

This Time Next Year

by Sophie Cousens



About the Book

Their lives began together, but their worlds couldn't be more different. After 30 years of missed connections, they're about to meet again.

Minnie Cooper knows two things with certainty: that her New Year's birthday is unlucky, and that it's all because of Quinn Hamilton, a man she's never met. Their mothers gave birth to them at the same hospital just after midnight on New Year's Day, but Quinn was given the cash prize for being the first baby born in London in 1990 --- and the name Minnie was meant to have, as well. With luck like that, it's no wonder each of her birthdays has been more of a disaster than the one before.

When Minnie unexpectedly runs into Quinn at a New Year's party on their mutual 30th birthday, she sees only more evidence that fortune has continued to favor him. The gorgeous, charming business owner truly seems to have it all --- while Minnie is on the brink of losing her pie-making company and her home. But if Quinn and Minnie are from different worlds, why do they keep bumping into each other? And why is it that each fraught encounter leaves them both wanting more?

A moving, joyful love story, *THIS TIME NEXT YEAR* explores the way fate leads us to the people we least expect --- no matter what the odds.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel begins on New Year's Eve, and also follows Minnie and Quinn throughout the years on that particular day. What implications does New Year's have for the two of them? On what occasions have their paths almost crossed, and what did you make of their first meeting in the present of the story?

2. Though they are born on the same day within minutes of each other, Minnie's and Quinn's lives take very different courses. Discuss the ways the moments before and after they were born go on to dictate their lives.
3. What role do Minnie's and Quinn's parents play in both the past and present of the story? How do past grudges become reconciled?
4. Aside from meeting Quinn, Minnie's life undergoes a lot of change in the romance, career and friendship departments. What are the main conflicts in each of these aspects of her life? How do they help Minnie redefine herself and ultimately bring her life back to order?
5. Discuss how Minnie's relationship with Quinn differs from her relationship with Greg? Similarly, how did Quinn's previous relationships foster his commitment issues, and how does Minnie help him work through them?
6. How do the meetings at Hampstead Heath help cultivate Minnie and Quinn's love? How do they become turning points in their relationship? Discuss the meaning of this place for them both, and the power of place in general in bringing people together.
7. What can Minnie and Quinn's coming together tell us about fate and destiny when it comes to love? To what extent do we have to also shape that future ourselves?
8. What do you think is in the future for Minnie and Quinn? How do you suspect their outlook on New Year's changes when they get together?
9. Where do you want to be this time next year?

Author Bio

Sophie Cousens worked as a TV producer in London for more than 12 years and now lives on the island of Jersey in the UK, balancing her writing career with working for an arts charity and taking care of her two small children. She is the author of *THIS TIME NEXT YEAR*, *JUST HAVEN'T MET YOU YET* and *BEFORE I DO*.

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