Archibald Butt was returning from a summit with European powers and carrying memos to Taft. Butt died in the sinking of the Titanic and was never able to get the news from the summit to Taft. So Finney actually believed that the sinking of the Titanic led to World War I. Uh, what? If I were Ruben Prien I'd have sent Si to stop the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, but that's just me.

So Si goes back and we get copious details of every little nook and cranny of the Titanic. He also meets another time traveler he called the "Jotta Girl."

One thing I remember about it-I was reading it while working at a hotel in California. People would ask me "what are you reading?" I would tell them "a book about a guy who goes back in time to try and stop World War I." And they'd look at me like I had three heads.

I will give Jack Finney credit-he was a gifted and funny writer. But "FTTT" was not one of his better works. In fact, if I may be allowed to use the word here...it sucked.

Kaethe says

Ah, the good old days without all that nasty feminism. Of course it's better to live a hundred years ago, when there wasn't pollution except from all the fires and the horse poop, and when pregnancy was quite likely to kill the girl of your dreams, if some other disease for which she's never been vaccinated doesn't.

Pleh.

Marla says

[
* Julia, Simon's wife knowing his origin and being supportive
* Humming queer tunes
* Simon Morley's nice 1880 family
* Preventing Dr. Danziger's parents from meeting
(hide spoiler)]

Samantha Glasser says

From Time to Time is an uneven and disappointing sequel to the tremendous novel Time and Again. As a book, it isn't awful, but in comparison it is an outright flop because it never really delivers on its promises.

Simon Morley is a time traveler. He worked on a secret government project in modern times (which in the first novel was the 1970s) which experimented with time travel, and Simon was successful in traveling to the late 1800s. He met a woman and decided to stay there, so we find Simon with his wife and new son living in a by-gone era. He has acted in a way to prevent the birth of one of the project's founders, and in doing so breaking the gateway to return "home."

This is when things start to get confusing. Simon has a feeling he's being called back to modern times and decides to go back one last time. Once there, he meets an old friend and finds out that he has NOT prevented

the founder's birth as he thought, and that unexplained time lapses exist in the memories of many people all over the world. (One remembers Kennedy's second term, another recalls seeing the Titanic dock in New York, etc.) Simon is instructed to go back in time and see that a man, known only as Z, successfully travels from America to Europe and then back again with documents that will prevent WWI from ever happening.

Sounds great, right? But wait! We interrupt your regularly scheduled programming to bring you the first days of flight and jewels of vaudeville. Here, the author tours us around New York of the 1910s, but unlike the bus tour in the first novel which was charming and entertaining, this overview seems random and disjointed from the action of the book.

What is worse, the conclusion of the book, which boasts of scenes on the Titanic, is miniscule and disappointing, with an outcome as satisfying as saying, "And then he woke up and realized it was all a dream."

If you read this for the descriptions and not the story, you might have a lot of fun, but this book pales in comparison to the first.

Carin says

I read *Time and Again* back in 1999, and I read it again for book club about 5 years ago. I acquired this sequel at some point in between and finally got around to reading it!

In the first book Si works with some professors and army personnel on The Project and eventually he is one of the few successful people who learned how to time travel. It's a somewhat simple (and yet very complicated) notion related to Einstein's theories of time, that we are harnessed to the here and now by things and our thoughts and the knowledge that now is when we are. If you immerse yourself in another time and eventually truly believe you live in that time, with the help of self-hypnosis, you can be then. In the first book, Si's portal is The Dakota, an apartment building that is in present-day Manhattan and also existed in the 1880s. But now that he has gotten better at it, he doesn't need massive preparations and he can go to the Brooklyn Bridge (actually called the East River Bridge in the 1880s) and go back to "now" (which I assume is still the 1970s although this book was written in 1995 and isn't specific.) He did something kind of bad at the end of the first book and he goes back because he feels guilty and wants to see if what he did has the effect on the future (or present) that he thinks it did.

When back in the present-day, he runs into the army liaison from The Project and he convinced Si that he should do one last trip before heading back to the 1880s for good (he's fallen in love and has a family there.) It's vitally important and ought to be relatively easy considering how momentous it is: prevent WWI. WWI apparently didn't have to happen, could have been averted, and was such a stupid, senseless war that it really shouldn't have been. So off to 1911 Si goes, into the world of vaudeville and the Turkey Trot.

Why on earth there was such a terribly long divergence into vaudeville I surely don't know, other than that the author was intrigued by it and did a lot of research. It's interesting how sometimes we get an overwhelming mass of details and information about things like vaudeville, and other times he'd just mention in passing "though of course I knew, as who didn't, who the sinister and notorious Gerald Montizambert was." (p. 254). Well I've never heard of him. Do I really need a 6-page description of an all-day horse-ride with Theodore Roosevelt, when other things from the past are just tossed off? It felt unbalanced in that.

Also there were a few errors like using "entitled" for "titled" (a big pet peeve of mine), and to me the most difficult to believe (after the whole time travel thing) is that Si, a lifelong New Yorker (I believe, or at least

his whole adulthood - I don't remember that detail from the first book all that well) wouldn't recognize what building looks like a ship and "one might sail her up Broadway or the Fifth Avenue." (p. 117). Yes, the Flatiron building didn't exist in the 1880s but he's only been in the 1880s for about 5 years. I've been gone from New York for 7 years and it was glaringly obvious to me. For Pete's sake, it is where Broadway and Fifth Avenue cross! It made me think Si was an idiot.

Overall, the book was fast-paced and intriguing, but it does bog down a bit in vaudeville and I was annoyed that he kept calling (to himself) this woman the Jotta Girl instead of her name, and it was uneven. Also, the long-awaited for scenes on the Titanic, which are teased on the back of the book, are only in the second to last chapter so you have to wait a long, long time for that to pay off! It was nice to see what happened to Si, but it was nowhere near as good as *Time and Again*, and I'm glad it was short and sweet as it certainly was a trifle.

Carol says

Unfortunately, this sequel cannot compare to *Time and Again*. While I whipped right through the 1st third of the book, the storyline quite suddenly loses its focus giving detailed descriptions of the vaudeville era which have nothing to do with the plot. The end does pick up a bit, but I must admit to being disappointed so little time was spent on the Titanic. There are some great old black and white photo's of the early 1900's as you read along, and I love the time travel aspect of the book, but not enough to recommend this one.

Sara says

This is the sequel to *Time and Again*, featuring time-traveler Si Morley now living in the 1880s with his wife and their young son. He returns to the present/future to speak with those who would be working at The Project (the time-travel experiment that originally recruited Si, but whose organization he prevented from forming in the previous book), and Si is again recruited by the men he once knew. This time, they want him to go back to 1912 and prevent WWI from occurring by ensuring that a mysterious figure only known by the nickname of "Z" is identified and produces a document that could prevent the outbreak of war.

I really, really liked the way this book began, with a society forming in present day to discuss its members' finds: various memories - and occasionally physical proof - of an alternate history that seems to exist alongside the one that others lived/remembered. For example, one member remembers JFK's second term (and even has a campaign button from it)... but he also remembers the JFK assassination. I loved the idea that these two histories were somehow existing side by side, and I loved the idea that there was a society devoted to investigating this.

Unfortunately, this storyline seemed to evaporate into nothing once Si's new task of going back (forward?) in time was introduced. From that point forward, the book focused almost exclusively on Si wandering the

streets of New York City in 1912. As with *Time and Again*, old photos and etchings were included to illustrate the story, and I enjoyed getting this glimpse into 1912 NYC. As an old travel guide, this was stellar. Si's story, on the other hand, seemed to meander along slowly, filled with more than a few stories about various vaudeville acts he sees while waiting to figure out who "Z" is. These descriptions got old and kinda of boring, since they didn't seem to advance the plot any.

As for characters, Si seemed like an especially weak main character in this follow-up novel. He wasn't perfect in the previous novel, but in this one, he seemed weaker and less likable. He meets a woman named Helen soon after arriving in 1912 New York, but he refuses to call her by her real name and instead nicknames her "the Jotta Girl" - the only name he then refers to her as, in either description or dialogue. In the end, I liked her story, but the dynamic between her and Si was grating. While Si's married and claims nothing could ever come between him and his wife, he's overwhelmed with attraction to the Jotta Girl and can't help but kiss her because, obviously, he's irresistible to her. It made me sigh. Like I said, he was a weak character in this follow-up.

The dust jacket for this book mentions that Si eventually needs to stop the Titanic from sinking - a plot I kept waiting to be introduced... but the Titanic wasn't even mentioned until the last 50 pages of the novel. A lot of vaudeville happened in the meantime. And when the Titanic plot began, it was over almost as quick as it started; vaudeville got more page time than what should have been this supposedly big plot point. The ending felt rushed, and I don't even feel like I fully understood what happened in the very end. That's follow with a short chapter about where he ended up, with no description of *how*.

This book was about half the length of the previous one, and it was also half (if that!) as satisfying. I felt like interesting plot points were ignored instead of being further explored and that things that should have been glossed over were described in too much detail. The book as a whole did not feel balanced, and the first half of the book was *overwhelmingly* better than the second half. Although I liked parts of this book, I was disappointed overall. I kind of wish I'd just left the characters where they were at the end of *Time and Again*.

Angela M says

I was a little apprehensive about reading this sequel to *Time and Again* because I loved the way that book ended and I didn't want anything to change for Si Morley. What I found in this book is the same wonderful detailed descriptive writing and that I was lured into another time in New York City. Finney definitely had a way of making you see exactly what Si was seeing and what he was feeling.

Si returns to his present day in the 1990's from the time and place he has made home for the last four years - New York City of the 1880's. He is lured into taking another time trip. This time it is back to 1912, with a plan to change the course of history by stopping WW I.

We get an amazing view of New York City in 1912 - the dance halls, the vaudeville stage, the clothes, and especially the people. However, in the middle of the book, I thought it lost a little steam, but the touching moment when Si sees the vaudeville act of Tessie and Ted brought it back for me. I was so taken by what Finney had done here. There are also wonderful photographs and sketches that I'm sure would have been much clearer in the paper version, but even on my kindle, they just helped to bring you where Si was. You even get to be on the Titanic.

I loved the story because I fell in love with SI in *Time and Again* and because Finney pulls you so into the time and place that you almost believe that time travel is possible. The writing is that good! But it did happen - didn't it? I travelled with SI Morley. So did it meet up to how I felt about the first? I wanted more of the

story, but it was pretty darn close so it's 4.5 stars.

(I was really glad to read this along with my very good GoodReads Friend TamElaine.)

Bam says

A very disappointing sequel--gone was the charm of *Time and Again*. You get the impression Finney was pressured by his publisher to write a sequel twenty-five years later but had no idea where to go with it. I liked Si a lot less too, with his relentless search for 'Tessie and Ted' and the very dull chapter on vaudeville that seemed like mere filler.

Ken says

In *From Time to Time*, we revisit Si Morley, picking up several years after we left off at the end of *Time and Again*. It's a promising start, back in the head of our familiar protagonist, though we quickly take a detour into the machinations of the plot. In order to make the story here work -- Si has to leave his comfortable 19th century home, come back to modern times, then travel back to 1912 -- Finney has to engage in some contrivances that undo things that were done at the end of the previous book. But, seeing as this is a time travel novel, I plugged on, willing to suspend disbelief.

The problem with this book has its roots in the words I used in the first paragraph. Machinations. Contrivances. Plot. In my review of *Time and Again*, I expressed pleasure at the combination of leisurely, descriptive immersion in a time and place, and an engaging storyline. Here, though, we have a lot of description and detail, but without the compelling story to carry it along. Morley isn't at home in 1912, he isn't in love with 1912, and the character's (and author's?) love of the setting is what lent such care and beauty to the descriptions in the first book. Here, instead, we get thrown lots of detail, and schooled in histories of various kinds, but through much of it we're left wondering just what Si is doing!

The plot such as it is comes to not much. Si is seeking a couple named Ted and Tessie, and I paged back through the book, trying to figure out why, assuming I must have missed something -- but no, his motivation isn't revealed until later. Confusingly, a different character named Ted appears at the beginning of the book, and then disappears, completely immaterial to the story. Confusing and unnecessary. Si also sets out to change the course of major world events, but that is mostly crammed into the tail end of the book, and is dealt with in a frustratingly anticlimactic way.

Although *From Time to Time* suffers in comparison to its predecessor, it's still a passable read for those who read and loved *Time After Time*. It has its moments -- it just doesn't come together as a well-constructed whole.

TamElaine says

I was drawn into the book immediately, and as with the first book felt a sense that time travel actually happened, that it was entirely possible, realistic and authentic. The evidence and theories presented go beyond most time travel books.

I loved the suspense in the book – even so much as the suspense built in one chapter that was revealed/resolved by the end of the same chapter or in some cases several chapters later. Who was the man in the psychologist office? Who is Jotta Girl? Who are Ted and Tessie? And I'll be honest and say I didn't predict any of it !

I found myself daydreaming a few times in the book – The story begs a sort of reflection at times....like what might today look like if there had never been a World War?

I can't help but picture and hear Frasier Crane in the character of Dr. Danziger, and then I started imagining Niles as Rube.

Jack Finney has a way of placing you in the book, in the scene, scenery....wonderful description without being bogged down.

If I had any criticism about this book, it would be to say that (view spoiler)

Jina Bacarr says

No one loves Jack Finney more than I do. I read Time and Again so many times I can still visualize the snow and the cold and the Dakota when the hero goes back to 1880s New York...but I digress. Here we are discussing Mr. Finney's follow-up to his extraordinary novel called From Time to Time.

Let me say this up front. The only reason I didn't give the book five stars is because I expected more of the Titanic and the grand ship doesn't show up until page 279. From then on, we're at the races until that fateful moment when the ship founders. The beginning of the story up to that point shows Simon's (the time-traveling hero) attempts to change history by warning one of the first class passengers and trying to save his life. I shan't spoil it for you, but it's an excellent story with twists and turns and filled with the gala and ragtime of 1912 New York.

I must admit playing the part of time-traveler myself when I wrote Titanic Rhapsody, my Titanic romance, when my hero, Captain Lord Jack Blackthorn, plays poker in the smoking room with the same character Simon is trying to save.

All in all, if you enjoy time travel, nobody does it better than Jack Finney.
