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When You Reach Me

Laura Wadley

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Reviewer: Laura Wadley  
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction; Science fiction;  
Subject: Space and time--Juvenile literature; New York (N.Y.)--History--1951---Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews

If Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Whatsit got Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin back to the garden five minutes before they left, why didn't they see themselves leaving? "A Wrinkle in Time" is Malinda's favorite book, but she is troubled by this question posed by Marcus, the boy in the green coat who punched out her best friend Sal, who has hardly talked to her since. And she is particularly unnerved because she has begun to receive enigmatic notes with instructions to her that seem to come from the future.

Two Newbery winners--Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* and Lynne Rae Perkins' *Criss Cross*--are echoed and expanded on in Stead's sparkling new volume, which ought already to be on the shortlist for this year's award. Though the narrative is above all character-driven, the text is, at the same time, charged with a degree of mystery and suspense that pulls the reader along to the moment that all is revealed on the streets of 1970s New York. This one's a pip. Don't miss it.

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