



Any Given Lifetime

Leta Blake

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Any Given Lifetime Leta Blake

He'll love him in any lifetime.

Neil isn't a ghost, but he feels like one. Reincarnated with all his memories from his prior life, he spent twenty years trapped in a child's body, wanting nothing more than to grow up and reclaim the love of his life.

As an adult, Neil finds there's more than lost time separating them. Joshua has built a beautiful life since Neil's death, and how exactly is Neil supposed to introduce himself? As Joshua's long-dead lover in a new body? Heartbroken and hopeless, Neil takes refuge in his work, developing microscopic robots called nanites that can produce medical miracles.

When Joshua meets a young scientist working on a medical project, his soul senses something his rational mind can't believe. Has Neil truly come back to him after twenty years? And if the impossible is real, can they be together at long last?

Any Given Lifetime is a stand-alone, slow burn, second chance gay romance by Leta Blake featuring reincarnation and true love. This story includes some angst, some steam, an age gap, and, of course, a happy ending.

Any Given Lifetime Details

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Author : Leta Blake

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Cadiva says

I don't know how to review this book. I mean, there's so much I could say about it.

How it's about love in its truest sense, how it straddles the line between contemporary romance and Sci-Fi/Alternative Reality with consummate ease.

How Neil is a complex, frustrating, brilliantly drawn character and I wholeheartedly bought into his reincarnation and his epic love for Joshua.

I could weep for the sorrow and pain suffered by both men, rejoice at the bonus love story the reader is given with Joshua and Lee and I could explain about how it jumps between past, present and future without ever losing the narrative.

But what I will say is that Leta Blake has crafted an original and compelling novel which I never wanted to end.

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

This book and I started off on shaky ground. I'll get to my quibble but I just want to say up front that if you're in the Squishy Marshmallow club, chances are you'll like *Any Given Lifetime*.

I recycle. I like antiques. I believe things can be restored and that other people's trash is another's treasure so it follows that I'd believe in reincarnation. I'm also a romantic and there's nothing, **NOTHING** more romantic than someone traversing time and space to return to their beloved.

When Neil and Joshua first met Joshua was deeply closeted and though he loved Neil completely, they never consummated their relationship. I liked the romanticism of their chasteness and I liked that it through the tragedy of Neil's death it was an awakening for Joshua. He realized that he had let happiness slip through his fingers because of fear and resolved to never again squander an opportunity to embrace life and love fully if it ever returned.

It does in the form of one of Neil's organ donor recipients, Lee. Lee is a remarkably generous person who makes room in the life he makes with Joshua for Neil. There were moments where I thought Lee was a mirage but his altruism is something everyone should aspire to.

The first part of *Any Given Lifetime* is non-linear and shifts between Neil growing up, flashbacks of Neil and Joshua's time together and Joshua building a new life with Lee. If books that time jump are problematic for you, exercise caution.

Neil is cantankerous, difficult, cerebral, arrogant and bristly. Outspoken and aggressively blunt; there is nothing easy about Neil. Admittedly, I struggled with the way he treated Joshua when they met for the second time but as the narrative unfolded he started to make more sense to me. He has a generous soul, but he is **exceedingly bad** at showing it, aside from his complete and utter devotion to his work extending and bettering the quality of human life through nanite technology.

The last part finds reincarnated Neil back in Joshua's life in the future. There is some angst but mostly it's scorching. I think I drooled a little on myself. There's something about the reverse age difference top/bottom thing that is grunt worthy to me. Even though *technically* it's not *really* a reverse age difference. I think I just confused myself.

What *Any Given Lifetime* did in spades was squeeze my squishy marshmallow heart because it's so unbelievably romantic that these two could find their way back to each other after twenty years. It's unbearably touching that they have their own precious secret, something remarkable, a miracle really, that only a handful of people know.

They're soulmates. Death, space, time, two lifetimes... nothing can keep them apart.

My quibble, when I really examined and distilled it down came to this: my conception of reincarnation doesn't align with this one. This version seems cruel to me but that's **very subjective** on my part.

Lastly, **LOVED** Neil's mother and his roommate Derek! I loved that they became so close and I would be most pleased were Derek to get his own book.

Recommend to timeless romance fans.

A review copy was provided in exchange for an honest review.

.Lili. says

Three days after I finished **Any Given Lifetime** by **Leta Blake**, and I'm still thinking about it. It's a story of true love, an epic love, that nothing could stop. This book was probably one of the most romantics books I've ever read, and I've been reading romance for 20+ years. I don't say that lightly.

I don't know how to write this review, so it'll probably be all over the place.

Let's begin:

Things that don't always work for me.

1. Is this a story about reincarnation? Yes, but the sci-fi aspect never overtakes the story so for none sci-fi readers **don't let this turn you off from reading this book.**

2. Also, a couple of things that generally kill a story and didn't bother me in the least here because they just made sense. There were multiple POVs. This is a big one for me, but for the story to develop correctly, it needed them. There were also flashbacks which again were pivotal to the storytelling.

Some highlights

-Angst. It's angst that hurts so good; from grief, from longing, heartbreak and jealousy.

-Just like there's pain, there's so much love. The love of partners, parents, and friends.

-This is a slow burn romance. Neil and Joshua's love was cut short due to a tragic accident, and they have to find their way back to each other.

-Intensity. The love between Neil and Joshua is intense- they are soulmates in every sense of the word.

You guys, this book gripped me. It made me cry, smile, despair, hopeful, and so happy. There aren't any words that I can type that will give this book justice; it's beautiful.

5+ Stars.

Ariana says

4,5 stars

This was a first for me.

Reincarnation.

Who else to tackle it than Leta Blake who shows yet again that she can take any theme or topic and write a gripping book.

And **gripping** it certainly is, right from the prologue to the very happy end.

Joshua and Neil are in love. They both know it, but Joshua is young, a farmer's boy, and not yet ready to come out and be himself. Neil, usually the snarky, super clever scientist, is happy to be patient and wait because he's fallen head over heels and ... they've got plenty of time after all.

But then, they don't.

We find out in short **flashbacks** (told under extremely poignant circumstances) how these guys meet, fall in love and what happens to Neil. And how it devastates Joshua. His grief and anguish are palpable, and it's even more heart-breaking because it's laced with regret.

Neil is reborn two years after his death. We get to see him grow up through the eyes of his mother, Alice.

I'm usually not that keen on **multiple POV**, but it is necessary here and works perfectly.

I really felt for **Alice and her dilemma**. What to do with a child that isn't exactly that – a child? And one that is as socially challenging as Neil. One that is highly intelligent and speaks like an 'old man'. One that doesn't feel as if it ever was hers.

If I empathized with Alice, **I ached for Neil**.

He has to go through childhood, adolescence, the whole lot AGAIN when all he wants is to be with Joshua. In many ways his plight is harder to take because ...

Loving Joshua was all he'd ever known.

The way he saw it, Joshua's smile was his calling. The desire for it was what had propelled him into this world again, and seeing it was like a drug – addictive and necessary.

But how can he go even near the man he loves when Joshua has rebuilt his life, is happy and content? What's the point of him being on earth again if he can't do that?

To say **the situation's tricky** is probably the understatement of the year.

Joshua is 20 years older than Neil now, when Neil used to be the older one. Both have had a range of life changing experiences since the last time they met. They are the same men and yet, they are not.

The world had changed. So had Joshua. And Neil would be a monster to try to deny that.

Needless to say that things do not go smoothly. How could they? There are so many doubts on both sides, so much heartbreak and desperation. But in the end their longing, their desire and most of all their love is stronger.

And let me tell you, when these two get together eventually, they are explosive. No doubt, these are some of the steamiest (and lengthiest) sex scenes I've read. It's like all the pent-up frustration of 20 years and all that love erupts in one long session of 'coming together'.

This book explores the idea of reincarnation on a variety of levels. And with some futuristic and paranormal elements it is not your 'usual' romance. In the end, this is an epic love story, in which the power of love transcends time and space.

And what on earth could be more romantic than that?

Loved it.

Keira Andrews says

As always, Leta Blake delivers. This outside-the-box romance is unique and full of heart. I'm not actually a huge fan of reincarnation, but I was hooked in from the start. Highly recommend!

Leta Blake says

ETA: NOW AVAILABLE! At Amazon and on KU. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07H4SC7V8>
Universal link: mybook.to/AnyGivenLifetime

Now available for pre-order: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07H4SC7V8>

~◊~Doxi(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

***Any Given Lifetime* is not a traditional romance, but it IS a love story.**

It's not entirely linear and spans thirty-plus years. It's not contemporary or historical; it's set in the past, present, and future. It doesn't start at the beginning, but it ends at the end, which is also a beginning.

It's not about two people falling in love and living happily ever after, although there is love (so much love) and a HEA. But first there are tears; again and again there are tears: tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

This book is about Joshua and Neil and a dog named Magic. It's about a tragic accident and death and grief, and being reborn with memories of another lifetime.

It's about Joshua and Lee (possibly my favorite character in the story) who meet because of Neil. It's about second chances, hurt & comfort, and astonishing nanite technology that heals scars and nerve damage but at a cost. There's always a cost.

It's about chance. And FATE. And soulmates.

You can love more than once. You can love AGAIN. You can love forever.

This book broke me. I gasped and smiled and ugly sobbed into my pillow.

This is a sexy story, a sad story, a story of friendship and family and a truly remarkable woman named Alice who gives birth to a strange baby boy who knows things he shouldn't. Neil was so lucky to have Alice!

Every character in the story belongs. Every moment makes sense even if it doesn't make sense in the moment.

This book is not easy, but it is BRILLIANT. It's gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, tender, BEAUTIFUL.

I'm out of words.

Bravo, Leta Blake, for writing this brave story.

~Volha~ says

LOVED, LOVED, LOOOVEEED this book! I literally finished within hours! I usually need suspense or action to keep me interested, but here just the sheer amount of feelings and their intensity kept me on the edge of the seat thinking: "What is going to happen next?". I needed to finish it, it was a little compulsive... This is my second time reading Leta Blake's work, and wow, what a winner this is! What a rush!

The story of Neil and Joshua, in fact, is quite tragic and painful at times. Imagine having to reconcile yourself with the fact that the love of your life is with someone else while you are stuck in a child's body and need to grow up. The agony Neil endured must have been extensive. But what I loved about him the most was how noble he was and how he never encroached into Joshua and Lee's life even after he turned 18. He dealt with his emotions from the distance content in the knowledge that Joshua was happy even if not with him. That takes strong will and love beyond measure to concede like that. All through his childhood and adolescent years I felt deeply for him, for his struggles and his pain. He never fit in, he was a middle-aged man in a boy's body.

Joshua is a young man from the South and Bible shaking parents. He hid his desire deep enough until one day he met a rude man who would change the course of his life and stay in his heart forever. Joshua's capacity to love and embrace is endless, and when Neil dies and he meets Lee he welcomes him and opens himself to love again. They both have a wonderful life, but again Lee dies and Joshua is left to pick up the pieces of his life alone. A man only can take but so much before breaking point.

That's where the story comes full circle and these two men meet again. Call it Fate, madness, whatever the heck you want to call it, but it's amazing. Joshua accepts and recognizes HIS Neil in this young man's body. It's terrifying and exhilarating at the same time to have the love he thought he lost come back to him. The emotions are so high, so strong and so intense - the last 30% of the book are priceless!

The whole alternate universe concept really appealed to me, the technology and healing capabilities that medicine reaches is well-detailed, superbly written and just engrossing. It reminded me about Evolved in terms of immeasurable possibilities our future holds. And I really loved Alice, Neil's biological mother this time around. She is one amazing mother, tip of the hat to you! I highly recommend this book! I could not tear myself away!!!

Bev says

????????? - All the stars for this one.

OMG I loved this book so, so hard. Any Given Lifetime is why I love reading. The feels, the angst, the tears and the really clever plot kept me engrossed. I loved the timeline going so far into the future and all the scientific/medical work that went with it.

I was a bit worried at first. See, I didn't want to like Joshua with Lee but I did, Lee was so good for Joshua when he desperately needed it after losing Neil so suddenly and tragically. The love and care they had for each other was beautiful, but all the while my heart was breaking for Neil. All he wanted was "his Joshua" and had to wait for years to be in a position to get him back, and even that wasn't guaranteed because Joshua had moved on eventually after Neil's death. Written in dual POV it alternated between both as well as past and present, just enough in the past to move the story forward without over-saturating the story with flashbacks.

Before I go any further, this is **not** a triangle (clever plot remember), nor is there cheating (again with that clever plot). I read this book with my gut in knots at times, oh man how I love a book that brings out all the feels in me.

The story comes full circle and Neil gets his time. And. it. was. fabulous! I get chills just thinking about it and my damn eyes are leaking again.

Not going to say any more except to my MM angst loving buddies - go read it if you haven't already!!

Ula'ndi Hart says

[**Is it just me NOT understanding or did Neil actually presumably “know” who he was since like...birth?**

Cause that breastfeeding baby trying to get the hell away from h

Wendy says

I am a big fan of paranormal books, and I have even read my fair share of "ghost" stories, I have never read about **reincarnation** before though. I was very curious to see how this would all work out.

It was **weird**... and it was also not. I was **strange**, but in a **good** way, if that even makes sense ??

I am gonna be honest and say that this is a story, I normally would have skipped. But this is **Leta Blake** and she made me fall deeply in love with Patrick from the "Wake up Married" series.

Also...remember "Vespertine", one of my all time favorites. No way I was skipping this one !! And I am glad I didn't ;)

Now, what would you do if you were reborn, with all the memories of your previous life still intact... and knowing the **love of your life** is still out there, moving on ?? Having to wait until you are old enough to make a play.... I can't even imagine !!

This was a strange kind of story and I absolutely loved it !! These two really were soulmates and they really

did love each other through "any given lifetime" !!

I highly recommend this one, if you are looking for something, different, sweet and sexy ;)

My reviews are posted on DirtyBooksObsession

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Lyn says

Thanks, Raven, for recommending this amazing and unique book.

I appreciate the humorous parts of the story; otherwise, I would be a total and complete mess.

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

4.5 Stars!

Very interesting read that really had me hooked from the beginning.

I don't always care for flashbacks and time jumps but they worked really well here, despite at times being hard to read.

There were many times in both Neil and Joshua's life that I really felt for what they were going through.

Leta Blake is a favorite for me and she had another winner here.

Overall, a really intriguing read. A very interesting, different plot. Plenty of smexy times (which Leta nails **#punintended** every time). And no un-necessary drama.

CrabbyPatty says

If reincarnation is a favorite theme of yours, you'll really enjoy "Any Given Lifetime" and even if it really

isn't your thing, you'll love this book for its depiction of a love that truly lasts a lifetime, and beyond.

When Joshua and Neil fall in love for the first time, Joshua is "a skittish country boy stewing in internalized homophobia, and Neil [...] a very busy research scientist." They are only together a short time before Neil dies, leaving Joshua with his family fortune which Joshua uses to create the Neil Russell Foundation for Advanced Nanite Research.

Neil is reborn as Alice Quinley's child Neil Joseph and compared to his first life in a relative lap of luxury, this life is a hard scrabble one, with little money and an abusive father who leaves when Neil is eight. Alice fiercely loves this strange child, whose first words were "I miss Joshua" and who acts like an old man in a skinny little body. "He'd always been a child who seemed to find everyday miracles not only to be old hat, but really kind of annoying."

Leta Blake sets this story into motion, and then gives us a series of flashbacks to when Joshua and Neil first met, interspersed with updates on Joshua's current life and Neil struggling through a second childhood, awaiting the day until he and Joshua meet again. I *love* this plot as Blake explores the experiences and emotions of both men - Joshua going from a young man who was frightened of so many things with Neil, to having another loving relationship, to having an unimaginable second chance at love. And Neil being, well ... Neil, but experiencing his mother's overwhelming love and belief in him and getting some big-time lessons in patience and appreciation.

If you read Blake's excellent "Wake Up Married" series, Neil may remind you of Dr. Patrick McCloud, the genius neurosurgeon with absolutely no social awareness of just how much of a jerk he can be. And like Will and Patrick in that series, Joshua and Neil may be imperfect, but they are *perfect* for each other. Their chemistry is so intense, and there is a *lot* of very steamy sex (as well as sex with other partners). The story clips along quickly and the ending is pretty darn perfect. 4.5 stars and a Recommended Read for "Any Given Lifetime."

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

4.25 stars

This story perplexed me a great deal.

It had SO many things that I usually dislike in a book. We get **more than two POVs** (a pet peeve of mine), **flashbacks** (much of the story is told in flashback, which I usually hate), and more than one love story.

But, somehow, I couldn't put it down, and I was completely won over by the end.

Yes, this is a story about reincarnation and finding one's true love again. And, to be honest, that's really what the entire story is about with very little deviation from that plot-path. The whole plot is a **slow build to an epic relationship that was cut short 20+ years before**.

There is an age gap... and there isn't.

There is some light sci-fi, but is isn't really a sci-fi-focused story.

There is horrible pain and loss, but the story is about hope and happiness.

It's a romancy-romance with that epic *squeeeee* you get when two people feel meant to be together.

I was so happy that Leta Blake gave this book her signature (at least for me, from her Will & Patrick Wake Up Married series) MC that is an arrogant jerk that you absolutely *have* to love, and her no-holds-barred sexy-sex. The sex in the book was pages upon pages of glory, and I loved every second of it.

I'm not exactly sure what about this story made it so compelling, but I could NOT put it down. I read until 2:37 am with a full day of work awaiting me the next day. Oops.

Any Given Lifetime is a must-read for any Leta Blake fan. It isn't a book that I would have predicted that I would really, really like, but I couldn't get enough. Sometimes, it's all about the chemistry.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review
