



Saving Yesterday

Jessica Keller

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Her blood holds secrets she never knew existed.

Despite the fact that she acts as a parent to her alcoholic father, Gabby Creed feels pretty normal. But her life is turned upside-down on her seventeenth birthday when a bracelet appears on her wrist and sucks her back through time.

Turns out she's not even a little bit normal. She's a Shifter--a protector of humans and of history itself. And she's not alone. The other Shifters believe Gabby is special, even more special than the mysterious Michael Pace. Oh, and the Shades--seriously creepy creatures who feed off of human despair--are determined to capture her.

It's all a lot to absorb. So Gabby's grateful to have Michael as her Trainer--or she would be if she could get her rebellious heart under control. Then again, if the rumors about her blood are true, saving yesterday will be the least of her worries.

Saving Yesterday Details

Date : Published February 7th 2014 by Createspace

ISBN : 9781495966576

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Format : Paperback 292 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Time Travel, Fantasy, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Saving Yesterday for online ebook

Stephanie Roberts says

Loved this book...couldn't put it down...Can't wait for the next installment in the series. Book that made me think and kept me on the edge of my seat!

Amanda G. Stevens says

Gabby Creed lives a normal life until the day she turns seventeen. That's the day a silver bracelet appears on her wrist and sucks her back in time. Stuck in the 1860's, she meets Michael Pace, who claims he and Gabby are Shifters. Unlike normal humans, Shifters have been chosen to preserve history and can be pulled to wherever in the timeline they're most needed. Of course, Gabby thinks he's crazy ... until he leads her through a portal into Keleusma, the refuge and training facility for Shifters. This stuff is real. The other Shifters are convinced she's not like them, maybe not even trustworthy, though no one will explain why. As she and Michael are pulled into one adventure after another, Gabby has to determine who she is, whom to trust, and where she belongs.

This well structured young adult fantasy manages to balance a breakneck pace with a character-driven plot. I'm not quite sure how the author pulled this off; it's not often a story develops with such speed yet remembers to put the characters first. Keller utilizes the first person, present tense voice that's become popular with young adult novels, but it never feels forced or pretentious here. I'm drawn into Gabby's predicament partly because her voice is so immediate--sardonic in some moments, vulnerable in others, but readable always.

The allegorical storyworld is one thing I look forward to discovering further in future books. We have the "higher power," Nicholas, who created the ability to time travel and mentally (spiritually?) "nudges" Shifters about what sort of mission they're on. We have the power aligned against him, Erik, who controls the Shades, creatures who were once Shifters but chose to serve Erik instead and now apparently still travel through time, feeding on human despair. As of the end of this first book, readers haven't met either Nicholas or Erik, but Michael and the others believe in both strongly enough to do what they perceive as Nicholas's bidding. Gabby's belief is still shaky at this point. (view spoiler)

But the main thing that will bring me back for more of this series is the characterization. Keller's dialogue is natural and often quite fun. Her secondary characters are intriguing and/or endearing (especially Donovan and Lark), but mainly, of course, I'm in this for Gabby and Michael. They're great together, even when their occasional bickering makes me remind myself, *They're teenagers; you can't expect them never to behave like teenagers.*

Gabby can be impulsive and self-centered, but in the next minute, she's frustrated with herself for not seeing beyond herself. Her self-awareness is nicely rendered. Her motivations are well founded and heart-tugging--her loneliness, her feelings about her parents, her desire to belong in Keleusma if nowhere else.

Michael is a refreshing hero in the young adult genre, mainly because he's not broody. He's been through deep grief and still carries deep guilt, yet his prominent traits are his smile, his kindness, and his unselfish determination. He teases Gabby. He laughs. He rolls his eyes when she takes something too personally. Best

of all, he isn't perfect. He's constantly deflecting Gabby's legitimate questions. He's crafted a persona with the other Shifters so he won't have to open up to them. His answer to difficult conversation is to walk away.

Together, Gabby and Michael are constantly pushing each other in all the right ways. She refuses to let him dodge with his communication. He yells at her for being impulsive and forces her to think things through. I look forward to the growth of this relationship.

This is Ms. Keller's first young adult novel, but you wouldn't know it. She has crafted here a delightful, sympathetic voice for her heroine, not one but two great lead characters, an intriguing storyworld, and a nonstop plot. I'm eagerly anticipating the second book in the TimeShifters Series.

Sandy says

I was sent a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

On the day of her 17th birthday, a bracelet appears on her wrist and sucks Gabby back in time where she encounters Michael Pace, someone just like her. They're Shifters - protectors of humans and history.

I highly enjoyed this book. I haven't read that many time traveling books and so this was a really great read. This book is full of twists and surprises. An intriguing aspect of this book would have to be the Shades - creatures who feed off human despair. I kinda picture them like Dementors. Whenever Gabby would run into one, I want to shout at her to run away as fast as she can. They give me goosebumps.

I really liked reading from Gabby's point of view. She's definitely a head strong character. She is pretty much thrown into this new life, which I think she handles really well, and I loved learning about how things work. Michael and Gabby were a great team and I loved reading all the moments of them together.

This was a well written, fast-paced, unique time traveling story. I finished it in less than a day and I'm looking forward to reading the next book.

Erin Fish says

Very interesting. Definitely kept me entertained. Good light reading.

Jenna Sackett says

My English teacher read this book over spring break and recommended it to my class. She said that it had time travel in it and since I love time travel I read it. I read it in less than twelve hours including some sleep. I like how Gabby didn't know what was happening and found out through the book and understand the world. I found the relationships to be realistic and understandable. It was a tense book at some points and relaxed at others. I am glad I read this and it will definitely be one of my favorites!

Alexandra says

Awesome Read!

I haven't read many books on time travel yet - besides the well-known Time Machine by H.G Wells of course. I rather enjoy watching Doctor Who and I've read some Doctor Who stories as well. So "Saving Yesterday" was a pleasant surprise.

Gabby seems like one of the normal girls in the neighbourhood for the exception that she has to look after her alcoholic father. But that's not what makes her special. She is a Shifter. What's that you ask?

Gabby gets to find out on her seventeenth birthday. She usually gets to eat pancakes but this morning they are slightly burned. Her father smells of alcohol again but that's nothing she can't cope with. When she meets her friend in the local park though and he wishes her a happy birthday she doesn't know what's happening. Neither did I (Okay tiny lie there... ^^). A bracelet appears on her wrist which starts glowing and she finds herself in the past. Of course Gabby doesn't know that... So she is quite confused what's going on. That's when things start to get really interesting...

Slight spoilers ahead!!!(view spoiler)

I really enjoyed reading this book. It was quite interesting and entertaining.

I'm looking forward to the next book in this series and I would recommend this book to anyone who likes Time Travel and YA.

Charity Tinnin says

I rarely rate a book five stars; it's the perfectionist in me. But every now and then a book holds me hostage until I have no choice. You know what I mean. You open the book and find yourself unable to put it down until you've devoured the last word. You find yourself re-reading lines. You can't stop thinking about it days later. You start a countdown for the next in the series the minute you read "The End." Such was the case with *Saving Yesterday*.

Early on in the book, Gabby thinks:

To which I respond, "Yes, he *is* pretty cute for a made-up person. And you're a wonderfully witty heroine. I think your author deserves a whole batch of cookies for this!"

Gabby is the kind of girl you want to be friends with: fiercely loyal and majorly sassy. Because let's face it when times get tough, what you really need is someone with some wit. And Gabby has that in spades, which makes her head a delightful place to be.

Speaking of delightful, I love that Michael's attractive but not in a "stop in your tracks and catch yourself

“drooling” way. He seems like the type of hottie you might actually meet. But Michael’s best quality is his ability to laugh and smile despite the pain in his past. This makes him a unique kind of selfless hero. One you want to hug all the time. Especially when he’s saying something like this:

Le sigh. Right?

And that’s just the main characters. I also fell in love with Keller’s world, the mystery surrounding Gabby’s blood—and she’s not the only one with secrets—and even the book’s appearance. I’ve spent way too long staring at the gorgeous cover and interior design. (And I’m not the kind of reader who normally notices interior design!)

All of which has me, as I’ve said, enthralled. With no idea of when I’ll be free again. Not that I’m trying too hard ;)

Booksandcupsoftea says

I absolutely loved this book! I was sent it by the author and wasn't really prepared for it being so good! It's an epic story with so many emotions, this is the first time-travel book I've read and I was definitely not disappointed! Beautifully written, creative story, fab characters- can't wait for book 2!

Gwendolyn Gage says

When a friend wishes Gabriella “Gabby” Creed a happy seventeenth birthday, a bracelet clamps onto her arm and sucks her into strange and starkly different surroundings. A guy comes up behind her, a complete Looney Toon claiming they’ve time-traveled to Civil-war torn Tennessee to help a Union spy. According to this Michael, there’s a whole race of “Shifters” like them, who train hard at a home base before their leader, Nicholas, sends them into past cultures on rescue missions. Michael wonders why Gabby “shifted” to a mission, and not the home base, Keleusma. It’s a good question, and only the beginning of her different experiences. Gabby has always been different, not quite fitting anywhere, but in the world of Shifters and Shades, her “different” translates “dangerous”.

I lost an entire night of sleep reading this book. Oh, it was good. The voice, pacing, world building, characters. This is the right way to write a character-driven story—characters first, but action in all the right places. I loved the idea that Shifters had special pants and t-shirts that looked like time-period clothing to the natives. So cool! Speaking of cool, it was so refreshing to meet a hero appealing in the cute-boy-next-door sort of way, who loves to laugh and smile in spite of the baggage he carries. (I’ve gotten so bored of the brooding, perfect-featured anti-heroes that dominate fiction nowadays.) The romantic tension was spot-on—compelling, and yet not too heavy for teenagers getting to know each other.

Gabby was my favorite character. I loved her nicknames for people—“Mr. Michael Timeshifter”, “Obi-Wan”, “Teal Team”, “Donovan The Terrible”. Oh, and I have to give you a taste of her wonderful humor...

“The boy bands of the world called, they want their outfit back.”

“This has to be a dream. And if it is, I have to commend my subconscious. It deserves a cookie. Michael’s pretty cute for a made-up person.”

“Now why couldn’t I have been paired with Ewan McGregor? Red Rover, Red Rover, send Ewan right over. I would have trusted him instantly.”

THE VOICE! I seriously highlighted something about every three pages. First-person, present-tense, combined with Gabby’s wit brought this book a hair’s breadth from my list of top favorites. It didn’t quite get there due to a few scenes toward the end—a rescue that came off a tad unbelievable, a solo mission that didn’t fit into the plot climax, and the last scene. It was a good ending that carried some sweetness, but instead of tying up the loose ends, I found it rather highlighted them and left me desperately wanting to start the next book in the series!

Five stars for sure. I will be re-reading this book, the entire series, and I’ve already marked “to read” the author’s other books. She’s got a new fan. :-)

Renee Becker says

(Mild plot point mentioned - proceed at own risk.)

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. Being a middle school teacher, I'm always on the look-out for new books to recommend to my students. This one definitely fits the bill. The characters are easy to relate to, they're interesting, and I'm looking forward to their future adventures.

I find it amusing that Gabby (the main character) becomes a Shifter in time. But she never paid attention in history class! She complains that history teachers are never interesting. LIES! Of course, I only say that because I am a history teacher.

I only wish that there was more with Pinkerton. It sounds like such an interesting story from the Civil War, that I would have liked to see how his story worked out. Of course, this could have been deliberate by the author - maybe Pinkerton will make a reappearance?

Overall, good read. I will definitely be recommending it.

Emily says

This book was downright fascinating. I felt like I was reading a Ted Dekker/Scott Westerfeld collaboration. It has the allegory of Dekker and the overall style of Westerfeld.

But I must say, Gabby had me frustrated when she acted impulsively and repeated the same mistakes. I really wanted to just smack some sense into her. I guess this is part of the young adult genre, because I've felt that way toward many other young adult protagonists.

I was also confused at the ending, as it seemed like there were two climaxes. However, this could be what the author intended for us to feel: the disorientation that's a hallmark of a new Shifter's life.

I'm looking forward to the next installment of the series to see how Gabby will change, and whether she will indeed break some rules which, to me, seem arbitrary and wrong-headed. After all, why don't Shifters always help innocent people, whether or not they seem to be part of the Shifter's mission? And hopefully Michael and Gabby will break the Pairing rule: they need each other. They both give the other strength when it's needed. (Really, Porter is bland compared to Michael.)

Overall, I think this is a strong debut with a readable style and an interesting allegory.

Stacey says

I only have one question for this author... where is book 2? This book was awesome! I loved the tension in the story line, I was hooked until the last page. I adored Michael and Gabby. I can't to read more. Please don't make us wait too long.

Ayanami Faerudo says

I didn't get it. What was the point to all of that? What was the significance? What was the focus? Saving Pinkerton? Her identity? The hint-hint-nudge-nudge romance? What?

The hell is Nicholas? Why do the Shifters need to listen to him? Why do Gabriella need to listen to these Shifters albeit the story made it a point that Gabriella was fighting not to be completely under the thumb of this society. If I was her, I would've been asking questions left and right and absolutely refused to do anything until they gave me answers, not all those evasive, partial stories. And then when I got to that part where Michael explained her special snowflake-ness, I was like *That's it?*

As I said, I didn't get what it's all about, what the Time Shifters' world was all about. They involuntary shift, by the will of Nicholas (whoever he is), to whenever history needed a little nudge. But how do they know that it's the right thing to do? Do they have this manual or something that tells them that this is what history is supposed to be? Oh wait, they rely on this Nicholas to give them "leadings" and they do what these leadings tell them to. Where's the free will in all that?

What was the point to all of that?

Bekah (WillBakeforBooks) says

I truly dislike writing unpleasant reviews, but I have to be honest. For some, this could be the best story ever. There is adventure, history, suspense, mystery, and love. There is time travel and interesting world building. It had all the right tools to create an amazing novel, and in some ways it succeeded. For me, however, I couldn't get over my disdain for the main character, Gabby. Frankly, I was annoyed with her for the entire read. She was childish, impulsive, whiny, and dramatic. I even had a difficult time enjoying Michael's character, who was constantly on-and-off with her and everyone else. As much as I wanted to love this novel, I couldn't for those simple reasons. There are many good things to say about this story and you may find it to be a favorite young adult series. As for me personally, I thought it was OK.

Kim Vandel says

Saving Yesterday is pure fun from beginning to end. Jessica Keller pulls you into the world of the Shifters in the first chapter and doesn't let go until the last page. The premise is a cross between Dr. Who and Harry Potter, and it's a refreshing change from all the vampire and angel stories in the YA market. I can't wait to see what's in store for Gabby and Michael in book two!

(Note: I did not receive a copy of Saving Yesterday for the purpose of review. I bought a copy with my husband's hard-earned money, and I'm reviewing it because I thoroughly enjoyed it.)
