



Stumbling On A Tale

Suzanne Roche

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It turns out the trips back in time haven't ended for Peri, Henry, and Max. In the second book in the TIME TO TIME Series, the children find themselves right in the middle—the Middle Ages that is. And this time they're lost in a forest, where they stumble upon a group of travelers who seem to be long on medieval tales but short on helpful information.

Peri and her stepbrothers are sure they know what they have to do to get home though, so there won't be any problems this time. End of story.

Okay, maybe not.

It turns out everything Peri and the boys know is wrong and nothing is how they expect it to be. So when none of their ideas work, they have to rely on a peasant chaperoning his pig, a maiden searching for her dog, a dragon-hunting page, and an unappreciated sorcerer to find the answers. Only everyone seems to be better at losing things than finding them.

At the end of the book, you can get your hands on history—make medieval gingerbread, learn to play Nine Man's Morris, and solve a riddle from the 10th century, plus more!

Stumbling On A Tale Details

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Author : Suzanne Roche

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From Reader Review Stumbling On A Tale for online ebook

Rhonda says

Good read. A little bit of everything for everyone. Liked the characters, the story flow. Given copy from Netgalley for honest review.

Pegboard says

Stumbling On A Tale is an enjoyable way for children to learn history throughout the story and the beautiful illustrations that explain interesting facts pertaining to what the novel. Suzanne Roche is careful to explain events that children may not be familiar with.

Peri is a teenage girl who is still struggling with the death of her mother and her father remarriage. She had discovered a book that allows her to travel back in time when an antique is placed on top of it. When she travels back she must find the antique that traveled with her in order to return home.

Henry and Max are Peri's new stepbrothers. Henry doesn't like being bossed by Peri, and he often gets impatient with his younger brother. Henry strives to master his Scout badges because he is still trying to adjust to a new house, stepdad, & stepsister. Henry and Peri bicker throughout the whole book.

Veronica says

I have to admit that I am a huge fan of Suzanne Roche. I read her first book in this series " Making it Home (Time to Time, #1) and have been hooked ever since. If anything, this second book in the series is even better than the first one. So much so that I have requested my local library to purchase copies of this series (they did!) and my 8-year-old son is very keen to read them as he loves history. Suzanne Roche has a way of taking what she has researched about a particular time period and making it believable and accessible to young children in a way that they can enjoy while learning.

Time travel adventure has not ended for Peri, Max, and Henry at all. There is a mysterious book where if you put a particular object on it, you end up in that time period. This time around it is the middle ages and the children learn while trying to figure out how to get back to their own time period. It is so well written and descriptive in such a way that you feel as if you are there with the children. I really would highly recommend this series to any elementary school children who have an interest in history. In fact, I plan to mention this series to my children's school library as I think many children would love this series. Very well done. I can't wait until the next book in the series comes out. I want to thank Suzanne Roche for allowing me to read such an incredible series. I really think it has potential and is a great series.

Paul Wandason says

"Stumbling On a Tale" is a beautifully crafted time travel novel aimed at middle grade readers (8-12 years old). It follows Book 1 ("Making it Home"), in Suzanne's "Time to Time" series.

The writing style and fluency is just as wonderful as previously, but the style in mapping out the story line

differs substantially.

Where the plot was moved forwards in "Making it Home" by laying out a series of tasks for Peri, Henry and Max to follow with a clear end goal in mind, the plot in "Stumbling on a Tale" appears at first glance to be stationary. The children are dumped in a forest and come across secondary characters who tell stories to each other. It's not until near the end that the stories come together and their context with each other is made clear.

Suzanne's writing style is gently humourous and we get the feeling that this is an author who genuinely has fun in the time and location that she's placed her characters - and she sweeps the reader up in her enthusiasm by educating us in a subtle yet effective manner through her narration!

My biggest disappointment was the loss of Peri as the main character (as she was in "Making it Home"). Now we have Henry. Henry is not as strong a main character as Peri was, and he mostly whines and wants to be at home playing chess. I ended up feeling very little sympathy for him.

We're reminded of the time travel method fairly early on. An antique is placed on an encyclopedia and the children are taken back in time to where that antique first came from. The return mechanism is slightly more complex - but won't be mentioned here because that's a large part of this novel!

I really like the closing scenes because we start to hit some of the deeper time travel stuff - not just the origins and workings of the encyclopedia itself, but also the issue of predetermination!

Like the first book, the printing is terrible. Huge margins (except the Epilogue) make it look cheap. Likewise, the captioned images are nice to include, but they're too small. They're informative, but mostly aesthetic.

Rating: my first instinct was to knock off a star because because of whingey Henry. I was also tempted to knock off a star because of the vagueness of the general story line at first. But I got to thinking that not only is this a novel approach in appealing to younger readers, things do sort of come together at the end and wrap up.

I also really appreciate that layers are being added to the time travel element - not just the the encyclopedia aspect, but in more subtle things like the discussions leading to the idea of predestination.

I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series!

Della says

"Stumbling On A Tale" by Suzanne Roche is an entertaining and imaginative journey in history through the eyes of three children. Not only does it tell a story of an adventure through time but it also has fun activities, information and recipes at the end of the book relating to the theme of the book. In this case, the middle ages of England.

The children in the story are from a blended family who are typical and believable of today's families. I must admit that I did find the bickering amongst the kids a bit tiresome at times but as I already mentioned, this story is about a typical family and it doesn't detract from the story. They are children, after all. I did like, however, the way the characters do have kind thoughts about one another, verbalize them and admit when they are wrong.

I enjoyed the pictures/illustrations scattered throughout the pages. They give the reader a better idea of how things looked that are mentioned in the story and they give young readers a break from numerous pages of

print. I noticed that more editing should be done as I found some grammatical errors. Overall, this is a great historical adventure for young and old and written with such fun and imagination that the reader doesn't realize he is learning as he reads!

Tofts Reviews says

Stumbling on a Tale is a wonderful story about three children who travel back in time. They never know when they will leave and they never know when they will return. What they do know is they always step into an adventure in another time. This makes the story very thrilling.

Author Roche creates a warm family feeling with the step children. It's nice to read about children from blended families who really love each other and show that through their gestures.

I was a little confused when I opened the book to see: "Wait! Before you start reading this book, you need to know this..." This alerted the textbook side of my brain and I immediately thought 'history lecture.' I don't think it helped or hindered the story. It just felt like an unnecessary floating page.

Before the story begins, author Roche gives four short pages about the Middle Ages titled, "Do you know what time it is?" (1). I would have preferred to dive right into the story and read this in an appendix. The images were priceless though. I really enjoyed the Kings & Queens, Nobles, Knights, and Peasants breakdown.

The author's description from her characters' point of view is fantastic. "Peri tried to jump back and catch her breath, but was frozen. All she could see was chain mail amassed on top of horses twice her height. Why hadn't knights looked this scary in pictures she's seen before? It was like facing a live bear after only having seen a stuffed animal of one. Peri dropped the stick she had been holding, mostly because her arm had gone limp now." (125)

The Puzzles, activities, and games in the back of the book are terrific. The images included at various points in the story not only looked great, they also included important information. Not all children know what mead is or what chain mail is made of. Very valuable information indeed.

I found this to be a very quick, enjoyable read. I was immersed into the characters and plot immediately. Author Roche is a superb writer. Young readers who enjoyed Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series, will enjoy the Time to Time series. Not that Roche's stories include mythical creatures – the adventure and mystery are similar. Older readers who enjoyed Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series will enjoy this young adult tale.

Book Two in the Time to Time Series

Elaine says

Reading this sequel was enjoyable, but unfortunately, I was a little confused with how it flowed from the first installment. Once again, I'm excited for the next book to come, but I hope it is not rushed in the writing process. This novel feels rushed and needs editing.

Excalibur Snape says

This was a pretty interesting read for a middle grade book.

I love the pictures in this book they were beautiful.

I love the topics of this book:

1. History
2. Time travel
3. Location

This book had a little something for everyone.

I highly recommend this book for all ages.

The writing is amazing I can't wait to read more by this author.

It's fast pace and a great way to spend a few hours.

Diane says

Books for middle school readers about the middle ages are too often dry affairs that favor historical fact over captivating magical scenes. This is far from the case in *Stumbling on a Tale*, the latest addition to the 'Time to Time Kids' series, which decorates its facts with the compellingly colorful embellishment of fiction.

A lively introduction firmly cements the adventure with a dose of historical explanation that creates a solid backdrop of world history, setting the stage for the story to follow.

Enter twelve-year-old Henry Hawkins and his older stepsister Peri, who are still developing their newfound relationship as siblings. Henry's stepsister isn't the shy, antisocial girl he'd envisioned a fifteen-year-old to be: she's precocious, curious, and always ready to step into trouble - and thus, she's at the top of his list of things to worry about.

They're again playing with a curious book that holds strange powers; this time trying to find out more about its author and publisher. When Max repeats the sequence of events that led to their last time-traveling history adventure, disaster once again strikes. This time they're not in 1900s New York City, but are in a forest in an era that feels much older.

The key to returning home lies in finding an antique. The only problem is that Max, who has brought them all here, has no idea what the antique is - and so they are looking for a needle in a haystack.

Knights, dragons, and lost siblings - oh my! Winding through the historical encounters are the real, contemporary concerns of kids who have had to make big adjustments to modern times.

It may take a return home to make these Middle Ages events make sense - and even then, life becomes more complicated when time travel adventures are added to the mix.

Quizzes, puzzles, riddles and games, activities, and even recipes at the conclusion of the story add value to this tale, which ends in a manner that paves the way for more time-traveling history explorations; but its real meat and protein lie in chapters packed with a vivid blend of adventure quest and historical insights.

As the siblings come to realize some of the meanings of the antiques, the book, and their encounters, they also come to absorb wisdom and more mature approaches to problem-solving and begin to understand how myths, quests, and history intersect.

A rollicking good adventure story spiced with real insights on past and present make *Stumbling on a Tale* a lively read highly recommended for any middle-grade fan of time travel action stories.

Wensday says

This is a great series so far. Readers who enjoy Ruth Chew will savor these books. Based on little known history, the books are engaging and give an insight into history that touches the reader with the personal interaction that takes place throughout.

I received this book from NetGalley for an honest opinion.
