



Where Were You, Robert?

Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Anthea Bell (Translator)

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Fifteen-year-old Robert is a dreamer: one evening his eyes blur over and he literally disappears. Robert has become a time traveller, but with little control over his ability he seems doomed to wander forever - until he appears in 17th-century Amsterdam and finds a slim chance of returning home.

Where Were You, Robert? Details

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Author : Hans Magnus Enzensberger , Anthea Bell (Translator)

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From Reader Review Where Were You, Robert? for online ebook

Rachel says

Reviewed for CPBR

Andy Bird says

This was a very disappointing book. The write-up promised an intriguing journey through time, but it just did not deliver. It was disjointed with very little integration between each 'episode'. The 'episodes' were all unbelievable in the way the lead character landed on his feet each time, despite being in some very bad situations, and spent most of the time just explaining the time period. There was also very little continuity throughout the 'episodes', all leading to very little story. I would not recommend this book.

Anabelle Lucia says

By reading this book, I had traveled to places together with Robert. It's really descriptive! And I love descriptive stories! Glad I picked up this book.

Graham says

Enzenberger wrote a delightful children's story that is well enough written that an adult can enjoy it too. The concept of time travel is not new or unique for fiction, but Robert's adventures make for good reading. The forays into periods of European history are interesting.

Elisabetta says

Roberto was also present in the other book of Enzensberger I read. Despite seeing it only 2 times, I feel like I know Roberto :P He is clever enough to be a 15 years old, but not too much to be unpleasant. So he finds himself thrown in the past for 7 times, and he must be brave enough to look like he is not coming from future.

A really pretty story, with a bit of history (but not too tedious!)

Marc says

Ik begin vandaag dit boek te lezen. Het is de eerste roman van deze dichter die ik lees. Inmiddels is het klaar. Erg lezenswaardig; spijtig dat er nog wat tikfouten in de tekst staan. Lijkt tegenwoordig wel een trend, een

boek uitgeven met fouten.

Vond iets van mezelf terug in het nawoord.

Valerie says

I liked this book better than The Number Devil.

Nix says

This is one of these weird books. Historical fiction, my eye. Time travel is always a sticky topic to categorize.

But the book. The book was okay, but he could have tried for a little more emotion. As a study of math, The Number Devil worked without adding too much emotion. As a study of history, which is more nebulous and often (dare I say) boring, I think adding emotion would have induced my interest a little more.

As a result of no emotion, the two girlfriends (or, he believed they were his girlfriends for no apparent reason whatsoever than their proximity to him in age) were unexpected and unpleasant.

Another thing, but this is just for those of us reading this book in English: the original language is German. So Robert's language troubles as he travels through the years are slightly more confusing. You just have to remember that Robert speaks German and a little English and learns other languages along the way.

Sarah says

Lost in time is a different sort of time travel novel, indeed the German origins are quite apparent. Robert is a young hero who will appeal to both boys and girls, he moves through time, spending a total of two years in the past, divided between seven different times. His mechanism for time travel is that in times of stress when he is staring at some image he will be transported to when the image was made, thus he travels through slow increments backwards. He first travels to the 1950s in Siberia and then to the 1940s in Australia. One interesting aspect of this book is the use of languages. Robert speaks German and studied English in school, but when he travels to the past he doesn't automatically speak the language of the time and lands. His travels are limited to areas where he finds someone who speaks at least a little of either German or English. There are some interesting comments on language, and ways that people fit into their surroundings.
