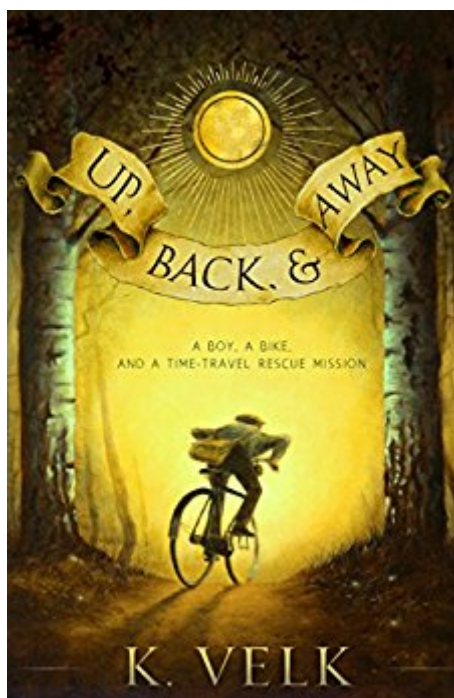


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Up, Back, And Away



Synopsis

â œ[T]his is a book for all ages, especially for those who long for the books of yesteryear that invoked magic and mystery and warmth and an instant love affair with the authorâ | Velk is a major find.â • - Grady Harp in The Literary Aficionado, Vine Voice, Top 50 Reviewer. This is a charming book with an easy, flowing writing style that should really appeal to older kids who've fallen under the "Downton" spell â " and their history buff parents. - Margot Harrison - 7 Days, Burlington, VT. "A book to be savored..." - The Teatime Reader "I would certainly recommend this as a YA novel, but as with all good novels, it appeals to all ages whether the protagonist is fifteen or older. An entertaining novel with lots of good social and cultural history thrown in with the adventure." - A Garden Carried in the Pocket "I've always been interested in the past," Miles said, "I just never thought it was a place I would visit." Miles McTavish likes old bicycles, new music, and (donâ t say it too loud), model railroading. As the only child of wealthy Dallas executives, it appears that a life of ease is his birthright. All those expectations are upended, however, the day he is summoned to the hospital bed of his friend Morgan Davies. Professor Davies has a secret to share: he is a time traveler. He also has a task for his young friend: Miles is to travel back in time to 1928, and across the sea to England. Once there, he is to find â œa girl with a gift, a girl born out of her timeâ • and a â œsecret that was not meant to beâ • and then return home with them both. Miles must first find the courage to pass through the strange portal in the Vermont woods that will launch him on this mission, and then to face down a series of do-or-die crises (including a crisis of confidence). Miles' quest for the girl and the secret carries him from a great estate in England's beautiful countryside to London's jazz-age cabarets, and from terrified boy to heroic young man.

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Customer Reviews

This is a young adult/fantasy although some call it time travel. Miles is our main character and a very young 15 yrs old and small for his age. He lives in Texas where he helps repair bikes with a Professor in his spare time. When the professor learns Miles is going to Vermont with his parent who are avid bikers and asks Miles to do something for him and to take a stone (and not lose it) and an old time bike. Miles goes off on his own to try and accomplish what the professor asks and low and behold he winds up in England between the wars. I loved the way this book shows Miles thinking on his feet after getting in a minor bit of trouble and the things he has to do while in England are so different from his home life. But his mission is to find a girl and find a secret and get back home--can he do it--what happens along the way--does he make friends? All these will be answered when you read this awesome book--the only nit picky point I have--when is the second book coming out???? Please, so much more to find out!!

This was a terrific adventure story that kept me reading it until the end, and then wishing for more. At first, it felt like I had missed some explanations, like maybe this was already book two and I still wonder about a prequel. My only real complaint is that I yearned for more details to compare and contrast the different times. Only passing thought was given to the lack of zippers in pants and deodorant. Describing those details is what allows the reader to put themselves in the story and try to imagine how they might have felt and acted under similar circumstances. (Read Jack Finney's novels for perfect examples. Even his short stories create the mood for the reader, leaving the thought that, "Maybe, just maybe, it's possible..." Nonetheless, the story was fun and the twists were surprising.

Loved this book. A wonderful new idea for time travel! The historical part of the book intrigued me as to what he should know about what was happening during the past time to better fit in.

This was a great book! Very enjoyable. It moved well; the story was good. I liked it a lot.

I enjoyed reading the story. The plot unfolded nicely with well thought out reveals along the way. I recommend it for a YA audience. There were some things that bothered me. The premise of a bicycle as a time travel device never quite settled with me. I was disappointed that there was very little about the mysterious gypsy that gave Miles his quest. Some of the language fifteen year old Miles was using in Old England didn't always fit the character, in my opinion.

I think this is a fine book for a young adult audience (middle school, young teen). It offers a nice history lesson regarding British society between the world wars. Although many YA novels are interesting and meaningful to adults, I'm afraid this is not one of them. I felt talked down to throughout the narrative, and the characters were not complex enough to hold an adult's interest.

This was a really good story that fell short in a couple of ways. A lot of what happens is kind of "too much luck". There doesn't seem to be much of an inner struggle for Miles and many things are explained because he had "a feeling". It's entertaining and well written and younger readers might not mind the incredible lucky coincidences but for me it was a little bit too easy.

A fun, fanciful read. There were many components that appealed to me: old bikes, England (in the quasi-Downton Abbey era), and a bit of time travel (in a way that doesn't confuse me, like it usually does). The story has a moderate pace, but is intriguing as you join the main character in his exploration of England in 1928, and winds up with an exciting fast-paced ending that keeps you interested. I wouldn't analyze it too hard for character motives, back story, logistics, etc. but just enjoy the romp. It's a solid, wholesome piece of Young Adult fantasy fiction (without the vampires and angsty love triangles ;-)

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