



## **A Year and a Day**

*Isabelle Broom*

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# A Year and a Day

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**A Year and a Day** Isabelle Broom

**A heartwarming and heartbreaking story about love and life in one of Europe's most romantic cities, Prague.**

**'Evocative, will clutch at your heart. Perfect escapism is a winter evening'** *Sunday Mirror*

**Welcome to a city where wishes are everywhere**

For Megan, a winter escape to Prague with her friend Ollie is a chance to find some inspiration for her upcoming photography exhibition. But she's determined to keep their friendship from becoming anything more. Because if Megan lets Ollie find out about her past, she risks losing everything - and she won't let that happen again . . .

For Hope, the trip is a surprise treat from Charlie, her new partner. But she's struggling to enjoy the beauty of the city when she knows how angry her daughter is back home. And that it's all her fault . . .

For Sophie, the city has always been a magical place. This time she can't stop counting down the moments until her boyfriend Robin joins her. But in historic Prague you can never escape the past . . .

**Three different women.**

**Three intertwining love stories.**

**One unforgettable, timeless city.**

'The city is evoked in wonderful detail. An unashamedly romantic tale. There is plenty of love, laughter and tragedy to get the pages turning' *Sunday Express*

'Think love, laughter and tears all shaken up in a Prague snowglobe. Just fab'  
Claire Frost, *Fabulous Magazine*

'A real escapist read' *My Weekly*

## A Year and a Day Details

Date : Published November 17th 2016 by Penguin

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Author : Isabelle Broom

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# From Reader Review A Year and a Day for online ebook

## Ellen Read says

A Year and a Day  
by Isabelle Broom

### Blurb

For Megan, a winter escape to Prague with her friend Ollie is a chance to find some inspiration for her upcoming photography exhibition. But she's determined to keep their friendship from becoming anything more. Because if Megan lets Ollie find out about her past, she risks losing everything - and she won't let that happen again . . .

For Hope, the trip is a surprise treat from Charlie, her new partner. But she's struggling to enjoy the beauty of the city when she knows how angry her daughter is back home. And that it's all her fault . . .

For Sophie, the city has always been a magical place. This time she can't stop counting down the moments until her boyfriend Robin joins her. But in historic Prague you can never escape the past . . .

Three different women.

Three intertwining love stories.

One unforgettable, timeless city.

### My Review

I loved this wonderfully romantic story filled with laughter and tears. I haven't been to Prague, but now, I feel as if I have been there.

Isabelle Broom brought the city to life, as she did the characters in her story. I felt every emotion, every joy and every sadness.

I highly recommend this book. If you want an escapist read, this is for you.

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## sue says

This starts off with a woman going to throw herself off a bridge in Prague. Then.....he arrives.

Next chapters take you back in time.

We have three different women, different times.

I found this a thought provoking intense read.  
Absolutely super.

I have to check out more of this authors books.

My thanks to Penguin Uk via Net galley

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## **Cece says**

<https://clavieco.wordpress.com/2019/0...>

Let's take a second to appreciate the cover. It is the perfect cosy read as it shows adventure and festivity all in one image.

The cast of characters she created... I really enjoyed hearing about the women's point of views. Isabelle has packed her novel with an incredible group of people that even after turning the final page you want to stay friends with. However as a novel that is supposed to progress I felt in terms of that it did not move at a faster pace which for me the novel needs to have a faster rate to read through the novel.

The other downfalls I found with this novel is that – realistically it is too much of a coincidence in how these couples bumped into each other in all the same places.

Secondly, the male characters. I am not sexist however the way the male characters were portrayed annoyed me; Charlie, running off to make secretive phone calls, refusing to tell Hope who he is talking to. As well as saying she was making up the fact that he was on the phone and it's her that is in the wrong for not just trusting him. \*eye roll\*

A Year and a Day transports the reader to a magical and moving setting. Whilst sharing heartwarming and heartbreaking moments. Though be warned: as soon as you open the pages you will start researching a trip to Prague.

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## **Helen says**

There's nothing wrong with the writing style, it's warm, well paced and easy to read, I curled up on the sofa with a big cup of tea and flew through it.

There are far too many coincidences to make a truly convincing plot. I wasn't too bothered by it but the couples keep bumping into each other, ending up in the same cafes and walking through reception at the same time, Megan keeps coming across and photographing things Sophie and Rob left behind on their previous visits.

My big problem with it is the manipulative behaviour and gaslighting from the male characters.

Charlie spends his time running off to make secretive phone calls, refuses to tell Hope who he is talking to, then gaslights her by saying that she was making up the fact that he was on the phone and it's her that is in the wrong for not just trusting him.

Ollie is even worse. He pretends to be Megan's friend because really he wants more from her and he's hoping he can change her mind. He invites her to Prague (but she has to share a double bed with him), spends all his time on the holiday flirting with her and dropping little hints that he wants something more from her, then falls out with her when she gives in to him but is still confused by it.

There's a word for people that pretend to be a friend just to get close to someone. It's not genuine friendship when they're there only to wait for the right moment to pounce, to use the trust and affection they've built up to try to get their 'friend' into bed.

If it wasn't for the men it would be a decent three-star book because I liked the way the author writes, the female characters were warm and vulnerable and human, and at its core, it is basically a love letter to Prague.

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### **Kim says**

This book was truly amazing- I was totally lost within the pages until I came to the end. I didn't want to let the characters go and I fell in love with Prague through the beautiful descriptions. I really feel as though I could visit and recognise all the pretty places described throughout the book- and Prague has definitely entered my winter wish list of places to visit one day.

The characters go through the whole range of emotions- dealing with wonderful friendships, new romances, family issues, heartbreak and breakups, hope and despair at times.

The cover is really beautiful and would make me want to pick the book up and the story was one of those that will stay with me for a long time. I am really looking forward to reading more books by Isabelle Broom.

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### **Louise Wilson says**

Three love stories about three different women have all went to Prague. Megan for business. Hope's is a surprise trip for her new partner. Sophie is counting time till her boyfriend meets her there.

I quite liked this tale of romance.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Penguin UK - Michael Joseph and the author Isabelle Broom for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Anne says**

There is something very very special about Isabelle Broom. I absolutely loved her first book, My Map of You. It was set in Greece and for me, was pure book perfection. In A Year and a Day she whisks her readers off to the city of Prague, alongside a cast of wonderfully created characters, and once more she's completely and totally stolen my heart.

The novel opens with a short, but heart-stopping prologue. An unnamed character, suffering, lonely and grief stricken. In just a few paragraphs, Isabelle Broom conveys such emotion and passion, this is the hook that

draws in the reader, and she continues to wind you further and further into this truly magical story.

Three couples, well two and a half really, all in Prague for a short break. Three very different couples, there for different reasons, but all with their own problems and stories to tell.

Megan and Ollie are just good friends. They briefly toyed with the idea of a romantic relationship some time ago, but it didn't go anywhere. They are in Prague so that Ollie can learn more about the city before teaching his pupils, and Megan wants to take photographs for her upcoming exhibition. Hope and Charlie are older. Their relationship is new, and is filled with unease and sorrow. Hope's

daughter Annette is horrified by her Mother's betrayal of her Father, and has sworn never to speak to her again. Hope's happiness at finding Charlie after years of an unhappy marriage is tainted by her sorrow about Annette. Finally, there's Sophie; young, gentle, frail and something of a mystery to the others. Sophie tells them all about her boyfriend Robin, who will join her in a few days time. Robin is the love of her life, her other half, she can't live without him.

Isabelle Broom explores the intricate details of these three relationships so very well. Her writing is astute, powerful and very emotionally charged. Yet, despite the emotion, this is not sentimental or sickly sweet. The characters are not perfect, they have their own flaws. At times their decisions can be frustrating to the reader, but this is what makes them so incredibly human, and believable.

When I read the author's first novel, I felt happily at home in the Greek setting, and whilst I have never visited the city of Prague, I feel now that I know it so well. The incredible detail in this story about his beautiful city is wonderful. The author clearly knows her way around the place, and takes her readers to every nook and cranny, not just the traditional tourist spots either. She has created a setting that has become another character, with the clocks, the snow, the strudel and the hot wine.

When I reviewed Isabelle Broom's first book, I tried not to gush. I'm trying not to gush now too, but oh my goodness, *A Year and a Day* really is so so special. This author can certainly take her place alongside well established authors such as Jojo Moyes and Rowan Coleman. It really is a triumph.

<http://randomthingsthroughmyletterbox...>

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### **Trish at Between My Lines says**

Aw that was a lovely read. Full of the power of female friendships and set in magical Prague. Perfect setting for this charming read.

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### **Irena says**

**Real rating: 3,75**

This year I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to read Isabelle Broom's debut novel *My Map Of You*. I completely fell in love with the story and Broom's writing style (the book is in my top 5 books I read in 2016), so when I found out her second novel was also coming out this year, I was thrilled.

A Year and a Day immediately became one of my most anticipated releases of 2016.

This novel follows three different stories that intertwine, every story centered around another woman. The stories take place in Prague, during period of 5 days, around Christmas time.

**Megan** came to Prague with her friend Ollie who has feelings for her. She doesn't want to gamble their friendship into becoming something more. Although it could be risky, Prague sounds too good to pass. After all, she might find an inspiration for her upcoming photography exhibition in that magical city.

**Hope** goes to Prague with her new boyfriend, who gave her a trip to that place as a Christmas gift. She recently left her husband and now is on bad terms with her daughter because of that. She would do anything to make piece with her, but she also has an urge to live the life she never had for the first time ever, to find her indenpendency and to be a part of passionate relatonship.

**Sophie** came to Prague to be with her boyfriend, who'll came few days after her arrival. Prague has a special place in their hearts, as it's the city where they met each other for the first time.

**From those three stories, Sophie's was one that was the most interesting to me.**

Other two weren't exciting and if I'm being honest, I found them boring at times.

**The writing style is simply amazing.** Broom captured the beauty of Prague perfectly and I guarantee you, after reading this book, you will probably want to visit that place.

I was in Prague myself years ago, but after reading this book, I'd like to visit it again and see the beauty and culture once again with new eyes. Now when I'm older, I would appreciate everything that Prague offers so much more then I did then.

**The writing consists of so many beautiful descriptions, but less character conversations.**

I liked it that way, but if you're looking for a fast paced book, this isn't the one.

**This book is the one you should take your time with.**

The story is **written in third person**.

I wish the book had no overture (or prologue). The first sentence is absolutely astonishing, but in my opinion that part of the book spoils the big surprise that was revealed closer to an end.

I suspected what was going on from the very beginning of the story, and my guess was right.

**Every single character of the story is realistic.**

You could meet people like them in your every day life anytime.

I can't say I liked one character more then the other, but I can say who I'd probably get along with and who I wouldn't, if I ever cross my paths with any of them.

(I'd get along with Sophie, and wouldn't get along with Megan or Charlie.)

The ending was really good.

I was satisfied with it's realness.

If you ever decide to go and visit Prague, I would recommend you to read this book prior that trip.

It brings the bauty of the city close to reader and it could be really helpful when you have to decide what places in Prague you'd like to see.



**I would recommend this book to readers of general fiction who like for their books to explore human relationships as well as inner thoughts.**

Even though it wasn't as brilliant as *My Map of You*, *A Year and a Day* is a nice festive novel that, I truly believe, will be recognized by many readers for its delightful writing.

Broom's third book should be released in April 2017 and I already can't wait to read it.

*Read this and more reviews on my blog: <http://bookdustmagic.wordpress.com>*

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#### **While reading:**

I am so happy and excited to read this book!

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#### **Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says**

I was approved for *A Year and a Day* on NetGalley quite a while ago but only within the last week have been able to read it starting on a train journey and finishing one day out in the bright morning sun which was warm and enjoyable. After having reviewed Isabelle's novel *My Map of You* for Penguin Random House last year and enjoyed it, *A Year and a Day* is set during the winter in the beautiful European city of Prague. The characters include friends Megan and Ollie, Hope and Charlie who are partners and Sophie who is waiting for her boyfriend Robin to fly out to join them. *A Year and a Day* explores three separate love stories with realistic and emotional portrayals.

I liked Megan's interests in photography as a character. It is very refreshing to read about a photographer since I am one myself and am always looking for characters in a novel that I can relate to. Each character had their own struggles of regret, loneliness and dealing with memories and scars from the past. The world building was very detailed but not causing info dumps, instead, in the bright summer sun, I felt chilly and that snow surrounded me just because it was a visual read.

Towards the end of the book, there was an event regarding the character of Sophie which may be a little triggering for readers. However, Prague was a gorgeous setting for a novel about the lives of people and their attempts to feel a little sense of joy and love.

I will be reading more books by Isabelle!

Things I loved:

- Worldbuilding
- Megan and her photography

Things I wasn't keen on:

- The triggering event with Sophie

Would I recommend this?: Yes

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Wattpad: [www.Wattpad.com/AliceTheWriter7](https://www.Wattpad.com/AliceTheWriter7)

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## **Rachel Gilbey says**

Simply one of the most captivating stories I have read this year. Isabelle Broom is definitely a master author in the making and is fast becoming a must read instantly authors, especially after having read *A Year and a Day*.

The story follows three couples as they spent a week in Prague, a few weeks before Christmas. Let's start with Prague itself, a charismatic and historic backdrop to this unputdownable story. I have been to the city a couple of times at winter, and definitely agree with the mentions of the cold. I also have been to a few of the places mentioned in the story and could recognise them. My overwhelming feeling from the story is that the descriptions and history told of the city, were fabulously accurate, and I had a real sense that I was in the city along side all the characters.

Prague really is a beautiful city and its true that everything is withing walking distance. There is a story told about someone on the Charles Bridge, which I have a weird feeling I heard while I was in the city myself, so there was a lot that rings true about the book, plus of course the cheap food and drink!

Megan is looking on her trip to Prague as a way to regain some inspiration as a photographer, as she has an upcoming exhibition to fill. She is in Prague with her best friend Ollie. It is clear they are close and that Ollie wants more, but whether Megan will unlock her heart to him, is another matter .

Hope has recently come out of a marriage and is being treated to the trip to Prague by boyfriend Charlie. She is struggling with how unhappy her daughter is with this situation, and the days in the city, really do open her eyes to life a bit more.

Sophie is there alone, waiting for her soul mate of a boyfriend to join her in a few days time. She has unlike the others been to the city many times, and knows all the off the beaten track things to do. However there is a lot more to her than is first apparent.

As the narrative switches focus between the three leading ladies, we see the truth in each of their partnerships, and receive great insight as to the various dynamics as work, in addition to seeing Prague

through a series of different viewpoints.

Some of the characters were harder to gel with than others, but overall I really liked all of them. The book had me hooked from around half way, and the writing felt quite mature, and was a joy to read.

I'm not really sure how to express coherently how much I loved reading *A Year and a Day* but can assure anyone who is a bit undecided that its a fantastic story, and it does plenty to hold your attention and even give you a couple of jaw dropping moments.

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Michael Joseph for my copy of this book. This is my honest opinion.

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## **Tripfiction says**

“There’s something magical about this city. You can feel it. There’s something in the air here, like a whispered secret drifting around on the wind”

Prague forms a very vivid backdrop to this storyline, as we follow the characters through their personal and actual journeys around the city. Their paths cross in a central city hotel, shortly before Christmas, so outside it is crisp and white, with swirling snow as the characters jointly and individually explore this marvellous and striking city, and tackle their own personal issues.

Ollie and Megan have arrived not as a couple but as two friends, who just happen to get on well. Ollie has chosen this trip so that he can plan a project back at school for his young students. Megan is a photographer who relishes the opportunity to capture Prague on camera. Absolutely platonic, only there is a frisson of something undetermined...

Hope and Charlie are new lovers. Hope left her husband for Charlie, her driving instructor, thereby alienating her daughter Annette. Her daughter’s ire weighs heavily on her and mars her special time with her new boyfriend. Charlie clearly has a secret, attached as he is to his phone...

And Sophie. She arrives on her own. She is with Robin yet for some reason he has not accompanied her. They have the most loving and intense relationship, they are due to be married soon, yet we hear how Robin can just go AWOL at the drop of a hat. His absence is unclear and it is a brooding issue that seems to follow her around during her trip, a puzzle to all including the reader. Sophie is naturally downbeat and I have to admit that she is a forlorn creature, who occasionally irritates. Caught up in her own reverie this is surely not the same young woman who has pluckily journeyed the world with her fiancé? But as the story unfolds, clarity ensues.

The characters overlap, spend time together and embrace the wonders of the city, from Cafe Cukr (I wonder if it is the same as Cukr Kava Limonada, which incidentally is a top tip for the city!). The characters discover Letna Park, and Ollie takes the opportunity to throw his shoes up onto the high wire, just by the Metronome, to join the many others hanging suspended there; the park has few tourists. Strahov Monastery is beautiful and charms the visitors. And their one collective observation, with which I can concur, is that everywhere in Prague there are clocks, which heightens the awareness of time passing.

The Golden Cross in the arms of St John Nepomuk on the Charles Bridge is a poignant draw in the story as it is to many visitors, where wishes can be granted....

Hope... “could feel Prague easing its way into her, its beauty and inherent sense of magic lifting her spirits. Wherever she looked, there was an ornate building to make her gasp, a street entertainer to make her giggle, or a young couple snuggling under a blanket together watching the world go by.”

A top read to take to Prague for a bit of #literarywanderlust!

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### **Elizabeth Toop says**

I was lucky enough to get my hands on an early copy of this book and - once my hands were on it - found I couldn't put it down until the last page was read. It's a beautiful, memorable story and the setting is magical, almost mystical, in the way it transports the reader to the wintry streets and ornate bridges of Prague.

To say A Year And A Day is atmospheric is a colossal understatement. From shivering in the snow to gratefully sampling steaming, spicy bowls of goulash, Isabelle's wonderful descriptive writing invites the reader to be alongside the characters as the story unfolds.

The lives, personalities and motivations of these characters are revealed subtly and cleverly, so that their world becomes real, totally believable and compulsively absorbing. They are flawed and complex, like real people, and their moments of selfishness, suspicion and self-realization raise this book way above the run of the mill.

Add to that an incredibly moving story, with edge-of-seat moments of tension, and it becomes the book that has it all.

Like her earlier novel, My Map Of You, this book has depth and humanity. I reached the end feeling very reluctant to leave and am thoroughly looking forward the next offering by this thoughtful, insightful author.

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### **Rachel McMillan says**

I just booked a Christmas trip to Prague--- so I guess this book did its job ?

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### **Tracey says**

As soon as I saw the cover of this book, I fell in love. It just looks so romantic.

The story made me smile too. Such a warm glow spread through me as I turned each page, I needed to know what these fabulous characters were doing next, what was on offer in Prague, the sights, sounds and smells came to life in the pages. I have never been to Prague but really would love to go and the descriptions in Isabelle's writing have certainly helped.

This was one of those books I really didn't want to end. I really look forward to reading more of this authors work in the future. She is most certainly going on my “Must Read” list and I just wish it was the actual book I had been sent to review as I really adore the cover so so much.#LoveIt  
Thank you to netgalley and the publishers for allowing me to review xx

