



# The Ministry of Time

*Kalaine Bradley*

## EARLY BOOKSELLER PRAISE

"I haven't been so moved by a fantasy novel since *THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE* by VE Schwab, maybe even *EXIT WEST* by Mohsin Hamid, both of which I will use as a basis of comparison while handselling the hell out of this book next May...At its heart, this novel is an often-hilarious romance between one bridge and her expat. But the depth of world building around their relationship, the back stories of each character, and the tremendous emotion on display through Ms. Bradley's exquisite way with words makes this anything but your run-of-the-mill love story. Come for the Bond-like moments of adventure. Stay for the pearls of wisdom Ms. Bradley drops on how our futures are truly built, one sealed door of possibility, hope, forgiveness at a time." —**Alissa Redmond, South Main Book Company, Salisbury, NC**

"I raced through this wonderful story about an experiment with time travel that goes terribly wrong. The British government has extracted five 'expats' from four previous centuries to contemporary London through a time-door. Among them is Commander Graham Gore—an extremely capable, clever, and witty polar explorer pulled from a lost Arctic expedition in 1847. The civil servant assigned to facilitate Commander Gore's transition to the 21st century can't help falling for him, even as it becomes difficult to ignore the darker aspects of his past and the dangers of the project." —**Margo Eule, East City Bookshop, Washington D.C.**

"How does one research something that hasn't happened yet? Kalaine Bradley has managed to do just that, and beautifully, with *THE MINISTRY OF TIME*. Radical, brilliant, witty, and compulsive, this (how can it be a) debut novel will quickly \*travel\* into all of the 'best of' and 'most anticipated' lists of 2024." —**Mary O'Malley, Skylark Bookshop, Columbia, MO**

"This is a big WOW type of book, one that seems destined to become the sort of long-tail favorite that finds new readers year on year on year. There is truly something for everyone here—speculative technologies; ripping action; wonderfully drawn characters; an extremely sexy love story; and capable, assured, frequently beautiful prose. Yet Bradley manages to avoid the typical pitfalls of 'a book for everyone,' i.e., that it is so for everyone it speaks to no one, as her vision is so specific, her sense of the interiority of each character so true, that *THE MINISTRY OF TIME* stands as a genuinely remarkable achievement that doesn't feel like anything else on the shelf today." —**Vanessa Martini, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA**

"I love a good time travel book and this one sucked me right in...finding new ways to connect people across years, Kalaine Bradley breaks new ground with her passionate narrator and fun story." —**Kira Wizner, Merritt Bookstore, Millbrook, NY**





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"A unique and charming debut novel...Fun and fast paced with some history and romance thrown in for good measure!" —**Kathy Clemmons, Sundog Books, Santa Rosa Beach, FL**

"This book is so dang good. It's funny as hell, wonderfully strange, clever, thought-provoking. Plus it has a great love story! Spies! Time travel! Just read it." —**Hannah Harlow, The Book Shop of Beverly Farms, Beverly, MA**

"This is one of those books that is completely and utterly entertaining! Time-travel, spy-thriller with a bit of romance and history thrown in—while also exploring identity and belonging. I was thoroughly entertained—what a great debut novel!" —**Julie Slavinsky, Warwicks, La Jolla, CA**

"THE MINISTRY OF TIME is a true blockbuster of a book with something for everyone, combining all the best elements of time travel classic, romantic epic, spy thriller, and climate dystopian. And above all else, this book is exceedingly funny in the face of certain doom. Kalaine Bradley's debut defies genre and exceeds expectations, I absolutely loved it." —**Kassie King, The Novel Neighbor, St. Louis, MO**

"THE MINISTRY OF TIME has that extra 'something special' quality that presages an instant classic. Kalaine Bradley is as true an heir to Connie Willis as I've ever encountered. This is time travel fiction at its best: so funny, so sad, so surprisingly very like what it's like to live in our own, ostensibly time-travel-free, world. A book about being a forced migrant, a stranger, a human who's homesick for a place that no longer exists. It's stunning." —**Elisabeth Plumlee-Watson, Loganberry Books, Shaker Heights, OH**

"In the MINISTRY OF TIME readers have a front row seat to a government-controlled time-travel experiment in which a handful of characters from history land in modern times, where they are assigned a handler to track their every move. Bradley weaves a compelling narrative that explores the ethics of technical advances perfect for readers looking for thought-provoking, fast-paced story. Part time-travel, part romance, part mystery, pure fun, THE MINISTRY OF TIME is a thrill of a read!" —**Beth Seufer Buss, Bookmarks, Winston-Salem, NC**

"This is one of those books that makes you annoyed that you have to eat, sleep and go to your job. Engaging premise, fun use of time travel and a piercing commentary on the state of our world today." —**Marisa Neyenhuis, Chapter One Bookstore, Hamilton, MT**





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"As soon as I read the premise, I couldn't pick this up fast enough. THE MINISTRY OF TIME has it all -- time travel, spies, forbidden love, moral dilemmas, and an 1800's Polar explorer who I now, inexplicably, have a crush on. My favorite new sci-fi I can't wait to share!" —**Hilary Burg, Mystery to Me, Madison, WI**

"A very abridged list of things I love about THE MINISTRY OF TIME: Margaret's exquisitely rendered 1660s vocabulary. Gore's tenderly-revealed eccentricities, from his terms of endearment to the proportions of his nose. Our narrator's grumbling self-awareness. Bradley conducts this wild ride with wit, aplomb, and an attentive sense of choice and consequence that lends the story a thoughtful, incisive gravity. I cannot WAIT for everyone to read this book!!!" —**Milo Michels, University Book Store, Seattle, WA**

"THE MINISTRY OF TIME is a fun, sexy, action-packed yet emotional novel that had me absolutely hooked from the first page. Time travel! Spies! Romance! Mystery! Plus some good ol' bureaucracy and workplace comedy with some of the most charmingly endearing characters you'll ever meet. Trust me, this book will be your newest obsession but be forewarned — you WILL develop a massive crush on a certain Victorian polar explorer. Kalaine Bradley has created something truly extraordinary and fresh in this speculative novel that explores biracial identities, generational and inherited trauma, and so much more, all while being a twisty page turning tour de force. Buckle up and enjoy the ride and the beautiful writing. This is one of THE books that everyone will be talking about!" —**Christine Bollow, Loyalty Books, Washington, D.C.**

"When our narrator gets her new charge, he's likely to have a bit of trouble acclimating, being that as far as he knew, Graham Gore was just stranded while looking for the Northwest Passage. The other time expats call him '47, referring to the year he was pulled from history. You can view this as an entertaining time travel, romance-adjacent fantasy worthy of Matt Haig or Jasper Fforde. But there's also some contemporary ruminations here: How does the daughter of a Cambodian refugee handle this survivor of the Franklin expedition who is at once a colonialist explorer and is yet a refugee in time himself? There's a lot of setup to this novel, but don't worry, it all comes together in a revelation-and-action-packed finale." —**Daniel Goldin, Boswell Books, Milwaukee, WI**

"Oh my goodness, this book...I already know it's going to be on my best-of list for the year. With its vivid characters, heart-in-your-mouth plot, and moments both hilarious and poignant, it's a joy to read. There are notes of Connie Willis and R.F. Kuang's BABEL, but Kalaine Bradley has created something entirely her own and utterly wonderful." —**Shannon Guinn-Collins, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM**





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"Timely, clever, and incredibly romantic, this book defies genre in the most captivating way. I loved the concept: a near future where time travel exists and "expats" are kidnapped from history and have to adapt to modern life under government scrutiny. Prepare to fall in love with a chain smoking Arctic explorer from 1847 and an Old English speaking and self-proclaimed feminist killjoy from 1665." —**Olivia Marchese, Author's Note, Medina, NY**

"Can a book be both melancholy and great fun? Turns out the answer is yes. THE MINISTRY OF TIME offers a fresh take on time travel that keeps us guessing until the final pages. Extremely enjoyable!" —**Suzanna Hermans, Oblong Books, Millerton, NY**

"There was a moment in the beginning when we first meet the time-travelers that it all came together for me and I couldn't put the book down. I had to know who would end up where and how it would end even if it was the ending I didn't want. Captures the British Empire/Imperialist ideology of "found it, claim it, own it" as it concerns time travel perfectly and the power dynamics within the system. Come for the time travel spy thriller, stay for the introspective musings on human relationships and connection across the centuries. Already one of my top 10 books for the year." —**Alicia Jessom, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO**

"I have to confess that I was put off by all the hype associated with this book, but I could not resist the premise of a government agency experimenting with time travel. And I have to admit that the hype is deserved: it is funny, engaging, and also deeply thought-provoking (my favorite kind of book)." —**Keith Glaeske, East City Bookshop, Washington D.C.**

"I can't remember the last time I was so charmed by a novel—or more particularly, by a character in a novel. Lieutenant Graham Gore alone is worth the read, but thankfully he's just part of an immensely satisfying reading experience. Time travel, espionage, explorations of climate change and colonialism, romance—this book has it all. I highly recommend this book—you will grin all the way through!" —**Chelsea Bauer, Union Ave Books, Knoxville, TN**

"Stunningly beautiful. I couldn't put it down. An incredibly original take on time travel that puts human connection and emotion at the forefront. The prose was so beautiful, I often had to put the book down just to close my eyes and hold the words in my head before I could continue." —**Gennys Moulton, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO**





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"THE MINISTRY OF TIME is highbrow goofiness and my love for it is inexhaustible. At once bold and delicate, the writing had me by the throat, highlighting passage after passage. The characters were so loveable and lifelike-- the reader cannot help but be irrepressibly fond of Graham, and every moment he was on the page, laden with possibility, left me holding my breath, my chest tight. This book makes me want to belt classic love ballads and rewatch Titanic while also simultaneously making me crack open my old literary theory textbooks, my copies of Frantz Fanon. And for all this, it was also /hilarious/. Like, snort-your-coffee funny. It's almost unfair how the author hits every note, and hits it perfectly. It explores with nuance and vulnerability what it means to make mistakes and learn from them, what it means to be responsible for terrible things, what it feels like to be a refugee, to belong and also be an outsider. When I was 20% of the way through this book I announced that I think this is my favorite book of all time, and that held true once I finished it. Kalaine Bradley, I would walk over broken glass for you." —**Mariah McGuire, Dog-Eared Books, Ames, IA**

"This premise hooked me: the British government has discovered time travel, and to test its effects on the human body, they've snatched some "expats" from throughout history. Our unnamed narrator is selected as a "bridge" for Captain Graham Gore from the ill-fated Franklin Expedition of the 1840s. Bradley's social commentary shines: how would a Victorian Brit acclimate to the 21st century? Or feel about multiculturalism or the diminished Empire? Written with plenty of dry humor, I chortled at something on every other page. With a little spy action and some romance, this was a gem of a debut novel." —**Whitney Bloom, Bookworm of Edwards, Edwards, CO**

"I audibly gasped and had my brain ripped out, wrapped around, and shook up. My heart took a tumble and somehow managed not to get seasick on the rough seas and came out the other end lovesick and never wanting to leave the pages of this book." —**Sofia Brekkan, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA**

"This book truly has it all. A suspenseful plot, humor to actually truly make you laugh out loud, sex appeal and an important message for current times." —**Katrina Mendrey, Chapter One Bookstore, Hamilton, MT**

"What are you in the mood to read? Victorian polar exploration? Sci-Fi? Spy thriller? Romance? Contemporary Lit? Well, this one has it all! If you ever wondered what it would be like if a member of the doomed Franklin Expedition had to room with a modern Millennial grappling with her heritage this is the book for you." —**Carrie Deming, The Dog Eared Book, Palmyra, NY**





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"Kalaine Bradley tells you early on not to worry about the paradoxes and dangers of time travel, just sit back and enjoy the multi-cultural, culture-clashing ride. Her writing and storytelling make it very easy to do so. *The Ministry of Time* takes a simple premise and takes great pleasure in mining it for every emotion under the sun. Take a few characters from across history, transplant them to the near future, and see how they get along.

The dialogue is so sharp and clever I found myself SOLing (snorting out loud) more often than I expected, and the classic 'life through the eyes of an ingenue' trope is kept fresh by reflecting on the mores of each transplant's century as much as on our own. The inevitable love interest, (with echoes of the excellent *Time Traveler's Wife*), is natural and well handled, and the plot which comes crashing in at the end is subtle enough that you're left with a feeling of having been stranded between times—a fitting ending for a rare book." —**Doron Klemer, Octavia's Bookshop, New Orleans, LA**

"I haven't even finished THE MINISTRY OF TIME yet and I am swooning. I feel like I'm on the most 'I can't believe you are real' first date ever. This book is written in my love language. It is original, clever, intelligent and madly cheeky! Full disclosure: I have to say that no book has ever made me feel so weirdly jealous, but Kalaine Bradley struck a nerve. I don't even know what I'm jealous about I just know she's captured something extremely magical that I want to possess!" —**Pamela Buckley, Lahaska Bookshop, Lahaska, PA**

"Wowowow. Safe to say I went into this book with VERY high expectations. The publishing world is all abuzz about it and everyone I know who's read it, loved it. I'm very happy to report that THE MINISTRY OF TIME lives up to the hype! This book is all about the characters. I couldn't help but fall in love with all of them a little bit (or maybe a lot) and I missed them the moment I finished reading." —**Jade Tisserand, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA**

"This is one of the most enjoyable books I've ever read! The language and pace of this book is so engaging it's hard to put down! With elements of time travel, humor, history and unexpected love, the author has expertly crafted a story that has something for everyone. I love, love, loved this book!" —**Lorilee Sugden, Linden Tree Books, Portola Valley, CA**

"An incredible hook and the most delightful time travelers I've ever encountered. That Graham Gore -- what a charmer!" —**Emilie Sommer, East City Bookshop, Washington D.C.**





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“THE MINISTRY OF TIME has it all: romance, suspense, time travel, humor...Our unnamed main character is taking a new, mysterious job at the Ministry. It's only once she's approved that she's informed that time travel is real and her new job is as a Bridge: someone who helps expats from the past acclimate to the modern day. Her charge, Graham, has been brought forward from the Franklin Expedition before everyone dies. Full of charming, quirky characters, THE MINISTRY OF TIME does not disappoint.”

—**Jenn Jones, Bookmiser, Marietta, GA**

“Where to begin with THE MINISTRY OF TIME? I finished it and immediately had to scream about it—mostly in nonsensical, purposefully vague ways that drove my friends and family crazy (but also left them highly intrigued). It's fantastic, beautiful, show-stopping—everything Lady Gaga said. I haven't felt this way about a book in a long, long time.

The first 70 - 80% of the book unfolds in a quiet, beautiful, character-driven, slice-of-life kind of way that is so lovely that I, at times, felt annoyed when the plot came creeping in as a harbinger of things to come, things I'd rather not come to pass (notably, mirroring the way the narrator is trying to ignore the part she plays in the mechanism that is undermining the things she is building in her personal life). Please also don't let me undersell here how - in this beautiful quiet - there is humor and playfulness and love in chrysalis. And characters I was so thoroughly convinced were real that when I finished the book and remembered they weren't, I felt a little betrayed by the fact that we can't make fiction into reality just by wanting it to be so.

Then, I hit a certain point late in the book and got promptly punched in the gut. The less I say about that for future readers the better, but I will say, buckle in. It's a layer added so expertly that I'm shocked it could be achieved in a debut novel.

The end, like all the endings that we'll think about forever, was bittersweet and, even after having a week to process, is an ending I'm hesitant to assign a primary emotion to. But it's well-done and I can't wait to talk to EVERYONE about it after I force them to read this book.” —**Marissa Luckie, Buxton Books, Charleston, SC**

“A twisty-turny, heart-pounding, sexy, time-travelling thriller, and best of all, told with a delightfully dry, dark humor. And the while, deeply substantive.”  
—**Chrissy Adams, Belmont Books, Belmont, MA**





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"This story deserves so many superlatives! From a simple star-crossed romance aided by historical fiction, to a socio-political drama rife with intrigue, to a mundane drama of refugees from the past acclimating to the 21st century, to still again a thought-provoking exploration of hope, pessimism, the political life of personal choices, and the repercussions of time travel and second chances, THE MINISTRY OF TIME pulls you in and doesn't let go." —**Jennifer Martin, Tattered Cover, Denver, CO**

"What happens if the government figures out how to bring to the present a handful of historical figures from centuries ago? They'll need some professional handlers to help them adapt to this new world. This novel follows one such pairing through the pitfalls of modernity, inter-century espionage, speculative time-travel, and romantic entanglement. It's funny, heartbreaking, utterly unique and captivating." —**Keith Vient, Politics and Prose, Washington D.C.**

"A beyond charming, romantic novel. There is so much love and care for the everyman in history that is so rare in many historical novels. Bradley revels in the ordinary things we take for granted in the 21st century that makes you pause and think 'yeah things are pretty okay, what can I do to improve my world?' and the answer: human connection. I'm going to be missing the characters of this book until I read it again!" —**Audrey Kohler, BookWoman, Austin, TX**

"Twisty, fun, and mind-blowing, Bradley's novel celebrates the concept of time travel's inconsistencies. Our main character is involved in a British ministry's plucking of people from the past and seeing their ability to adapt, a fascinating premise, but develops into much more. Bradley's writing is sharp, witty and full of hints of what might be coming. Thoroughly enjoyable." —**Robin Stern, Books Inc., Campbell, CA**

"This encompasses so many ideas and genres—it is hard to write a short and sweet summation. But I loved it. I was surprised by it. I laughed a lot and cried a little. I got lost enough in it that I believed it could all be real." — **Andrea Jones, Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT**

"Do you want to know what happens when you take a 19th Century Arctic explorer and put him in a house with a modern British woman? Then read this book! Yes, there's a time travel plot, but the real strength of the book is in its distinct humor and finely honed observations about language, history, and humanity. A fantastic novel about how we understand our pasts and write our futures." —**Carmichael's Bookstore, Louisville, KY**





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"A clever take on a time travel story. I enjoyed the balance of humor and seriousness. I've never been more interested in a historic Arctic exploration!" —**Katie Burgert, The Bookies Bookstore, Denver, CO**

"Our near future narrator's love of history, especially the polar expeditions of the 1800's, make her the perfect 'bridge' worker. She is assigned to befriend Graham Gore, snatched from a doomed 1845 Arctic expedition. Gore does his best to adjust to the times, and she is right there to help. Maybe more than she should...History, mystery, time travel and romance come together in this story unlike anything you've read!" —**Beth Mynhier, Lake Forest Book Store, Lake Forest, IL**

"Expats from another time period is a concept that is unique and unbeatable. This story brings history to life through means both entertaining and intense. The quality of writing here is beyond excellent. Elevated from standard science fiction to a literary scientific masterpiece, this has something to challenge the genre readers and entertain the intellectuals. The pacing of this book builds and builds in a way that engages the reader while the relationship constructs give time and space for the story to breathe and percolate. And absolutely fantastic reading experience, start to finish." —**Brady Parker, King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City, UT**

"What can I say? You were all right. WHAT A YARN." —**Wesley Minter, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA**

"What happens when you place a 19th century ship Lieutenant into the 21st century? Time travel antics with toilets and questioning government-workplace bureaucracy, of course! At once hilariously romantic and deeply thought-provoking, this is one of the most ambitious and creative debuts of the year." —**Amanda Scroggins, Watermark Books & Café, Wichita, KS**

