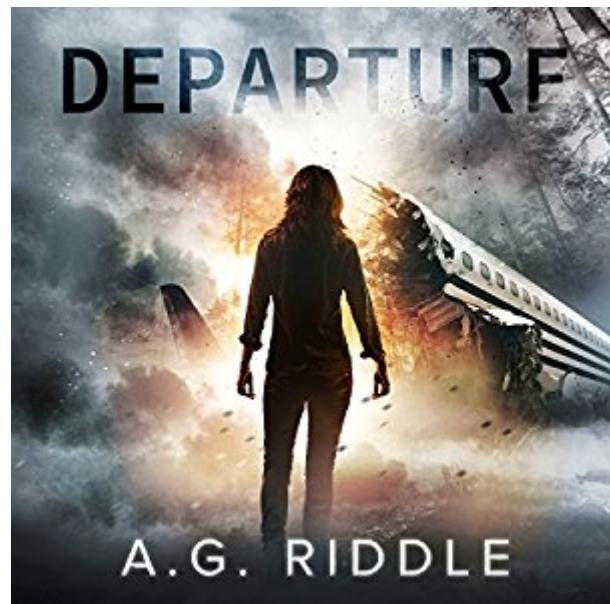


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# Departure



## Synopsis

En route to London from New York, Flight 305 suddenly loses power and crash-lands in the English countryside, plunging a group of strangers into a mysterious adventure that will have repercussions for all of humankind. Struggling to stay alive, the survivors soon realize that the world they've crashed in is very different from the one they left. But where are they? Why are they here? And how will they get back home? Five passengers seem to hold clues about what's really going on: writer Harper Lane, venture capitalist Nick Stone, German genetic researcher Sabrina Schröder, computer scientist Yul Tan, and Grayson Shaw - the son of a billionaire philanthropist. As more facts about the crash emerge, it becomes clear that some in this group know more than they're letting on - answers that will lead Harper and Nick to uncover a far-reaching conspiracy involving their own lives. As they begin to piece together the truth, they discover they have the power to change the future and the past - to save our world...or end it. To read an epilogue to Departure and access other bonus material, go to [agriddle.com/departure/extras](http://agriddle.com/departure/extras)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this novel on the basis of the extremely positive reviews; everyone seemed to love it, so I assumed I would, too. Not so much. First, I will say that I did appreciate Riddle's premise; the eventual point he was trying to make is something with which I completely agree. Also, the book is very well-edited and formatted; you won't be annoyed by poor spelling, grammar, etc. My problems with this novel centered around the characters; I never felt that they were anything but

one-dimensional, simply there as placeholders for various points of view. The story started off quite well, with a plane crash and ensuing confusion, but soon became completely bogged down by its own weighted narrative. This is science fiction, after all, so I'm not speaking about the actual plot itself. I don't want to give away giant plot points, but I did feel that after some momentous reveals, the characters seemed far too blasÃ©; actual humans would have been seriously freaking out. I also had difficulties with the final chapters, which seemed rushed and simplistic, and curiously unfinished. There is the kernel of a good story here, but Riddle doesn't seem interested in delving into the intricacies of the situation he has created. Lack of finesse, very bad airship battle scenes and a general absence of thoughtful cohesiveness made *Departure* a somewhat frustrating read for me-which was surprising as this is the kind of thing I generally enjoy. I personally cannot recommend this book, but a great many people loved it, so I know mine is a minority viewpoint. As always, we pay our money, and we take our chances.

Hands down one of the best books I have read in some time - I only came across it because my wife read his *Atlantis* series so this showed up in suggested - so I am now reading the *Atlantis* series (and loving it!) - I thought while reading it - would this make an amazing movie or what then dug and found it was sold to Fox for a movie but as best I can tell has not been started which is a shame because if the movie is even half as good as the book then it would still be a fantastic movie! PS - *Pandemic* - another must read by the same author - waiting for his second book now in that series (*Genome*)

I enjoy reading books that make me think, especially about human nature. This is just such a book. The story takes a close-up of two people's lives, Nick and Harper, with each chapter told by one of them. They go from 2014 to 2147 after a plane crash. This is when the decisions start. Who would you save? Who would you sacrifice for the greater good? What would you sacrifice? At each turn in the story, decisions are contemplated. Do Nick and Harper make the same decisions that you would? Throughout the book, it is the story of human nature. I recommend this book to anyone from teenage to adult. A great book for book clubs because you will definitely want to talk about it after you read it!

I've been recovering from an injury over the past year. Can't hold a book anymore but my Kindle reader works just fine. During this time I've spent a little over \$500 On Kindle books, and this is one of the better ones. The first part grabbed my attention, I wasn't sure where the story was going to

lead. The second part took me to a whole different place than expected. The third part gave it scale and the fourth part wrapped it up nicely. Very nicely done!

"Departure" is a nicely complicated time-travel story, where a small group of characters find themselves transported in the future and must do their best to save the world. The story is told by two of them, a woman and a man, in alternating chapters. The points of view are captured well, and the mystery is built with skill, leading to a mostly satisfying resolution. Unfortunately the author feels the need to provide way too much detail of the miraculous technologies, and of the history of the world between today and the future. For me this didn't work at all; for others it may work or not. The book features bidirectional communication across centuries, widespread magical tech which does not need maintenance, abundant free energy, and a world where all the humans have died but the infrastructure has somehow been preserved by an invisible omnipresent AI. As I see it, the main problem is that too many fundamental technological advances are supposed to happen in a very short time; some of those technological advances are unbelievable, some look politically unfeasible, and some make no sense economically. Why would the world make a huge investment in an underground maglev network connecting all the cities of Earth? To what purpose, given that transport costs are already negligible, since even today it makes sense to ship very cheap products halfway around the world? Not to mention damming the strait of Gibraltar with the purpose of lowering the level of the Mediterranean in order to produce electric power and to reclaim land: not a thought is given to explain how the project got political approval from all the countries involved (for example, lowering the Med by a mere 50 metres would cut off Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, would have dramatic effects on the Nile delta and on the lives of one hundred million Egyptians, and would require a completely new Suez canal). And then, of course, we have a mighty virus which not only kills all the people on Earth, but then somehow manages to survive itself in the absence of suitable hosts, and is completely immune to all that fantastic medical technology. (Scale: \* - unreadable, couldn't finish. \*\* - bad or very bad, but readable. \*\*\* - good work, well worth its price. \*\*\*\* - very good in its genre. \*\*\*\*\* - timeless masterpiece.)

Again, A.G. Riddle has transformed a simple idea into a nicely woven story with great character development and an actual moral of the story. I can't wait to begin the next book in the series! The editing is good, too. No annoying more distracting spelling or grammatical errors. Bravo!

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