



## Time of My Life

*Allison Winn Scotch*

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Jillian Westfield has the perfect suburban life straight out of the upscale women's magazines that she obsessively reads. She's got the modern-print rugs of *Metropolitan Home*, the elegant meals from *Gourmet*, the clutter-free closets out of *Real Simple*, and the elaborate Easter egg hunts seen in *Parents*. With her successful investment banker husband behind the wheel and her cherubic eighteen-month-old in the backseat, hers could be the family in the magazines' glossy Range Rover ads.

Yet somehow all of the how-to magazine stories in the world can't seem to fix her faltering marriage, banish the tedium of days spent changing diapers, or stop her from asking, "What if?"

Then one morning Jillian wakes up seven years in the past. Before her daughter was born. Before she married Henry. Suddenly she's back in her post-grad school Ikea-furnished Manhattan apartment. She's back in her fast-paced job with the advertising agency. And she's still with Jackson, the ex-boyfriend and star of her what-if fantasies.

Armed with twenty-twenty hindsight, she's free to choose all over again. She can use the zippy ad campaigns from her future to wow the clients and bosses in her present. She can reconnect with the mother who abandoned her so many years before. She can fix the fights at every juncture that doomed her relationship with Jackson. Or can she?

With each new choice setting off a trajectory of unforeseen consequences, Jillian soon realizes that getting to happily ever after is more complicated than changing the lines in her part of the script. Happiness, it turns out, isn't an either-or proposition. As she closes in on all the things she thought she wanted, Jillian must confront the greatest what-if of all: What if the problem was never Henry or Jackson, but her?

Sharp, funny, and heartwarming, *Time of My Life* will appeal to anyone who has ever wanted to redo the past and will leave readers pondering, "Do we get the reality we deserve?"

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Time of My Life Details

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## **From Reader Review Time of My Life for online ebook**

### **Cindy Bokma says**

You will love this novel that poses the question, "What if...I could go back in time and change choice that I have made?"

Allison is a wonderful author and I know my friends will read this book cover to cover and love every word.

xo

Cindy

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### **Pollopicu says**

This is one of the worst novels I ever read in my entire life!

I hated this book so much. It's not even worth being on goodreads.

If you like trash novels, this is the book for you.

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### **Anastasia says**

This novel was very light in some ways (primarily, the main character was a superficial, highly privileged, wealthy, suburban, unhappy housewife/mother--- though that changed some) but was a thoroughly enjoyable read. It is fun to think about going back in your life, knowing what you know now, and having the option of making different choices; the author did a nice job of exploring this theme.

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### **Christa says**

I ended up liking this book, although it started off a little slowly for me. There were times when I didn't like the main character, Jillian Westfield, but she did become more sympathetic to me as the story evolved. Jillian is a discontented mother and housewife who feels that she made the wrong choices for her life. She suddenly is faced with the opportunity to go back in time in her life and make different choices. As she goes through this part of her life for the second time, Jillian realizes that she has to face some facts about herself and her relationships before the decisions she makes this time can lead to happiness.

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### **Kristine says**

I enjoyed this book pretty much all the way until the end. I liked the idea of exploring a character that had the chance to go back and "do it over again". I mean, let's be honest, haven't we all thought about how our lives

might be different if we had made other choices? It was one of those books that as I am reading it, I see how close I am getting to the end and wondered, "How can this be almost finished?" The author summed up the end in one chapter and left too many unanswered questions for me. I almost had the feeling as if the author got sick of writing and just threw the end together as quickly as possible to meet her publisher's deadline.

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### **Mimi Marten says**

I bought Time of My Life on another author's recommendation. It was my first read from Allison Winn Scotch and I'm a BIG fan.

The cover and the title are somewhat deceiving. It's not a light read, it's full of depth.

The premise is not new or original. There are several movies done with this concept, but 'TIME OF MY LIFE' is written without the fluffy fantasy make belief, it's raw and real. Reading is very subjective, but for me it's either an escape or a connection. This book was both.

The main protagonist, Jillian lost her identity, trading her professional city life for a stay at home mom in suburbs. She is very lonely and stuck in her stale marriage. With a help of a masseur, unblocking her meridians, she goes back in time, with the present knowledge and maturity.

It's provocative and sensitive at the same time. It evokes emotions in every single one of us that has been THERE..... Let's talk about how we all try to live to some crazy society expectations, the loneliness, the despair, the exhaustion, the fear, and the overwhelming feeling that everyone else is doing it perfectly, and you are drowning. Or let's talk about the self-reflection of highly educated, extremely successful professionally, kick ass and capable women, who are readjusting to the shock of taking care of babies.

Jillian gets the chance to step out of that limbo and goes back. She realizes that a lot of her unhappy comes from within. She alters many of her reactions, her seasoned maturity handles many situations differently, with much better results. Ultimately she is the one who saves herself, not some other hero.

The point of the story is the journey of maturity. The empowering message of taking responsibility for our own happiness, the weight of our choices and living up to them.

In the end the buildup, the evolution, the whole transformation was huge and it didn't match the ending. I selfishly needed more celebration.

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### **Mary says**

Jillian Westfield has been living a perfect life - at least according to the magazine articles that have been advising her. She has put so much pressure on herself to be the ideal wife and mother that she breaks under the stress of it all. In a kind of freaky accident-by-massage she finds herself living seven years earlier. Her same life, seven years earlier. The do-over of all do-overs! She's back living with her boyfriend Jackson and on the fast track at work. She's reliving familiar situations and sees how she could have reacted differently the first time. The question is: Should she do things differently? If she does, it could change her life, that of her husband (not Jack, by the way), her daughter, friends and relatives.

Jillian needs to come to terms with a few things from her past. In doing so, will she make decisions that could change her future? Or, will she take what she discovers and return to her real life?

I enjoyed how things played out in this entertaining book. There's a lot of truth in it. Allison Winn Scotch's novel is charming and fresh. I found myself cheering Jillian on as she figured things out. *Time Of My Life* would be a great book club selection.

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### **Jan says**

One thing you need to understand about my reading list is that it is very long. The books at the beginning of it have been on the list for several years. This year, I have been making a concentrated effort at tackling those books that have been on it for a long time, such as this book. Imagine my surprise, upon receiving it from the library, when I realized that this book had already crossed my path many times before when I was volunteering at the bookstore AND I PASSED IT UP, not recognizing that it was a book on my list.

I should really learn to listen to my instincts.

So this book is one of those standard "It's A Wonderful Life" type stories. The central character, Jillian, is unhappy with her life as a well-to-do homemaker and wonders what would have happened if she'd made some different choices in her life, i.e. stayed with that old boyfriend, continued in that high-powered job, etc.

For me, the main problem with this book is that Jillian's life is actually quite nice. She might not be entirely satisfied with it, but her issue is existential, not physical (unlike, say, the movie mentioned above, where the central character is experiencing serious financial difficulties). In reality, her problems could be resolved if she just actually, you know, TALKED to her perfectly nice husband, rather than seething silently. Which, to me, made her come across like a spoiled brat. I had a hard time relating to her.

I think that a therapist was pretty much all she needed, but instead, she somehow magically gets sent back in time when a massage releases her chi. Um, okay.....this plot point is never explained. At least in "It's a Wonderful Life," you know that an angel is the one showing George how things could have been. I could have used a little explanation.

So, blah, blah, blah, after a lot of drama and such, Jillian of course eventually realizes that she actually liked her future life after all and finds her way back to it. And here is where the story really lost me. Because when she goes back to her future life, things that she did in her second attempt at the past actually changed the way things turned out in the future! And yet she's still married to the guy she was married to in the beginning with the kid she had in the beginning. Huh? So what was the point of the book? Was her future life better than her past or not? And if her future life just needed a little improvement, why couldn't she make that happen without going back and mucking around with the past?

But the thing that REALLY bothered me is this: in Jillian's original past, her best friend discovered that she was unable to have children after several miscarriages and eventually kills herself because all she ever wanted was to be a mother. But after Jillian mucked around in the past, when she returns to her new future, that friend is not only still alive but has natural born (not adopted) children. WHY? What could Jillian going back to her past possibly have done to make her friend able to have children? It makes no sense!

I feel like the author just wanted to have a perfect, happy ending. To me, that's just intellectually dishonest.

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### **~Tina~ says**

Have you ever wondered "what if"? Have you ever looked at your life and all it's craziness and think back to a time in your past that you could go back to, and if you could, would you?

What reality would you choose if you had the chance to do it all over again?

**Time of my life** sets the story of a neglected suburban wife, who even though has a content life can't seem to find any real passion in her marriage, and while she has a beautiful daughter who she lives for, can't help but remember the freedom of carefree days of her single life from before.

When Jill gets the news that her ex-boyfriend, the one that she'll always love, is getting married, Jill feels devastated, but doesn't know why. So what happens when she wakes one morning ready to get her child from her crib, but instead stumbles into her old apartment that she shared with Jack...seven years into the past, but knowing everything that's happened in the last seven years later?

With knowledge at the ready, Jill is determined to change her former self and find the happiness that she let go, only, she isn't sure which reality she wants.

I really enjoyed this book, it's different from what I normally read, but I guess I was always one of those people who wondered if I could change one thing in my past, would I? And even though the answer is always no, and I'm beyond happy and content with what I have and who I am, I found this question intriguing in a read and wanted to see how it would be played out.

With an interesting plot line and likable characters this was a satisfying read. The ending was predictable, or maybe that's because I would have picked the same one.

All in all a fascinating story that really makes you think about the past, present, future and all the craziness you really want from your own reality.

Well done!

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### **Kerry says**

3.5 - cute, enjoyable read. Reminded me of Taylor Jenkins Reid's "Maybe In Another Life."

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### **Kelly Houser says**

Time of My Life is my favorite Allison Winn Scotch novel. It is my favorite for several reasons. First, I loved Scotch's writing in this novel. Jillian's voice was true and genuine. The attention to detail was excellent. Scotch crafted the novel in such a way that I couldn't put the book down. I had to know what happened next, and I read the novel in one sitting.

I think this book really resonated with me because we all wonder if we made the right decision about certain things in our lives, especially when our current situation is less than stellar. Having the chance to go back and do things over is something we think we all want, but as Jillian finds out, doing things differently from

the first go-round isn't as easy as we would think.

I highly recommend this novel. If you have never read anything by Allison Winn Scotch, this book is the one with which I would start.

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### **Trisha Smith says**

"Finally, when she was six weeks old, I heard her stir in her crib, so I dragged myself in to begin the routine: diaper, nurse, burp, sing, nap all over again. Katie was staring at her pink floral bumper guard and must have heard me enter. She startled and started to wail, and my insides curdled at the sound of it. But then, I poked my face over her crib, and she shifted her head and our eyes locked. She can see me! I thought. She hushed immediately, and a tiny smile crept across her pink rosebud lips. And I felt it: that rush akin to a drug-fueled high that mothers, explain as indescribable, that tug of love that knows no boundaries."

From the outside, Jillian appears to have the perfect life. Jillian strives to make a picture-perfect lifestyle for successful banker husband and eighteen-month old daughter - just like in the parent magazines that she obsessively reads. Even though Jillian does everything right, she struggles with her slowly faltering marriage and the day to day repetition of her life as a stay at home mom. When she hears that her ex-boyfriend Jackson is engaged, she starts thinking about what her life would have been like if she had married him instead.

Suddenly, Jillian is transported back in time seven years. She wakes up in her old apartment with Jackson where she works at her old job as an advertising agent. Jillian is forced to make herself fit in to her old life and she begins to think that it is much easier the second time around. Free from the duties of being married and parenthood, she is free to focus on her job and her personal life. She dodges past fights with Jackson, reconnects with her mother who abandoned the family, and saves her best friend from miscarriages. Things seem to be going great, except that she misses her daughter and starts to realize that her relationship with Jackson might not be as great as she once thought. Reliving the past turns out to be a lot more complicated than Jillian thought. Plus she keeps running into her husband Henry. Jillian starts to realize that maybe that problem wasn't her marriage or her mundane life, but herself. Now she is forced to choose between her life with Jackson and her marriage with Henry. And if she chooses Henry, she has to first figure out how to get back from her past.

I tend to enjoy women's fiction novels that have a little most substance, but I actually found this book very entertaining. I've read a lot of intense and "hard-issue" books lately so this was a nice change of pace. I found myself liking the character of Jillian (even though her "perfect life" made me roll my eyes more than a few times) and thought that the author did a good job of incorporating time travel without overdoing the details. I really liked how different aspects of the character's lives were slightly changed once Jillian arrived back in the past and thought that it was a very realistic portrayal of marriage and motherhood. The ending was rather surprising as well.

See my full review and others here: <http://onceuponatime-bookblog.blogspot.com>

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### **Robin Nicholas says**

It isn't a masterpiece or particularly great writing...but it was very interesting and thought provoking. Jillian is a 30-something, affluent, stay-at-home mom, who does pilates, has massages, and drives a Range Rover, however, she is very unsatisfied with her life. She gave up a successful Manhattan advertising career and moved to the suburbs to raise her daughter. Her husband travels non-stop and she is lonely. She often wonders "what if". What if she hadn't given up her career? What if she had married the guy BEFORE this one...the one she still pines for? What if.....?

One day she is transported BACK 7 years. She is given a chance at a "do-over" with the knowledge of what actually happened.

What I really liked about it is the fact that little changes in how she reacts to a conversation or an idea does make a difference. The sticky relationship with the ex-boyfriend's family COULD have been changed had she given here or there, or reacted differently. The exchanges with co-workers are different when she sees life from a more mature standpoint.

She moves through time again, in a slightly different way, while at the same time having "light-bulb" moments about her marriage in the "future".

Enjoyable, quick read.

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### **Melissa says**

Please, must we have more stories about women who have money enough for nannies because they don't like children but somehow feel obliged to fit the "perfect image" of never getting a clue or evolving into better people?!?!? (sigh)

The book itself was a bit disjointed, although the potential was really there for a great storyline. There was some (emphasis on "some") evolution of the character, but she repeated her mistakes so many times I wonder if she really got it. My favorite scene in the story is toward the very end, when the father comes running after the daughter, and because I don't want to spoil it (any more than this negative review), I will just say I love what he says to her. However, so many characters in this book just seemed to not have a clue and be OK with that. Selfish, self-absorbed stories are not for me.

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### **Libriar says**

Very fast read. If it didn't read so fast, I don't know if I would have finished it. The end of the book was satisfying but I got bored throughout most of the book. I really didn't connect with the main character...most of the time she annoyed me.

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