



This Strange and Familiar Place

Rachel Carter

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THESE ARE THE THINGS of which Lydia is now certain:

The Montauk Project has been experimenting with time travel for years.

The Project's subjects are "recruits" from across time, recruits like Wes, Lydia's ally, friend, and love.

The Project is now responsible for the disappearance of two members of her family...

And they're coming for Lydia next.

This thrilling sequel to *So Close to You* explores how far we'll go to save the people we love - and what happens after you change the future.

This Strange and Familiar Place Details

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From Reader Review This Strange and Familiar Place for online ebook

Mel Raschke says

This thrilling sequel to *So Close to You* explores how far we'll go to save the people we love--and what happens after you change the future. These are the things of which Lydia is now certain:

The Montauk Project has been experimenting with time travel for years. The Project's subjects are "recruits" from across time. Recruits like Wes: Lydia's ally, friend, and love. The Project is now responsible for the disappearance of two members of her family. . . .

And they're coming for Lydia next.

Dianne says

Also posted at Oops! I Read A Book Again

Thank you to HarperCollins International for the review copy! This in no way affected my views of the novel.

HOLY GODS OF TIME TRAVEL, I THANK YOU FOR RACHEL CARTER.

With how *SO CLOSE TO YOU* ended, Rachel Carter left readers demanding about *WHAT HAPPENED* and *WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN* in the sequel. So when I got my hands on *THIS STRANGE AND FAMILIAR PLACE*, I dived into it immediately. Because I needed to know. *NEED*. And boy did TSAFP deliver on all my questions. But as great sequels go, it only raised even more questions and made me hungrier for more answers. I'm greedy like that.

Lydia and Wes travel back in time to 1989 in TSAFP. Wes is in a mission and Lydia tags along, to be with Wes and to plot together his freedom. I'll be partly mum about the plot because not knowing is part of the fun. But let's just say that it deals with the changes our main characters did back in 1944 and them trying to right the wrong they've inflicted in the past. At first, Lydia's wary of changing the timeline yet again but then it seems like they need to and it's inevitable.

On the conspiracy front of the Montauk Project, Lydia and Wes learn more about the inner workings of the project, which puts their lives in even more danger. More danger, more action and more stakes equals a tightly plotted and thrilling novel in our hands.

Moreover, being in 1989, makes it Wes's original timeline. Lydia has been an open book since the first book but even after *SO CLOSE TO YOU* ended, Wes still remained as that mysterious boy. We don't know much about him. We know close to none about him. Being in his supposed timeline lest he didn't become a recruit of the Montauk Project, we got to see who Wes was prior to the project. Layer by layer, we got to peel off and get to know more of Wes. We got to read his playful side, his smiling self, and we even meet his friends back then. He's not just the mysterious boy now.

More importantly, we also see Lydia grow. As I mentioned in my SO CLOSE TO YOU review, although I admire Lydia for loving her grandfather so much enough to risk her life and the whole world, it was also a bit stupid and insane for me. In here, we see how the changes she brought into the present timeline changed her as well. She is now more wary of changing anything as she learned that the hard way. I was looking for that growth in her and now I got it and I love it.

Similar to SO CLOSE TO YOU, Rachel Carter has written side characters so fun and enjoyable to read about. LJ! Tag! Nikki! I love them all and it was sad to part with them. I just had a blast reading THIS STRANGE AND FAMILIAR PLACE because it has the elements I need to keep me reading page after page: characters I'm invested in, romance I'm even more invested in (WES AND LYDIA KISSING. OH AND KISSING AGAIN. I'm a happy reader.), questions I can't wait to be answered, mysteries I want to be solved, missions, issues on morality, etc etc. This novel just had me from start to finish.

That pre-ending though??? IT GUTTED ME. But thank you Rachel, thank you for the ACTUAL ending. Like Lydia, I feel hopeful. Curious what I'm talking about and spazzing about? You sure are! So go now and read THIS STRANGE AND FAMILIAR PLACE. Astounding sequel, with even deeper and complicated mysteries and the subsequent reveals, and more challenges and obstacles to face for Wes and Lydia to be together. Gah, love this sequel even more and HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? All time travel romance lovers, get on this series STAT!

Kyren says

I liked it and can't wait for the next one. It ends in such a bad spot!

Maia says

GAHHH!!! Can't wait!! I lovvveed the first book!

Kelsey says

The twists and turns keep coming in this sequel to So Close To You. These books keep building up so that I can't wait to find out how it all turns out. On to book three!

Kim says

Are you effing kidding me? I've just finished this book and, okay, Rachel Carter. I'm giving this a 4 star rating because, if nothing else, that twist actually hit me like a punch in the gut. I find myself heartbroken by twists fairly often. But it's rare when I feel sucker punched by one. So great job on that alone if nothing else.

I'm fairly certain if you enjoyed the first book there's nothing here that would keep you from enjoying this one. I actually enjoyed Book 2 more. 1989 NYC is far more interesting to me than WWII Montauk and the secondary characters I found much more interesting. Getting to know and learn more about Wes and his past

was great too. Lots of sweet little romantic moments and a gut punching, tear your heart out twist. Yup. Sounds like something I like.

I'm looking forward to Book #3. I am very intrigued as to (view spoiler)

Megan says

Not even a synopsis yet?!? Can't wait to see what happens next!

Ruth Ho says

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Laura's Book Addiction says

Love it!!

Cari Beth says

That plot twist tho!!!!!!

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

I really have to reread this series to review it.

When I see the ridiculous amount of reviews, I'm just - well, *you know...*

Because passed the first half of *So close to you*? **Pure awesomeness.**

Any volunteers to go with me?

Ally says

Wow. It's been a long time since I am completely excited about a sequel. (Perhaps ever since I read Unravel Me and completed it?)

This Strange and Familiar Place is an amazing book that enchanted me from the very beginning. I thought I was going to hate this book (because of my particular dislike for time traveling books and multiple timelines). Instead, This Strange and Familiar Place (what a mouthful of words and title) went back to So Close To You and did a short recap whenever necessary. Furthermore, This Strange and Familiar Place rarely caused any confusion for me. (It's a nice change for once. To not be confused in a book).

The plot is crazy. Insane like The Blessed. And it goes by a lot faster than The Blessed, which is written is a shocking three to four hundred pages. And this book is only written in about two hundred and fifty. It goes nuts and haywire. And I love how fast the plot went, yet also how perfectly paced it was. Perfectly paced enough for me to not get lost.

The wording of This Strange and Familiar Place definitely helped me keep up. Names and titles and obvious references were a great help when it comes to time traveling. I tip my gray and worn hat to Rachel Carter, who did a much better job in this book than So Close to You (aka and, in case you didn't pick up the hint, the first book in this series). Good planning.

The ending is beautiful. Beautiful. I loved it and I want to know... Oh, I just want to tell you all and reveal everything. Unfortunately, (if you haven't read this book) you are going to hate me. So much that you'll send me to coldest pits.

Lydia is awesome in this book. I love how her character is starting to show the tougher side of herself. I love how her naiveness (is this even a word?) is starting to wear off. She's getting better and better with each book.

And Wes...oh...I love this guy. I love this guy. I love this guy. And I'm not going to tell you why because...oh...too many spoilers.

Rating: Five out of Five

-ofpaperandwords.blogspot.com

Andrea says

Once again I'm really surprised that I found a time travel book so interesting. I couldn't put it down! Reading back over the review of the first book in the series, I didn't seem to like Wes much. I liked him much more this time around. I believed in his relationship with Lydia this time.

It was interesting to see how everything was connected. And to see how one little event in time can affect future events. I liked the side characters of Tag, Nikki, and LJ. They each had their own little personalities

and I grew to really like them.

The end really threw me for a loop. I was ready to throw my book against a wall. Luckily everything was right-ed (is that even the correct way to use the word?) in the last 3 pages and I was okay with it. I'm dying to get my hands on the third book in the series!

Selena Yukino (The Lioness: hear me roar) says

Rating before reread: 4 stars

Rating after reread 4.5 stars

2/25/17: Reread.

2/25/17: Finished with reread.

Alexandra Bayer says

Lydia is back in 2012, but it's not the same time she knows. She may still live in the same house with her parents and have the same friends, but all of her relationships with them are different. The Lydia whose life she is now living was different. So when Wes, the boy she fell in love with when they were in 1944, comes to check up on her, Lydia knows that she has to do something to try and make her time right again. Posing as one of the Montauk Project's recruits, she manages to sneak through the time machine on a mission with Wes, back to the 1980s. There she finds her grandfather, who is missing in the 2012 she'd returned to, as well as her great-grandfather, whom she hadn't seen since her visit to 1944. Except neither seem to remember her, which makes helping them return to their proper times difficult. Lydia must be careful, because the Montauk Project always has people watching - and these people will do anything to keep their timelines safe from tampering.

I was very eagerly anticipating this novel after finishing *So Close to You*. Although this book was very good and did meet my standards set after its prequel, I can't say that I enjoyed it entirely as much as the first book. I think that part of this has to do with the setting, and resulting characters. *So Close to You* was based in 1944 in a more rural setting, and most of the characters were Lydia's family. *This Strange and Familiar Place* was set in the '80s, in dirty New York, and the characters were children who lived on the streets. Even though there was danger to Lydia in the first book, the setting was comfortable. This story took away all comfort, and since the time was closer to modern, there wasn't as much excitement in the time travel aspect. The setting contributes a lot to my enjoyment of a book, so I definitely think that this novel's setting is part of the reason I didn't like it quite as much as the first.

This novel definitely amped up the intensity though. Not even just the danger, but the characters, and the seriousness of their situations. There was a lot more depth to the main characters (and it's not like they weren't already well-written in the first book). In my review of the previous book, I mentioned that Lydia and Wes's relationship seemed very real. That stayed true for this novel, although there wasn't as much

romance. There were, however, more problems between them, and more secret-sharing. I found that as this novel grew more serious, my reactions grew more pronounced. I wouldn't say it's uncommon for me to gasp out loud while reading, but it certainly takes a big surprise. This book had everything necessary to keep me hooked and on high alert.

I really enjoyed how the ending was written, in both books. In the first book, it seemed as though everything would be okay, until there was a plot twist. That was enough to make me read this novel, but it wasn't so much that I lay obsessing over it at night. The same sort of ending was written in this sequel. There was a HUGE plot twist, but then there was a small section at the end that laid the readers' minds to ease, just slightly. I still want to read the next book, perhaps even more than I wanted to read this one after finishing the first. Although there are plot twists, which I normally dislike, they aren't so big as to make me temporarily hate the author for making me wait to read the next book. Rather, I can appreciate the timing of Rachel Carter's major moments.

Although I didn't love this book quite as much as I did the previous one, I still did very much like it. I'm definitely going to read the third and final book, and I hope that Carter can sufficiently wrap everything up, because right now there are still many things left hanging. I would give this book a rating of four stars. I tore through it, finishing it very quickly (although it wasn't a particularly long book). I'd recommend this story to readers who are seeking realistic characters, time travel, and government conspiracies.
