# **Unveiling the Astonishing Journey of "When We Were Them" by Laura Taylor Namey**

Are you ready to embark on a captivating literary adventure? Look no further than Laura Taylor Namey's latest masterpiece, "When We Were Them". In this 3000-word article, we will dive into the enchanting world crafted by Namey, exploring the compelling story, rich characters, and the profound impact it leaves on its readers.

### **The Intriguing Premise**

"When We Were Them" transports us back in time, delving into the lives of two inseparable friends, Emma and Benny, who have been mysteriously thrown into different eras. Emma finds herself trapped in the 1920s, while Benny is stranded in the groovy 1960s.

As we follow their interwoven journeys through these distinct decades, Namey beautifully paints contrasting lifestyles, customs, and societal norms. Through her vivid descriptions, readers are transported to the bustling streets of New York's Jazz Age and the psychedelic era of the hippie movement. The vibrant settings act as an additional character, bringing the story to life.



When We Were Them by Laura Taylor Namey (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.2 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 2975 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Print length : 380 pages



#### The Remarkable Characters

Emma and Benny are not your typical time-traveling protagonists. Namey meticulously crafts their personalities, staying true to their respective eras whilst allowing their genuine connection and friendship to shine through. Emma, a spirited flapper, embraces the newfound independence that the 1920s offers to women. Benny, on the other hand, immerses himself in the countercultural revolution of the 1960s, advocating for peace, love, and freedom.

While their circumstances may have divided them, Emma and Benny's bond remains unbreakable. Their yearning to reunite intensifies, creating a riveting, edge-of-your-seat dynamic. Each chapter leaves readers eager to uncover the fate of these two friends through Namey's expert storytelling.

### The Agonizing Lesson

Throughout "When We Were Them," Namey addresses themes of identity, self-discovery, and the enduring power of friendship. As Emma and Benny navigate their unfamiliar surroundings, they are forced to confront their own biases and prejudices. Emma, a woman ahead of her time, challenges the patriarchal norms she encounters. Benny, coming face-to-face with racial segregation, confronts his own privilege and ignorance.

Namey skillfully weaves these thought-provoking messages into the narrative, urging readers to reflect on their own beliefs and values. "When We Were Them" serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of empathy, acceptance, and the courage to fight against injustice.

## **Author Laura Taylor Namey**

Laura Taylor Namey has established herself as a master storyteller, capable of crafting engaging narratives that resonate with readers. Known for her diverse, character-driven novels, Namey's works have received critical acclaim for their authenticity, emotional depth, and compelling storytelling.

Her previous novels, such as "The Library of Lost Things" and "A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow," have garnered a loyal following, with readers eagerly anticipating her next release. With "When We Were Them," Namey once again proves her prowess as a writer, delivering an extraordinary tale that will leave an indelible mark on its readers.

"When We Were Them" is an enthralling novel that seamlessly blends elements of time travel, friendship, and self-discovery. Laura Taylor Namey captivates readers through her rich storytelling, intricate world-building, and complex characters. This brilliant tale not only entertains but also prompts reflection on societal norms, identity, and the power of human connection.

If you're ready to be spellbound by a book that transcends time and leaves an everlasting impression, "When We Were Them" by Laura Taylor Namey should be at the top of your reading list.



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From New York Times bestselling author Laura Taylor Namey comes a "lyrical and tender, authentic" (Kirkus Reviews) novel about friendship and the bittersweetness of growing up and growing apart.

When they were fifteen, Willa, Luz, and Britton's friendship was everything.

When they were sixteen, they stood by each other no matter what.

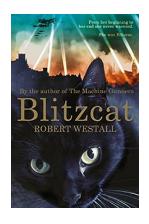
When they were seventeen, they went through the worst.

And when they were eighteen, Willa ruined it all.

Now, it's the week of graduation, and Willa is left with only a memory box filled with symbols of the friendship she destroyed: A book of pranks. Corsages from a nightmarish homecoming. A greasy pizza menu. Greeting cards with words that mean the world...

It's enough to make Willa wonder how anything could tear her, Luz, and Britton apart. But as Willa revisits the moments when she and her friends leaned on each other, she can't avoid the moments they leaned so hard their friendship began to crack.

As Willa tries to find a way back to Luz and Britton, she must confront the why of her betrayal, and answer a question she never saw coming: Who is she without them?



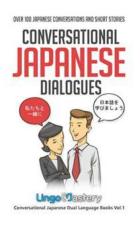
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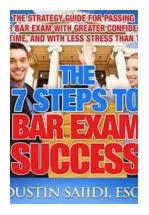
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