



# IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME

GABRIELLE WILLIAMS

**September 2021**  
**ISBN 9781760526078**  
**Format: Paperback**  
**Recommended for 14 to 18 year olds**

## Summary

Holly Fitzgerald has inexplicably woken up inside the body of an LA teenager called Trinity Byrne in 1980 – trapping Trinity in Holly's forty-year-old body back in Melbourne, 2020.

Mind. Officially. Blown.

Holly finds herself navigating a brand-new body, family and cute boy next door – not to mention rock band that might just make it, and potential kidnapper. Meanwhile, lies intersect with truth, hurtling both Holly and Trinity towards a dangerous fate as the connections between them grow deeper and stranger than either could have ever imagined.

*Freaky Friday* meets *Pretty Little Liars* – if the Liars were an all-girl punk band from the 1980s – in this highly original soul-swap story from the critically acclaimed author of *My Life as a Hashtag*.

## Themes

Destiny, family, soulmates, crime, love, body swap, time travel, rock music and second chances.

## Suggestions for Classroom Discussion and Application

- Imagine it was you who switched places with Trinity in the story.
  - What would you say in a letter giving instructions on how someone else could pass as you in 2021? (Hints: You could include tips on what you do at home or school, your relationship with friends and family, your likes and dislikes, or anything else you think that person would need to know about you.)
- Holly and Trinity switch between the years 1980 and 2020.
  - If you could switch places with anyone, at any time, which period – past or future – would you pick?
- Does Gabrielle Williams paint life in 1980s Los Angeles as being better than life in 2020 Melbourne?
  - How do things like food, personal safety and teacher/student interactions compare?
- On one level the book's title, *It's Not You, It's Me*, plays with the concept of the body swap but can you think of any other reasons in the story for why it might be called that?
- Apart from sharing a birthday, a very rare blood type and a typewriter, what traits do Holly and Trinity have in common?
  - How are they different?
  - Do you think their differences outweigh their similarities?
- What do you think Holly learned from living Trinity's life?
  - Does Trinity change after having Holly live her life for a week?
- What skill does Holly have that ultimately saves Trinity?
- Describe the sorts of people you think Holly and Trinity will be in 2020, after the events of the swap?
- What role do horoscopes play in *It's Not You, It's Me*?
  - Do you believe in horoscopes?
  - If so, why do you believe in them, and if not, why not?
- What genre would you pick to describe *It's Not You, It's Me*?
  - Did the reveal in the old house toward the end of the novel make the story more or less entertaining for you?
- Who would you cast in the movie version of *It's Not You, It's Me*?

- On page 139, Holly picks up the acoustic guitar: ‘those six strings taking all other thoughts away, the sounds she produced calming her entire body down’.
  - What is the one thing in your life that takes all thoughts away and calms your entire body down?
  - Describe step by step your process when you do that thing (including how it feels for you emotionally).
- You wake up to find yourself in the body of a forty-year-old stranger. Describe exactly what you do next.
- 29<sup>th</sup> February is known as ‘the Date of Resetting’. If the Date of Resetting happened for you tomorrow, what single thing in your life would you like to reset?

## About the Author

Gabrielle Williams lives in Melbourne and has three kids, one husband and a dog. In the name of research, she has spent time underground with a clandestine group called the Cave Clan, conducted a series of in-depth interviews with a group of notorious art thieves, and spent an inordinate amount of time working out the metaphysics of time travel. She is the author of a number of critically acclaimed YA novels, including *Beatle Meets Destiny*, *The Reluctant Hallelujah*, *The Guy, the Girl, the Artist and His Ex* and *My Life as a Hashtag*, all of which have been shortlisted for a number of prestigious awards.



## In the Author’s Own Words



‘This book was inspired by a typewriter I found in the window of a second-hand store in the Blue Mountains. I was on a writer’s retreat up at Varuna, finishing up my final draft of *The Guy, the Girl, the Artist and His Ex*, and when I saw the cutest vintage orange typewriter you’ve ever seen in your life, I had to have it. And then I started thinking about what a book would look like, with the typewriter as one of the central characters.’

– Gabrielle Williams