



After Summer

Nick Earls

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This summer is different. School is over for Alex Delaney, and he's waiting for his university acceptance, only seventeen days away. The waiting is killing him. He's not expecting much from summer. Bodysurfing, TV, but mainly waiting.

So he's not ready for the girl who cuts past him on a wave. Not at all prepared for her perfect balance on the board, the elegant muscles of her shoulders and back. Just a girl. Compelling green eyes, golden skin, something graceful and elusive about her. Summer is about to change.

After Summer Details

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Author : Nick Earls

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Autumn says

I cannot believe how much I liked this book since I had just randomly picked it up at the library. The characters were really likeable and different. They were both really reserved and had great families. It's really clean too. The teenagers drink but it's because their parents keep giving it to them haha. The writing style was different to but I loved it. I read other reviews and you either love it or you hate it. Everything was really straightforward which is good for me since I find myself skimming the boring descriptive paragraphs in other novels. I would recommend this book.

Kitty Lusby says

I picked this book up hoping for an easy, romantic read. The perspective of a romantic novel from a male perspective was particularly appealing, as this is rarely the case, and I was curious as to how it might differ from the typical female protagonist romances.

Much to my disappointment, the style was unbearable. There was no actual dialogue! It read as if I was sitting across the table from a long-winded friend who was telling me a story that could have been interesting had it not been told so poorly. After about 50 pages, I stopped reading, because I was so frustrated with the strange format and tell-y nature of the tale. By that time, not much had happened of particular interest other than some moping and back story, so I didn't feel the need to spend much more time with it.

This might not be an issue for everyone. I'm often bothered by editing mistakes, bad grammar, typos, and strange writing styles, but if you're not, there's a good chance you might actually enjoy this book.

Steph Bowe says

It's incredibly difficult to review a book you absolutely love and convey how brilliant it is in order to convince people to read it without resorting to means such as multiple exclamation marks and caps lock. I will try, guys. I really will.

What I love so much about this book - and, now I think about it, most of Nick Earls' other YA novels, like Monica Bloom and 48 Shades Of Brown, both of which I love, almost as much as I love this book - is that it doesn't resort to big dramatic events such as death to give it emotional substance, like a lot of YA novels do. It just acts as a snapshot into a few weeks in the life of a character one summer, while he's waiting to see if he gets into university. In the meantime, he meets a girl named Fortuna. It isn't a shocking or dramatic premise, or a particularly complicated plot. But what makes it a really brilliant novel are the fantastic characters, and the wonderful, nuanced writing. It's both realistic and hilarious, and every line of dialogue is perfect.

I especially loved the short story that acts as a prologue to After January, Juliet, as well as the other parts throughout the novel that use second person. The relationship between Alex and Fortuna is lovely and wonderfully written, and at no point resorts to cliché. Every character is well-rounded, believable and unique

- Alex's mother, the holiday house neighbours... Fortuna's kooky family especially. Alex was a character I really related to - the novel is written from his perspective, and he's a very introspective character. There were certain parts of the novel (I'd include an excerpt here, but I'd end up typing up pages of it) where I thought, 'You're me! But fictional! And living in the 90s!' I don't think all readers will relate to Alex, but I definitely did (and I loved Fortuna, too).

All I can say is: I really recommend you read it. It's funny, awkward, insightful and beautifully written. Every single character is brilliant. It's all kinds of wonderful, and there's no reason you shouldn't pick it up.

Trish Doller says

Not enough stars. Charming, funny, and just so real that I felt I was there at that fibro house at the beach.

E says

Could've done without the odd stylistic decision of putting (other) speakers' dialogue in italics, while the main character's is not denoted at all. It was occasionally difficult to determine whether the protagonist was thinking inwardly or speaking to others, and the process of attempting to figure out which was which repeatedly jarred me out of the reading experience.

That's my only complaint, though. This book was a breath of fresh air from so much other formulaic YA. Some may not like the overall lack of any pressing issue or stress, but to me, reading this felt like being on holiday just like Alex. Every night I looked forward to reading time, so that I could be pulled back into this relaxed Australian beachhouse and be a part of the characters' meandering, easygoing activities. The prose was beautifully poetic, to a degree I'm not accustomed to in YA, without being overbearing.

Earls is officially on my radar now.

Lightblue says

Mare profumo di mare...

Seconda chance che do a questo autore, ma le perplessità rimangono le stesse. In Zigzag Street gli avevo assegnato 3 stelline per il sarcasmo e l'ironia, che qui purtroppo non spiccano. Earls costruisce le sue storie praticamente sul nulla. In questo caso Alex trascorre le vacanze aspettando di sapere se verrà ammesso o meno all'università presso cui ha fatto domanda. Mentre aspetta fa molto surf, si riposa e si innamora. Fine. L'unica cosa che salvo è il modo in cui descrive il mare, sembrava di sentire profumo di salsedine. Prestito di mio cognato.

Robyn says

This is the first YA novel of Nick Earls' that I've read, although I've read a few of his other books and this has a similar style. It's quite easy to read but descriptive at the same time, with realistic characters you can relate to.

I agree with others that After January doesn't really have much of a storyline and could seem a bit slow-moving, but it's more character-driven than plot-driven. It's a coming-of-age story about Alex Delaney's summer after graduating from high school and waiting to find out if he's got into uni. As he does every summer, he stays with his mother in their Sunshine Coast beach house where everything seems the same as it always has, yet slightly different at the same time. When he meets a local girl, his priorities start to change.

It's a nice story, but it didn't blow me away. Many readers would relate to the mixed feelings experienced at the end of high school and the difficult decisions that follow, as well as the dramas of finally finding a girl (or boy) who's interested in you and trying to fit in with their family. Although it was first published in 1996, the story hasn't really dated. It could appeal to both boys and girls. I wonder what happened after January...

Pamela Briant says

Enjoyable read about Alex, a teenage boy who has just finished school. Life revolves around the time when the results will be released and he will know whether he has got the marks he needs to do the university course he wants to do. That is until he meets a girl, while staying at his divorced parents' holiday house in Caloundra.

Nice characters, relaxed pace, brings back the simplicity of youth.

Michael says

Oh GOD what a drag to read. This book is nothing short of drivvel. I know a lot of people would argue with me but hear me out.

I originally was asked to read this because of an English assessment in school. Now, I'm okay with reading books with plots that are slow, however in this there is WAY too much irrelevant plot points. Try one point where the lead gets Fortuna into his house alone and they try to have sex but they don't. Why throw it out there if it doesn't serve a purpose? This is a part of the "story" - if I can call it that.

The plot, the protagonist meets a girl. ...Moving on.

If you REALLY want to be bored out of your mind then read this book. If - like me - you actually have taste in books, AVOID.

Helen Ramon says

I enjoyed reading it, for me in some places were slow but other than that I quite enjoyed it.

Ellie says

After January was a very enjoyable book to read. It had the themes of summer, love, acceptance, and self identity. It follows a 17 year old boy called Alex and his summer at his beach house that he spends with his mother every year. This year is different, Alex has 16 days until he gets his results back to see if he makes it into his law degree that he wants to pursue in but there's this girl who might make him change his opinion on this. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this novel and would recommend this too anyone who loves summer.

Emi says

"After January" is another great book by Nick Earls.

like in "48 Shades of Brown", Nick Earls blurs the line between thought and speech by not using any quotation marks.

i think alex delaney is a really likeable character and there are some nice little ideas in this story. i love the relationship between alex and his mum, even though it might seem minimal, it's very effectively done. i also like the little things we learn about alex in his lazy holiday life, little things we find out about his hobbies and his family.

i also liked alex's love interest and the different and unique character she and her family were. it was awesome to have alex not know her name at first, and her little game of giving him only one letter of her name a day.

it's a nice lazy story about getting ready for the future, and the break before university- before growing up and taking a new path. i think it gets a little bit boring and slowpaced at times, mainly because of the holiday and lazing around theme, so it lacks a bit of a punch/climax to really see the characters.

i liked the short little chapters at times and the recipes that were snuck in. :)

all in all, this is another lovely book by Nick Earls and i really enjoyed it. i think it captured the idea and feeling of waiting for the future to come really well.

Rhea Hepburn says

2017 Popsugar Reading Challenge: a book with a month or day of the week in the title ✓?

Taryn Bashford says

A delicious, curl-up-on-the-beach-with-a-book kinda book that leaves you feeling warm and fuzzy inside.
Love it!

Danielle says

I remember really enjoying 48 Shades of Brown about a decade or so ago. So when I saw another Nick Earls book, I anticipated something funny, smart, and relatable. The protagonist in this story is spending a few weeks of his summer at his vacation home waiting for word on his future at university. It's a novel about waiting. Unfortunately, that doesn't make for a very gripping storyline. He meets a mysterious girl with an odd hippie family, and she helps him wait. There were a few good moments.

5/64 tbr box 2015.

Ashleigh says

Very slow moving and very difficult to get into.

I hate slander, so I put this tactfully, but I almost didn't finish reading. I didn't care for the dialogue format and although the characters had catchy names the storyline was lacking.

I've never been a 'slice of life' story fan, but I'm always trying new things to see if I can't adapt-- eh, this was not a good attempt.

Sorry Mr. Earls.

That's all I have to say.

WakenPayne says

0 Stars - that rating is truly deserving to this drivel.

This was given to me by my grade 10 English Class for me to read.

Here's the problem - too little plot. Most of the time it's just talking - nothing to advance the plot or anything - it's just talking. The closest we ever get to a plot is a kid meeting people. That's it - anything else is Nadah.

Nothing in the book is entertaining or in any way relevant to anything. With the paper being wasted on this it's almost enough to join Greenpeace.

Unless I'm being too subtle - avoid this like you'd avoid a plague.

Hend4215 says

What is my view on this book? This book is about a teen boy trying to get into college. It takes place over summer break and of course, he expects nothing unusual will happen. He will end up staying in his rented apartment/house for the summer and watch hockey if it is on and go body surfing because the waves are not

very good. However, one day he is body surfing and a beautiful girl surfing swoops by and his life flashed before his eyes. He would go to the beach everyday just to see her. In this book he gets closer and closer to her in a relationship and the tension grows stronger.

I rated this book a 4 out of 5 because I thought this book was a very interesting and very good book. However, I would not necessarily give it a 5 because I did not love it. I feel that there was just too many slow parts that didn't really make me want to keep reading. It would go from an intense part to a non important part. The whole concept of the book really gets you moving and your heart beats fast in some parts. You feel the same as the main character. His emotions are strong. Also, the whole idea of how he gets this girl is actually very funny because he is obviously not good with girls. The main girl in the book, she always makes the first moves. After summer is a really good book and if you like romance then you will like this book. I recommended reading it.

Trevor says

This is only the second Nick Earls novel that I have read and although the storyline is a relatively simple one - boy meets girl during summer holiday – it is well told and draws you in. You want to know how it is going to end. The characters, especially Alex the lead boy character, are well drawn and there is a nice supporting cast of parents and neighbours. A nice easy summer read.

Liz Chapman says

Fun read with a pleasant dash of situational absurdity. This would be a great book to read on the beach. :)

SPOILER ALERT

For a while I was worried that this book would end up being a glorified "My First Time" story, but I was pleased to discover that it wasn't! Good job, Earles. Thought the sexuality was handled honestly and well.
