



Bridge Through Time

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Bridge Through Time is the sequel to Spotson's successful debut novel, Life II. Max's son, Dr. Kyle Thorning, is now a high particle physicist at CERN in Switzerland. Meanwhile, after First Contact, powerful aliens with four arms and four legs, named Darsians, are taking control of the planet, with the muted subservience of its human population due to the astounding technological advances that the aliens introduce. Kyle has a powerful weapon—a new Time Travel machine—and must decide to travel to his father's old parallel universe, where he doesn't even exist, or confront the aliens in his home universe.

Bridge Through Time Details

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Author : Scott Spotson

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From Reader Review Bridge Through Time for online ebook

Seraphia says

Bridge Through Time is a science fiction futuristic thriller. While this book is a sequel to Life II, I can easily say that this book can be read as a standalone novel. From the beginning, the author engages the reader into the story and never lets up. There is not a single boring moment in this story as we follow along with Kyle and Max's story.

Max's life, reality and timeline have been altered simply by his choice to go back in time and relive his life from the age of 16 forward. He sees the results of this new reality when aliens called, Darsians, make contact with humanity. They are strange looking beings, but they bring huge advancements in technology. Max himself lives in constant torment of the loss he suffered from this new timeline. The family he once had before is gone. He has a new family, but it's not enough. Kyle, his son, is a trouble boy. He's more than a handful for Max to handle, and when Kyle reaches adult status he leaves home. He becomes a successful physicist. Kyle knows that something isn't right, but coming about to fully prove and understand is a path that he must walk carefully. Sadly, due to the innocence of his father in a conversation, Kyle is marked to be watched. Piece by piece the puzzle begins to come together for Kyle and then the reality of the situation becomes a race against time.

When I first saw the cover for this book, Bridge Through Time by Scott Spotson, I was curious. When I saw that it was a book two in a series, I was curious as to whether I could come to understand what was going on. I am normally hesitant to jump into the middle of series, but the author makes this book easy to get into. The author fills in gaps and completely engages the reader from start to finish. You may have a few questions at the end of this book, but nothing so serious that it detracts from the storyline to where you can't forge ahead. I like how the author focuses on Max for a time in the story. We get to see his struggle with Life II. It's heartbreaking to read how he clings to Life I and misses the children he had then. Then to read how Kyle himself feels like he doesn't belong and how he struggles with his own mental issues behind it. I found myself pulled in further as Max takes a back seat and the story shifts to focus on Kyle.

The author's expert weaving of this story makes it hard to put down for even a moment. The aliens are ever present, but the author does a fantastic job keeping them relevant but still mostly in the background. One would think that without a main stage presence from them that the storyline would suffer, but it doesn't! It works! The aliens are pushing to become recognized as a part of society – to gain status, citizenship and rights. They are striving to show humanity that they “mean well” but the truth is there below the surface if one chooses to truly look. The author shows the reader that so few do despite all that has transpired.

As much as I've enjoyed this book, it's not without its flaws. There are some editorial issues – mainly misspelled words, here and there in this story. While I say this, I can also easily say that these errors do not detract from the overall storyline. There may be some moments in the story of where the reader is a bit thrown off by alterations in the character's behavior or changes, but if you keep reading it will all make sense. I promise.

I am rating this book 5 out of 5 stars. This story is a one of a kind fascinating science fiction time travel thriller. If you like first contact novels, aliens, time travel and intense thrills then this is the book to read. But if you pick this book up, clear your schedule because you won't want to put this book down until you get to the very end. I will warn readers of this – the story does not have true closure, so there may be a sequel to this one. Or the author simply wishes for the reader to draw their own conclusions as to what will happen next. If you are okay with that...then this is a book that you honestly won't want to miss out.

James McCormick says

Despite not having read the first novel, *Life II*, I found no difficulty entering into this complex, mind boggling and gripping tale of aliens and time travel. In a less talented writer I believe that fusing these two particular elements could be overambitious and easily prove detrimental. One's "willing suspension of disbelief" can only be stretched so far after all. Spotson I'm pleased to say however pulls it off.

Despite its fantastical elements the novel is -initially at least- something of a human drama and the scenes with Dr Time could easily have been from a Philip K. Dick short story. This comparison I should point out refers to the quality and thought provoking nature of the writing rather than suggesting the story is derivative of the late, great author.

Although the motif of the seemingly benign aliens with the secret agenda is not a wholly original one (V was one of my favourite series of the 80's I should mention here) the author manages to put a unique spin on things with his own multi- coloured, mouthless Darsians who ingratiate themselves into the scientific and business world as they gradually put into place their Machiavellian schemes.

Perhaps what I enjoyed most about the novel however was the way it changes gears throughout. It begins very much introspectively with 'what ifs?' and soul searching, moves on to become something of a thriller and ends with an all out super-powered sci-fi climax. I've read several works by this author now and this one is by far my favourite. I recommend it to all sci-fi fans and hard sci-fi fans in particular. I only wish I'd read *Life II* first.

Clare O'Beara says

Bridge Through Time progresses through a clever spiral. Our main character at first is called Max, who has travelled through time in a parallel life to his own via a Time Weaver device. This occurred in the previous book, *Life II*, but there are chances to recap the action if you haven't read that one.

Max is haunted by the loss of his original family since he can't return to that time line and while he is reasonably successful he is not a happy man. He is convinced that his new family is suffering from his mistakes. His son Kyle, a few chapters later, is now a young professor of particle physics. Kyle is living a life reminiscent of the scientist Don in *The Rosie Project*, without the humour. Well, it's not easy being socially awkward in a world where large strong smart aliens have come to Earth and given us good inventions. Kyle, and other people, suspect the motives of these aliens, who gradually come to control Earth's currency and businesses. They even give us stronger coffee. But is there anything Kyle and his girlfriend Eva can do about this, even if they did know about the Time Weaver?

Much of the action is set in Calgary, Max and Kyle's home, or at CERN. At first Kyle is not presented in a positive light, with ADHD blamed for his actions, but when he has grown up enough to live his own life and is in a research environment I find him much more sympathetic. The man seems far more decisive and socially outgoing during the last chapters, so I'll take it that Eva has been having a positive effect on him. If you like discussions of quantum physics, you'll enjoy the pages which help to explain the alternative versions of timelines; if not, you can skip ahead and pick up the action. Don't forget to ask yourself which version of time you'd rather be living in - life one or life two? You might be surprised. I would say this book, by turns

thoughtful and dramatic, is suitable for advanced young adults or adults.

K.S. Ferguson says

I really wanted to like this book, but I just couldn't get there. While it's built around an interesting idea of moving both forward and backward in time, it also jumps to alternate dimensions. And aliens are tossed in the mix. It sounded interesting.

Unfortunately, the book is in draft state with many grammatical errors. Information is unnecessarily repeated, often in awkward places. The initial character we meet, Max, seems to alternate between anger and depression, neither of which make him likeable or someone I want to spend a book with. Fortunately I don't have to, because later, the POV shifts to Kyle, who is marginally more the kind of character I'd want to read about.

When I read science fiction, I have expectations that the science will be solid. Sure, I'll suspend disbelief to accept time travel or faster-than-light speeds. But when a car runs into a couple hundred pound alien, it isn't going to somersault. I know the alien doesn't weigh more than this because it slides off down the pavement from the force of the impact. That's just bad physics and unrealistic. Other scenes suffered from similar logic disconnects, enough that I was thrown out of the fictive world of the story.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jeanine Lipp says

This plot-twisting Science Fiction novel about Time Travel got off to a slow start, but really took off with the storyline of Kyle, the boy from another time who never felt he fit in. Packed with every Science Fiction facet imaginable and some truly unique concepts, I felt that the storyline was really going somewhere. And it did. All over the place. At times, I found it confusing, at others, I found it hard to suspend belief, which is an important component to Science Fiction. The author has a wonderful imagination, a solid grip on science, and tremendous potential. The only thing this book lacks is a professional editor.

Kayne Milhomme says

A Book About Discovery

At its core, *Bridge Through Time* is a story about discovery. From the secrets of time travel and parallel universes to the hidden truths of one's own origin, the enigmas of *Bridge Through Time* combine to create a perplexing and dangerous multi-reality within which the fate of humanity may hang in the balance.

Max Thorning, a doctor and scientist, has a disturbing revelation as he watches the news—the arrival of an alien race (known as Darsians) is potentially a result of a time travel experiment that Max took part in. Max is bothered by this possibility because he believes that the Darsians are a threat to humanity.

Intelligent and powerful beings, the Darsians gain acceptance and influence on earth by sharing new technology with humanity. One of the most notable gifts from the Darsians eliminates water shortages in third world countries and saves millions of lives. Thus, in the eyes of many, the aliens are a boon to earth.

However, Max believes the Darsians are employing a ‘Trojan horse’ approach, and his suspicion leads him on a quest to determine if his travels in time truly are responsible for the aliens’ arrival (and if so, can anything be done about it? We are dealing with time travel, after all).

Max’s logic that his time travel is responsible for the onset of the aliens is based on his inadvertent ‘activation’ of a parallel universe, which in practice establishes the fact that he has lived in two parallel universes (defined by Max as ‘Life I’ and ‘Life II’). In Life I (the original timeline), Max was married with two children, and there were no aliens on earth. While in this timeline, Max traveled back in time. The result of this time travel allowed for the creation/activation of an alternate reality (Life II), basically formed by a series of different decisions and actions on Max’s part that had a ripple effect in Life II (similar to the butterfly effect).

In Life II, Max has two sons, Kyle and Peter—different children than in Life I. Unable to return to Life I, Max is haunted by the loss of his family from that timeline, and this depression and anxiety seems to spill into his family in Life II—the father and sons live a fractured life, with tense relationships driven by inherent behavioral issues.

As the introductory framework settles into place, the story pivots to Kyle, the central character of the novel. Kyle, who is introduced in the novel during his younger years (through visions of the past), expresses an interest at an early age in time travel (at one point he calls out *Back to the Future*), specifically because he feels he ‘does not belong’ where he is. This thread continues into his adult life, driving him to become a highly regarded physicist at CERN and attempt to create a time traveling device. Moreover, when he is exposed to the secret existence of the two timelines, Kyle—almost without realizing it at first—takes the torch from Max and continues his father’s initial efforts to find the truth not only about the arrival of the aliens, but also the aliens’ intent.

Yet the severity of what Kyle is intending to do, first in theory and then in practice—to master time travel—could have severe consequences for not just the aliens, but for anyone unique to Life II, including himself.

The novel is an enjoyable read, especially for sci fi fans. It is a complex plot, which at times can be difficult to follow, but it pulls the reader along regardless. The author’s passion for science shines through the prose and provides a sense of authenticity to the novel, even though the science occasionally comes in ‘bulk form’ which, for some readers (depending on their preferences), may be slightly distracting. The family dynamics can be both compelling and trying at times, depending on the situation—there were times when the mention of ADHD seemed a bit repetitive—yet the family dynamics provide an engine for some of the initial tension in the novel, which in turn drives the story along during those critical early stages. For me, the characters and plot shared equal responsibility in terms of story interest, none of them lacking in depth, yet any one of them occasionally coming across burdened by their own complexity. There are aspects of the novel that were captivating, including some of the time travel theory, Kyle’s later experiences in the novel, and the climax; but some of the other areas did not hold my attention as firmly. These areas were mainly elements that had been covered previously, or at length (for example, when we visit Kyle and Peter through the *Dream Weaver* in the beginning of the novel, there are (in my opinion) too many scenarios. The same revelations could have been revealed in less).

Fans of the author will certainly enjoy this book, as will those with an interest in time travel and its potential effects on the fabric of reality. Well thought out.

Dale Rutter says

A good read once again. It was well written and I got submerged straight back into the story.

It is hard to review *Bridge Through Time* without big spoilers as I want to share the story with people and

tell them what I enjoyed...however, I won't ruin it by giving it all away.

The mix of Time Travel and Alien Invasion is well blended and it isn't your typical alien invasion book which is a welcome relief.

The story focuses on Max's Life II son, Kyle, and his obsession with time travel. Kyle is a geeky scientist with serious mental issues so isn't your usual hero - which, again, is something else I liked about the book. His issues, however, cannot stop him from searching for the secrets of time travel and uncovering signs that the aliens' intentions are sinister and somehow tangled with his father's dual lives.

Kyle certainly delves deep down the rabbit hole and finds out some extraordinary things which made for a great read. Also, the ending is good and leaves a possible window for a sequel which I will happily read if there is.

Mike Billington says

Time travel, eight-limbed aliens, a cast of pretty quirky characters with assorted mental illnesses and some pretty interesting discussions of advanced physics: 'Bridge Through Time' has them all and a lot more. This novel is a sequel to author Scott Spotson's 'Life II' but it can, and does, stand on its own. In this book the sort-of-hero is Kyle Thorning, a brilliant physicist and the son of Max Thorning, the star of 'Life II.' Kyle, though brilliant, comes equipped with some pretty heavy baggage: He has enough mental problems to stock an asylum (including a potentially crippling anxiety disorder that makes it hard for him to even be around his own extended family for more than a few minutes at a time) and he has some serious daddy issues. He suspects, though he does not know for sure, that something his father did in the past allowed the Darsians, an advanced alien race, to make First Contact with Earth and, eventually, begin to dominate the planet economically. Unlike many people, Kyle does not trust the aliens, who have never done anything to harm the human race and who have, in fact, eradicated hunger and thirst for millions of people. Still, Kyle has his doubts about their ultimate intentions and that spurs him to work on first the theory and later the practical application of time travel.

Is he doing this for his own reasons?

Is he being subtly led by the Darsians to create a time machine?

Or is there some other agenda at work?

I won't spoil the ending by revealing more than that, but I will say that Spotson leads his readers on a merry chase as Kyle searches for the answers to both the time travel problem and his own destiny.

Spotson has created some fascinating characters and placed them into some interesting locales, which adds to the enjoyment of the novel. His narrative flows smoothly despite the discussions of anti-bosons, wormholes and parallel universes - concepts that are, frankly, outside my ken. He has also included a fair amount of adventure into his novel, including a spectacular chase scene that features galloping aliens and a motorcycle. To top it off, he has also woven a nice romance into the narrative: A romance that comes complete with an unexpected twist.

A nice read for science fiction fans who have grown a little tired of laser battles between gigantic starships.

Emanuel Grigoras says

First Contact might not be what you expect.

Bridge Through Time is a book that gets from me the best comment I can give to a book: I felt I could read it

a second time and love it the same way. It's not the first book written by Scott I read, but it is my favorite.

From the first pages I got emerged into a time and place where time travel and aliens are possible. Most books have strong first sentence and after they fade. It takes at least a dozen pages to pick up the interest of the reader. Bridge Through Time keeps up the pace in every chapter until the end.

Is well written and well thought. From the story line to the behavior of the characters that is definitely one that I've witnessed at most Canadians I've met. One of the strong points of this book is the description of the loss felt by one of the main characters, Max. He remembers the previous timeline, in which he had a different family, and mourns their disappearance as well as letting all his grief to influence the present timeline.

Half into the book the main character becomes Max's son. He lives a different story. A blend of romance and balancing acts in two realities in which aliens modify the future in order to conquer Earth in the only way that works nowadays: economic war.

The end is somewhat open. I can't help but wonder if there are more books to follow in this series.

Susan-Alia Terry says

Reading Bridge Through Time caused me to recognize the fact that I prefer "Dr. Who" style time travel - less science, more fun. This book was too heavy on the science for my taste. Way too much physics which went right over my head - I have no idea if it was good science, bad science, pseudo science or fantasy science. The book felt weighed down because I have absolutely no interest in the science of time travel.

Other things bothered me as well: Shifting points of view took me out of scenes. Odd word choices felt jarring and unnatural. The style of story telling was heavy on "telling." It made getting to really know the characters hard for me. Who was Kyle Thorning other than a brilliant physicist with ADHD? I couldn't tell you as I never felt the character was given any depth other than a generic rendering, which made him Joe Everyman.

Because of the style of storytelling, the hatred of the aliens felt more xenophobic than warranted. Everybody hates them, they came in and made human lives better, but we don't find out the actual cost until toward the end of the book, and by then it was hard to emotionally catch up. When given the chance in the beginning of the book to explain why the presence of these aliens is horrible for humans, we're given an explanation that sounds no more profound, and about as equally as valid, as racism or in this case "speciesism". Every adult on the planet has lived with and without aliens, so nobody notices a difference? We're just told to accept the premise that the aliens are bad without proof. I would have preferred less science, and more focus on why the aliens were bad and then using time travel to defeat them. At least, that was I was hoping for.

J.D. Tew says

What are you looking for? Here are some cliff notes for quick browsing.

Bridge Through Time contains:

Atypical time travel
Thought provoking physics
Emotional stimuli
Relative-to-life characters
Psychological inward warfare
Complex relationship strains
Cosmic enigmas
Meddling aliens
Subtle humor
Brevity in writing
And above all... A damn good story.

As in Life II, we have a good bit of time traveling. All of which, respects the true nature of the art. There are many challenges, I'm sure, that can perplex and thwart even the most talented author. Mr. Spotson has done well to evade these issues. The research is identifiable, yet doesn't detract from the pace. I for one, wanted more hard science, which to some people may be boring or confusing. Yet to me is enlightening and stimulating.

As I'm sure the fans of the genre know, time travel places much strain on the characters, and Mr. Spotson presents this in his usual style. Many times throughout Bridge Through Time, I experienced some of these five side effects of a well written story: a bout with laughter, a warranted tear, a rush of anger, a gut-wrenching desire, and an anxious state of paranoia for the livelihood of the character.

When the gloves come off and you're not just reading the story, but fighting along side the protagonist, that is when you know you've been invited to embrace your imagination through the author's telepathic link of ink on paper.

As almost always, Mr. Spotson's characters are true to life. While reading BTT, I don't often see the typical mannerisms, but the ones I did observe, I can honestly say I relate to them. That's what makes this story move along for me.

Many of the character are dished difficult choices or challenges, as they should be. Whether it's standing up for what you believe in and getting in the face of what infuriates you or making a dignified retreat from the plague of sadness.

Kyle embraces a multitude of complex cosmic enigmas, and does so with actions innate to his established character. Nothing is contrived or delivered in a slipshod manner. There was a bit of inaccuracy surrounding the mental disorder, but not enough to derail the pace or cause me mental anguish. It is my one minute gripe. I recommend this sequel to anyone who cherishes Life II as I did. However, it's a different animal entirely with new elements that will keep you anxious in an addicting manner.

Here's what's important: Bridge Through Time is written concise and exact to facilitate the ease of reading with clarity. This is the typical writing style of Mr. Scott Spotson, it's a great science fiction story without ambiguity or fanciful selfish delight.

Florian Armas says

Bridge Through Time is a science fiction novel with peculiar eight-limbed aliens, an interesting time travel twist and a lot of action, but what I enjoyed the most is the emotional part derived from a father losing his

family while going back in time. He enjoys a new life, a new family, but the shadow of his (now unborn) two children from the previous timeline is following him. And the story is well written to take advantage of an inner drama that Max is not able to share with anyone. Who will believe him?

I received the book from the author.

E.G. Manetti says

It is difficult to review *Bridge Through Time* without massive spoilers. This mashup of Time Travel and Alien Invasion tropes is uniquely crafted where the heroes are ordinary people struggling to find their way in a world that often seems out of sync. It starts a little slowly as we meet Max, a man who has lived two lives. Life I in the world as we know it with a wife and two children and life II where his family is different and the aliens are among us.

The story really picks up when it focuses on Max's Life II son, Kyle, and Kyle's obsession with time travel. In a welcome departure from the classic action hero, Kyle is a geeky scientist with ADHD and serious issues with depression. None of which stop him from searching for the secrets of time travel and uncovering ominous indications that the aliens' intentions are sinister and somehow entwined with his father's dual lives. The narrative style can be a little stilted, and the occasional particle physics info dump can be hard to follow, but those are minor distractions. It is a tribute to Scott Spotson's story-telling that at one point I was talking to my iPad, begging Kyle not do to something foolish.

M.J. Lau says

Bridge Through Time - 4.5 stars

Come for the aliens, stay for the humans!

In *Bridge Through Time*, Scott Spotson manages to meld intense science fiction – aliens, time travel, and parallel universes – with poignant examinations of human relationships. The book starts out as an alien invasion story, but takes an abrupt turn into a trip down memory lane when Max Thorning revisits Dr. Time. Dr. Time controls the Dream Weaver, a device that permits time travel as well as providing glimpses into the past – including Max's past prior to entering this alternate timeline (which he calls Life II). Thorning wants to see where he went wrong with his current children, and discovers that perhaps his initial time travels triggered the arrival of aliens in Life II.

All of this, though, is the flash. The substance of the story emerges as we follow Kyle Thorning, Max's Life II son, a physicist working at CERN. Kyle works against the now thoroughly-entrenched aliens (Darsians), who continue to control more and more of Earth's economy with their technological "gifts to mankind." Kyle wants to create time travel without the Darsians knowing, and must play a tough political game to keep his secrets hidden.

While Kyle's professional pressures are huge, I found his personal struggles far more interesting: Kyle

battles with depression, and tries every day to cope with his ADHD. He has a complicated relationship with his father, his girlfriend, and his peers. His motivations, while seemingly scientific and objective, are deeply personal – he pursues world-altering goals largely because he feels like he doesn't belong in this world.

I must say that, while the family focus is ultimately what won me over, it came about in a disorienting way. The story seemed very much focused on the danger of an alien invasion, only to have Max decide to rehash family drama out of nowhere. With the trajectory of the story aiming toward Kyle anyway, having a scene or two of father-son discord before the visit to Dr. Time would have made that course change less jarring. The later re-directs were quite fun once I got into the author's flow.

Bridge Through Time is a book full of surprising twists and turns, with enough emotional and intellectual depth to keep it all from flying past. If you want sci fi that doesn't skimp on the science, but provides real human moments as well, you'll want to check this one out.

David Tucker says

I really enjoyed reading Bridge through time. It was a refreshing read, getting away from the stigmata's this genre can so often lend itself. The backstory of the characters was the first thing I noticed and how they were not your classic action hero's. Instead they were far from what popular media would depict of modern day hero's.

The next jump out of page was the ideas and creativity put into this story. Rather than just the usual 'we are under attack from aliens ... again' Scott managed to put a credible spin, using time travel and an alternate Universe.

I found the pacing of this book was well considered and I could envision the setting and characters well. The tapestry was well woven and had events I did not predict (something I often can do ... and hate). At times I did feel the weight of info-overload, but as I like details I actually didn't mind it – particle physics and the likes, is kind of my bag.

At times there were things that annoyed me in this book (repetition and grammatical errors), but none of that detracted me from a good read.

I enjoyed Bridge through time, and give it four of my five stars.
