

Maybe Next Time

by Cesca Major



About the Book

One Day meets *Groundhog Day* in this heartwarming and emotionally poignant novel about a stressed woman who must relive the same day over and over, keeping her family and work life from imploding as she attempts to spare her husband from an unfortunate fate.

It is an ordinary Monday, and harried London literary agent Emma is flying out of the door as usual. Preoccupied with work and her ever-growing to-do list, she fails to notice that her lovely husband Dan seems bereft, her son can barely meet her eye, and her daughter won't go near her. Even the dog seems sad.

She is far too busy, buried deep in her phone; social media alerts pinging; clients messaging with "emergencies"; keeping track of a dozen WhatsApp groups about the kids' sports, school, playdates, all of it. Her whole day is frantic --- what else is new --- and as she rushes back through the door for dinner, Dan is *still* upset. They fight, and he walks out, desolate, dragging their poor dog around the block. Just as she realizes it is their anniversary and she has forgotten, again, she hears the screech of brakes.

Dan is dead.

The next day Emma wakes up and Dan is alive. And it's Monday again.

And again.

And again.

Emma tries desperately to change the course of fate by doing different things each time she wakes up: leaving WhatsApp, telling her boss where to get off, writing to Dan, listening to her kids, reaching out to forgotten friends, getting drunk and buying out Prada. But will Emma have the chance to find herself again, remember what she likes

about her job, reconnect with her children, love her husband? Will this be enough to change the fate they seem destined for?

MAYBE NEXT TIME is a moving 'What if?' story of what it is to be a woman in the modern world --- never feeling we're getting it *quite* right --- about learning to slow down and appreciate life that is sure to resonate with women's fiction readers.

Discussion Guide

1. Was there a particular character in this book you could relate to and why?
2. Do you think Emma's experience of the juggle of her life was believable?
3. All the stats show that in the U.S., despite women making up 50% of the workforce, they still consistently take on the majority of unpaid work at home. COVID exacerbated these facts. Do you think we could do more to address this as a society?
4. Do you think people in Emma's life could have done more to reduce the pressures on her time?
5. Why do you think it took this event to get Emma to reflect on how she spends her time?
6. Would you want to experience a 'Groundhog Day' yourself? And if so, which day would you choose to repeat?
7. Do you believe in fate? Do you think we can do anything to fight the inevitable?
8. This is also a story about friendship and how, when life gets in the way, we can neglect those relationships. Is there someone you wish you could reconnect with in your own life?
9. Did you like the ending? How did you interpret it?
10. Has the book made you reflect on any changes you'd like to make in your own life?

Author Bio

Cesca Major is a novelist and screenwriter. She has written 14 novels under different names, and her books have been published in more than 12 countries. She has been nominated for the RNA's Romantic Comedy Award, HWA Gold Crown and the CWA Gold Dagger Award. She currently has TV and films in development with companies including Hello Sunshine, Apple, Monumental Television, 42, Roughcut, Sky Studios and the BBC.

Her latest book and Reese's Book Club pick, *MAYBE NEXT TIME*, is part romance and part mystery. A *Groundhog Day* love story about Emma, a stressed working mother and literary agent who finds herself trapped in a time loop as she attempts to save her family from calamity. Hello Sunshine is also developing it as an Apple Originals film. *IF I WERE YOU*, a big body-swapping love story, is out in 2024, and the film is also in development.

Cesca has presented shows for ITV West and Sky Channels in the past. She enjoys hosting or speaking on panels and films vlogs about the writing process. She runs writing retreats, mentors for the Black Girl Writers and has taught creative writing for Jericho Writers & the Henley School of Art. In November 2023, she will be tutoring on an Arvon writing course. Cesca lives in Berkshire with her husband, son and twin girls.

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