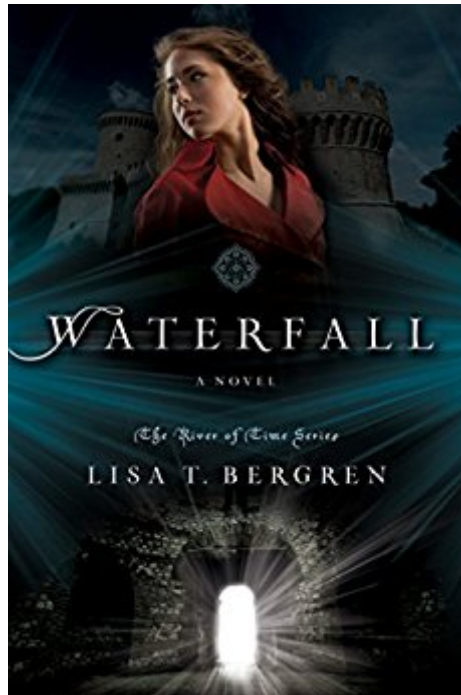




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Waterfall: A Novel (River Of Time Book 1)



Synopsis

Most American teenagers want a vacation in Italy, but the Bentarrini sisters have spent every summer of their lives with their parents, famed Etruscan scholars, among the romantic hills. In Book One of the River of Time series, Gabi and Lia are stuck among the rubble of medieval castles in rural Tuscany on yet another hot, boring, and dusty archeological site — until Gabi places her hand atop a handprint in an ancient tomb and finds herself in fourteenth-century Italy. And worse yet, in the middle of a fierce battle between knights of two opposing forces. And thus she comes to be rescued by the knight-prince Marcello Falassi, who takes her back to his father's castle — a castle Gabi has seen in ruins in another life. Suddenly Gabi's summer in Italy is much, much more interesting. But what do you do when your knight in shining armor lives, literally, in a different world?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up this fun little read while it was free for kindle users. Waterfall was full of history, humor, and hormones. You don't have to be a teenager to enjoy this time traveling adventure story. It was

easy to relate to the bond between sisters and the way Gabi longs for her first kiss to come from a brave and dashing knight. The way the girls tried to mask their true identity (being from the future) provided a good deal of lighthearted humor. There was some violence - castle storming, sword fights, and medieval torture. Additionally, there are implied perils for unprotected maidens, but nothing of a graphic nature that would prevent me from recommending this story to friends with teenage readers.

Omg I loved this book so much. I read it in a day!! I just couldn't put it down and I am so happy that I finally got to it as it's been on my kindle since March and on my TBR for years!!!! I truly loved this story and I loved the heroine. Gabi and Lia are quite the pair. I loved seeing Gabi in a time period not her own and Marcella and Luca are characters I really enjoyed! Can't wait to start book 2!

Love love love this book! I read *Waterfall: River of Time* on my kindle and I squealed with delight soon after I had gotten started reading it. It feels like a lost and found story with Gabi and Lia. Gabi gets to the medieval time period first or so she thinks but as she and her sister Lia were coming through the time portal they became lost from one another. Gabi finds a love with Marcello but she is intent on finding her sister Lia before committing to him. Gabi's dad has taught her well on wielding a sword and Lia was taught well with a bow and arrows and these two young maidens help out in the fights going on during this medieval story. These two young ladies are full of spunk, intestinal fortitude, and beauty to boot. There is adventure waiting at every turn. I did something that most people would shriek of horror but I was so impatient to know what happened I quickly went to the last chapter to see if Marcello and Gabi got together and it infuriated me so much that I did indeed go back to where I was and finished the book! Then I am like oh my I have to get the next book as this adventure does not end here. It is hazardous and exciting, I for one cannot wait to keep reading :)

I admire Ms. Bergren's first effort to create a "Twilight"-like book that she felt she could allow her daughters to read. Having finished the first two and reading the third, I will say she is doing a fabulous job of hitting her stride with teen fiction. The premise of the series is that Gabi and Lia are daughters of archaeologists that are more intense about their work than their parenting skills. Tired of spending summer breaks following their parents around to dig sites, Gabi and Lia wander off to explore the latest find. In an Etruscan tomb, they find two handprints that match theirs exactly. When they place their hands on the prints at the same time, they find themselves transported back

to 14th century Tuscany, in the middle of battles between Florence and Siena. Gabi and Lia must decide who to turn to for help, figure out life in the middle ages and decide, do they want to go home? This first book shows that it is her first time writing a book strictly for teens though. Her attempt to let Gabi talk in teen slang and use phrases that will soon be out dated is unfortunate. I think what makes books like "Twilight", "Divergent" and "Hunger Games" appealing to adults as well as teens is the fact that we sometimes forget they are teens due to the responsibilities and tasks they take on. I think just letting Gabi talk, or think, without trying to be a teen would have made this book easier to get into. But, don't let it distract you, eventually, the teen slang is let go and the action and fun begin! The love story between Gabi and Marcello is well-done and beautiful (especially in book 2-Cascade) and I, of course, fell in love with both Marcello and Luca. The action scenes are intense and even though it stretches the imagination that Gabi can take on medieval knights sword-fighting skills it's so well done, you are willing to believe it. I also enjoy the themes promoted in the book through the advice Gabi remembers from her father. Live your life, don't watch it happen. Courage, and honor. The ending leaves you racing for book 2.

I must admit I'm surprised by how much I enjoyed this book. I definitely intend to continue the series. Others have complained that there is quite a bit of suspension of disbelief. Well... obviously. It's a time travel novel, not a nonfiction novel. It was clear from the get-go that this would be a lighthearted read, not to be taken too seriously. Since I knew that from the beginning, I was able to adopt that mindset and enjoy the read. I adored so many of the characters too. I think one of my favorite things was how Romana was written. I loved that it was made clear that she wasn't a villain; she was simply making do with the hand dealt to all ladies of that time. I'm so tired of books making every woman except the heroine out to be some evil psycho. It's not realistic, and it's juvenile. I'm glad that wasn't the case here. Hopefully it will continue to be that way in future books. I loved the main characters, but I also really loved Fortino. Some reviews complain that it's too convenient that our heroine spoke the appropriate languages. Well, it's not so shocking given her upbringing. I didn't find it far-fetched at all. Another thing I liked is that the problems of the past weren't ignored. Smelly underarms? Yep, she noticed. Crappy bed? Yep! I was waiting for her to start her period and freak out about no tampons (which I would have LOVED to read about and die laughing, I'm sure). The Christian/religious parts flow with the story. I'm actually Christian myself, but I avoid religious novels because they are SO. AWKWARD. AND. PREACHY. This wasn't though. It was very natural. All in all, this is a fun read, and I recommend it.

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