



## Paradox Child

*Jane Yates*

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Lilly's family has an extraordinary secret, one they have kept for four generations. Lilly's proud to be different and special. At Halloween she's happy to stay at home and cast spells with her mum and her Grandmother rather than go out trick or treating like the other kids. At 12 years old, she thinks she knows it all.

But then Lilly becomes unsettled by odd events, like seeing the sinister man in the white shoes staring at her while she walks the dogs, and then local children start to go missing. When her mum doesn't come back from one of her regular night-time jaunts, Lilly's Grandmother thinks it's time to tell her the whole story. Lilly has second thoughts about whether her family's secret is a blessing, or a curse...

## Paradox Child Details

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Author : Jane Yates

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## From Reader Review Paradox Child for online ebook

### Natalie says

Paradox Child by J. Yates Book 1

The story is about Lilly a girl who is brought up by her Mum and her Gran, who are both as wiccans and also time traveller. Lilly learns of the family secret when her Mum doesn't return home and Lilly's gran becomes unwell and it's down to Lilly to go back in time to bring her back.

There are mysteries, tragedy's and unanswered questions through the book.

The book is written in a narrative style and has a unique way to it, though sometimes I found that the narrator flicked over serious or important things that I felt needed more explanation or clarification.

The book does have grammatical errors with added words, spaces missing between some words and misspellings. If you can get past this and the slightly frustrating narrator, the story is actually a good one.

I will read the next book in the series to see how the story continues.

Book 2 – Therianthropy

Book 3 – Original Destination

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### Emily says

Really good, gripping story with exciting cliffhanger.

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### Chriskeppie says

Delightful characters in a wonderful mix (or rather, interface) of the ordinary and extraordinary.

Young Lilly lives in a normal house in Oxford, attends school (fairly regularly), and has spaniels, friends, romance, bereavement, marmalade sandwiches and lots of cakes. And (whilst Dad's not about), a Mum and Gran who matter of factly teach her Latin, botany, and spells! Oh yes, and how to time travel..

Chapter divisions cleverly move the story along, introducing enchanting nuggets of history, anthropology, philosophy, science, art, stories and cultures from around Britain and the world, whilst also endlessly playing with that juxtaposition of mundanity and magic. It's something else! Jane Yates clearly brings much first hand knowledge and love to this debut book - children, Oxford and its wonderful museums, art, gardening, curiosities, alternative ways and understandings, etc - and this writing from the heart, as well as the head, helps make the story so very gripping.

In her biography, Yates describes herself as 'dreamer and dyslexic', which perhaps explains why some idiosyncratic spelling and punctuation still made it through editing. Yet these symptoms of the latter

description are rendered entirely irrelevant by the former - she has dared to dream in taking on the huge challenge of expressing herself in fiction (as well as art which has come more naturally to her previously), and this is hugely inspirational in many ways. Her combination of simple everyday prose and structure, with some exquisite stories and phrases ('the sky was the colour of pain's grey'), beautifully mirrors the story's play between the mundane here and now, and the magical other.

I've loved reading this book, and found the conclusion both satisfying in itself, whilst also lending itself to the exciting possibility of sequels. I'd highly recommend *Paradox Child* to readers both young and old, and congratulate Jane Yates on a fantastic first novel.

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## **Book Raiders says**

**The Paradox Child: A review written by Book Raiders**

This book is aimed at young readers approx. 12 years of age, however, don't let that discourage you. I found it enjoyable. Author J. Yates's key characters have a dynamic that moves the story along. It is fascinating how the author uses magic and science combined with ancient history as a catalyst.

The little girl Lilly a curious twelve-year-old learnt more about her past when her mother disappeared.

Her grandmother lives with them and is ill, so when Lilly's mother doesn't return one night she takes care of her. It is from her enchanting grandmother she learnt about her unique history, and the time travelling that encompasses her parents' past. She is taught by her grandmother how to find her mother and bring her back.

This story uses a time travel reminiscent of H. G. Wells, and I found that enchanting. There is a great interaction between Lilly and her grandmother, and as a reader who became deeply interested in the character, I found myself thinking about my grandmother as I read about her. She treats her granddaughter with much love that comes through very well.

The author is clearly acquainted with the central museum this story revolves around, and her knowledge is expressed in a lovely sense throughout the book. I enjoyed reading about the history and the museum itself as well as other historical elements.

There are areas of science and complex explanations, about relativity, time travel and black holes; however, that wove into the plot well. It did not distract me as the reader. Those particular subjects can be tedious to write about without losing the reader, but that did not happen with this book.

I think the story about her father was quaint and quite a hook for more speculation and exploration about her past. It adds a dimension and so many more possibilities. There is a witchcraft element running through the family that adds the mystery behind the plot. I think it accelerates and sets the characters in their unique places.

I enjoyed the way the final chapter wrapped all the loose ends up and the mystery about that odd man hovering about her neighbourhood seen throughout the chapters. The situation with her mysterious friend Anna is developing very well. There appear to be parallels with Anna and her family and people from Lilly's family's past. The reference to my all-time favourite sci-fi series Doctor Who was an unexpected treat, as well as the mention of Tom Baker, my all-time favourite Doctor of them all. That was a lovely touch!

I would recommend this charming book. The central character develops and embeds herself into your mind's

eye as you read. This reader gives it five stars. The Paradox Child is greatly creative and enjoyable.

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### **Christina Browne says**

Lilly and her mum Rose and her grandma Iris are magical. Her mum gets stuck in time and it's up to Lilly to go get her full of adventures for Lilly children missing then come back confused and dazed. Lilly meets some new friend one called Ann, Maggie and Jim and reunites with Jack one of her friends from Scotland. I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next one.

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### **Andrea Renee Smith says**

I do not normally read this genre. I found very fascinating and would recommend to anyone.

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### **Colleen Pyles says**

What a fun, magical read!!!

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### **Jack says**

Time travel is the focus of Jane Yates' debut novel, *Paradox Child*. The child in question is twelve-year-old Lilly, a slightly shy girl with a delightfully inquisitive mind and a pretty unconventional family. Whilst a lot of eighties kids might have spent their time playing *Hungry Hungry Hippos* or watching *The A-Team*, Lilly is more concerned with practicing the art of magic with her mother and grandmother. But when her mother fails to return from one of her mysterious excursions, it's up to Lilly to put her skills into action and track her down.

Unfortunately for Lilly, however, her mother hasn't just got lost down the shops, she's lost in time. Luckily, Lilly's grandmother (one of the book's most beautifully-written characters) knows a thing or three about a machine which, when combined with magical expertise, can transport Lilly through the ages in order to locate her mother.

The machine is housed at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford (an institution the author is familiar with) and Lilly's Grandmother slowly reveals the history behind the machine's creation to her Granddaughter. It's these fascinating nuggets which are perhaps the major highlight of the book, especially considering Lilly's Grandmother explains the machine's conception in the context of Pitt Rivers' extraordinary life.

The book is written in an engrossing style, with simple, lyrical writing and gorgeous, childlike observations. For example, at one point Lilly notes how herons remind her of dinosaurs. However, the plot, with its references to quantum physics and numerous threads, is a fairly complicated one. But, thanks to Yates' skill as a storyteller, this combination does work creating a rare transitional book which bridges the gap between children's fiction and YA fiction.

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## **Gwendolyn Plano says**

Paradox Child draws the reader into an unusual family of magical women. Though written for YA readers (with ventures that include witchcraft and time travel), it intrigued me throughout. The characters (including pets) are well-developed and charming.

I look forward to reading the next two books and to passing the series to my grandchildren.

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## **Jane Blanchard says**

Paradox Child by J Yates ("re-edited version by the marvellous Mr Chris Keppie") is the first of three books. I really can't call it a series, more like installments of one book. Paradox Child ends abruptly and without conclusion, making me wonder just what happened to the storyline. There isn't even a "to be continued." I felt really dissatisfied until I picked up the second book which started just after the last incident in the first book. This second book has no backfill; it is just a continuation of the story. I had a feeling the work was too long for a YA book, and the author merely divided the long tale into three sections. With that in mind, the three-book story is filled with mystery, time travel, science, interesting characters, romance, friendships, spells, and even a recipe for Maharaja cake.

The printed version has large margins around the edges, which is curious. In book three, I found out why. The space is for the reader to add notes and make drawings. Without this white space, the book would be a third of its size. If you like to puzzle out the plot with notes and drawings, purchase the printed version.

The story is about Lily and her family of time-travelers. The steam-operated time machine is in a hidden basement of the Pitt River Museum in Oxford (real place). A secret passageway provides access to the time machine, which only works with magic. For four generations, the women in Lily's family have traveled back in time, but at what expense? What are the repercussions?

The first book Paradox Child introduces Lily, her mom Rose, and grandmother Isis. All the women in this family are named after flowers. Each woman is magical and it is interesting to see them cast spells. Lily is taught to keep her knowledge of magic secret. Then she finds out that the family has a bigger secret—they are time travelers, and her mum is stuck in time. Lily must rescue her. In addition to time travel, children are disappearing, a strangely dressed man stalks Lily, and Lily is introduced to the Grandfather Paradox concept. Lots of strange happenings!

In book one, Lily's character is the most developed, but lacks emotional depth. She just doesn't seem to react like a thirteen-year-old. The mom's character is also flat and appears to be there just to make countless cups of tea and give insights into time travel and magic. There also seems to be a lot of holes in the plot which never get explained (until book three). Apart from that, and the countless spelling and grammatical errors, the story is entertaining and I recommend it for young adults who enjoy reading fantasy, and only if they plan to read all three of the books.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I was really looking for more to this story. So much time was spent working up to the missing children, that the events around the time machine seemed forced. I also felt that the language was condescending, even for a YA novel. In the end I was left disappointed and underwhelmed.

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### **Angel says**

I have given this book an okay rating. I did struggle with some parts of it because it felt as if they were meandering, not having a clear relationship with the underlying plot or at times a sense of purpose. For example, it felt as if the section at the end involving Maggie was bolted on - to me it should have been the beginning of another adventure. That having been said I read the book to the end (which I wouldn't have done had it not been engaging), the characters of Lily and Iris in particular drew me in, and there were occasional touches of real flair - the description of the burgeoning relationship between Lily and Jack in particular. So I will be reading the next instalment.

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### **Steven says**

The plot behind the story was good, but the grammar was horrible. For reference, I read this ebook on my iPhone and noticed as many as 3 or 4 mistakes per page with an average of 1 per page. Despite the numerous mistakes, the plot was interesting enough to keep me hooked.

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### **Kindle Ninja says**

Time travel. Check.

Magic. Check.

History. Check.

Quantum physics. Check.

Romance. Check.

Steampunk. Check.

Kitchen sink...

Okay, you get the idea.

There are many things going on in this story. Concepts that fascinate me are all covered, and then some. This

is an adventure wrapped in mystery, mixing fantasy and reality (e.g. the time machine is hidden in Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford – yeah, that ought to blur the lines between fact and fiction).

There is plenty to like. But there is a downside – the main plot can be lost in the sea of subplots (that is if you're easily distracted by a bombardment of concepts and narrative elements - I know I am). It feels like this part of the series is unnecessarily long. Or perhaps the seemingly inconsequential events would have their meaning explored later in the series.

The fusion of concepts is fascinating to read. It's intelligent (reading it made me a little smarter hah!), but most of all, it's damn imaginative.

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### **Meghann Doyle says**

Beyond all the classic things, like well developed characters and interesting plot progression, this book was terrific. It has spirit.

The framework of setting description and foreshadowing is solid and graceful. The science of time travel is not an easy or very often a graceful subject. Yates has rewritten the rules. This book not only made the theories of space and time travel seem simple, but perfectly obtainable. All the while entertaining too. At no point did I feel like I had left the immediate story to be told how to understand it. All the necessary information is packaged up in the action naturally.

The characters are believable and likeable. The main character Lilly is thoughtful and just bold enough to get the job done without stirring up too much trouble. She holds the lead well without being conveniently over intelligent to drive the plot. The supporting characters all fit fluidly into Lilly's thoughts and actions. While all the characters are multidimensional, Lilly maintains the action herself.

The relationships within the story are touching and dynamic. Lilly's school friend Mary is a breath of fresh air. Her closeness with Lilly is sweet while kept at arm's length as she does not know of Lilly's home life. Lilly's warmth towards her grandmother reminded me of my own, and made me pick up the phone more than once.

It's a terrific thing when a book full to the brim with flawlessly articulated science can be equally as full with compelling human emotion.

Whether you're a science fiction buff or this would be your first, this book is a must read. I'll be anxiously awaiting the next in this fantastic series.

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