

The Time Traveler's Wife

Audrey Niffenegger's 'The Time Traveler's Wife', is a story about relationships and love and loss. There are two main characters, Clare, an art student, and Henry, a librarian.

At the beginning of the book, Clare meets Henry in the library when she was twenty and he was twenty eight. She tells him she has known him from the age of six and they go on a date. This is not however the usual relationship between two people, because when Clare first met Henry, at the age of six, Henry was thirty-six.

Impossible but true, because Henry is one of the first people diagnosed with Chrono-Displacement Disorder: which causes him to travel in time.

The author does an excellent job of sequencing the book. Even though Henry is shuttling back and forth in every chapter, you follow Clare's chronological story and see Henry and Clare meeting, falling in love, starting a marriage and going through the stages of their lives. You do get to know their family and friends and see life happen to them.

Clare and Henry attempt to live normal lives, but due to Henry's time travelling, which leaves him in a naked and vulnerable state, which he can neither prevent nor control, makes their story intensely moving and entirely unforgettable.

The Time Traveler's Wife deserves a second read. The shifting timeline might get a little complicated sometimes, so a re-read will mean being able to forget focussing on the ages of the main characters and concentrate on the magic of their love story!