



The Endless Beach

Jenny Colgan

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Run away to a beautiful Scottish island and let the unmissable new novel from Sunday Times bestseller Jenny Colgan warm up your spring!

Dreams start here...

On the quayside next to the Endless Beach sits the Summer Seaside Kitchen. It's a haven for tourists and locals alike, who all come to eat the freshest local produce on the island and catch up with the gossip. Flora, who runs the cafe, feels safe and content - unless she thinks too hard about her relationship with Joel, her gorgeous but emotionally (and physically) distant boyfriend.

While Flora is in turmoil about her relationship, her best friend Lorna is pining after the local doctor. Saif came to the island as a refugee, having lost all of his family. But he's about to get some shocking news which will change everything for him.

As cold winter nights shift to long summer days, can Flora find her happy-ever-after with Joel?

The Endless Beach Details

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Author : Jenny Colgan

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From Reader Review The Endless Beach for online ebook

Babs says

A generous 2 star read, that really only merited 1 and a half stars at most.

I usually like Jenny Colgan for some light reading. But this is just awful. Not only does the storyline drag, but the writing is abysmal. There are far too many offshoots, hyphenated additions and bracketed information, that it disrupts the flow of the reading. Not only that but four year old Agot is the singularly most annoying character I have ever come across. Has Jenny Colgan ever spent any time with a four year old?! Because this is NOT how they speak (“Aunti Flowa. I want!” - aargh!!)

For a book of this length there is also a spectacular lack of story. By the end of the book so little has happened that you just feel you’ve wasted a good few hours reading this twaddle. The characters are two dimensional. And even the ones that should make an impact - such as Saif and his children - just don’t.

I think I’m almost talking myself out of giving this 2 stars now!

Bloss ? says

2.5

I guess it would have been hard to top The Summer Seaside Kitchen, which I thought was excellent (trite Joel element notwithstanding). Why even try? What’s wrong with a perfectly good standalone! I know that series are lucrative but that doesn’t mean every single story warrants a box set! I had the same thoughts about Beach Street Bakery, to be honest.

Speaking of which....

The Mure books have an eerie similarity to the Beach Street books:

Fairly normal, sound woman in first book (Polly/Flora) falls apart in second book and almost loses restaurant (Beach Street Bakery/Seaside Kitchen) due to tedious obsession with obnoxious American man-child (Huckle/Joel).

There is a loveable animal (Neil the Puffin/ Bramble the Dog) that makes the first book brilliant but barely features in the second.

The female MC tries to get off with a local, married man (Tarnie/Charlie) because of some stupid spat with the American man-child.

There is next to no new story or conflict-driven plot but instead, a forced relationship between the two incompatible people (Polly and Huckle/Flora and Joel) gets a lot of airtime. It mostly consists of a refusal to communicate, lying, throwing tantrums and acting like petulant children.

We are also subjected to the PDA, in-your-face belligerence and sheer fuckwittery of an odious contact of the main female (Kerensa/Fintan) and another obnoxious, wealthy American (Rueben/Colton). Then we get two terrible couplings and are expected to feel good about it.

It’s basically the same book!

I was already annoyed with the book less than one hundred pages in: the over-explaining, the lack of plot, the forced political-correctness of everything, the anti-London, the self-pity, the melodrama... it was painful. It felt like the author was flipping between “look how tolerant and modern I am”, “these characters are so emotional and deep” and “I’m going to beat you over the head with my less-than-subtle opinion on things”. The overall effect was whiny, forced, trite and cumbersome. This doesn’t even feel like a Jenny Colgan

book.

I was disappointed that Flora had become nasty, shrieky and belligerent. All she does is feel sorry for herself and moan on and on about Joel the Twat. Even the sheep on Mure can see they aren't compatible. Let it go for feck's sake! I really didn't enjoy spending so much time inside her head space. I've read teenage characters with more personality, self-esteem and depth than Flora.

The pair of them are so immature and melodramatic. It was sickening.

Why did Joel keep referring to Charlie as "Flora's ex-boyfriend"? Is this just further proof that this relationship is built on assumptions and zero communication? They weren't an item. Flora just tried to snog Charlie because she was mad at Joel (eye-roll) even though Charlie was in a relationship with Jan.

The villagers and family that made the first book so enjoyable barely featured in this story. It felt more like a really bad soap opera than anything else which may appeal to some but certainly not to me.

I was a bit surprised in the author's note that Jenny Colgan had received nasty correspondence from whingers for writing a villain that does the same job as they do (therefore, presumably, making an irrefutable claim through a work of fiction that people who do social work as a job are therefore villains *eye roll* The mental gymnastics!). What surprised me was a) she gave them airtime in an author's note and b) she felt like she had to remedy this by shoehorning a social worker into this book (presumably to offset the villain in a different, unrelated book). That's ridiculous. It's called a caricature - sheesh!

This shouldn't even warrant saying but here we are: Not everything is about you; stop taking personal offense to works of fiction!

The usual feel-good cheerfulness and humour that makes Jenny Colgan so wonderful is totally missing and it makes for a bleak and dragging story. Nothing of consequence happens, there is no character growth or development, which brings me back to my first point: what was the point of this? To turn it into a soap opera?

Lastly, I need to comment on that Agot brat since I let it slide in the first book. That child is so bloody obnoxious. (It wound me up in the first book but it was at least counterbalanced by a plot and likeable characters). If I had spoken like that at four, my parents would have given me a right bollocking! That's far too old to be baby-talking, shrieking (I assume that's what the CAPITAL LETTERS represent) and not having the social awareness to communicate properly. Is it supposed to be cute? It's really, really not.

Given how the Beach Street Bakery series deteriorated over time and the rapid deterioration of the this series, I've taken the final instalment of this series, An Island Christmas, off my TBR list. I can't even imagine how horrible a pregnant Flora will be. I'll bet you ten bucks that the "drama" (I can hardly call it conflict, can I?) will be her refusal to tell Joel followed by tantrums and breaks ups and shrieking on all sides and probably a bloody marriage proposal... *eye twitch*... just go on without me, guys.

Katie B says

Flora MacKenzie has recently returned to the place where she grew up, the Scottish island of Mure. She is busy running a cafe and is in the beginning stages of a romance with her former boss, Joel. This is the second book in the Summer Seaside Kitchen series but can be read as a standalone novel as the author does a good job catching the reader up on what happened in the previous book.

What I enjoyed most about this book was the focus wasn't solely on the two main characters. Instead the book also explored the lives of other characters who lived on the island. This definitely wasn't a complete lighthearted romance as there were some serious things going on although they never completely overpowered the book where it felt too dark. Would love to see where the author goes from here in the next book as I am interested what she has in store for the supporting characters. Definitely recommend if you like romance books that aren't complete fluff and have a little substance.

I won a free copy of this book in a giveaway but was under no obligation to post a review. All views expressed are my honest opinion.

Jan says

I am a huge Jenny Colgan fan and it's usually a real highlight for me when a new book comes out. Her books are usually funny, charming and provide a much needed light escape from the real world. This was not one of those books. This tackled some really serious issues and at times was really depressing. I read these books for a laugh and an escape from serious things not to be clobbered over the head with them.

Nicola Clough says

I was really looking forward to reading this follow on to the seaside kitchen and hearing more about the people who live there and it didn't let me down at all so well written and a simple read with great characters you can really imagine yourself there on the island as described it so well. It's romantic in places but upsetting in others as well and you are hooked from the first page. So readable I really do recommend you get it.

The book is still about Flora in a big way as she rubs the seaside kitchen and is in a relationship with Joel but he's always away with work and very distant with her. Flora goes out to America to surprise her boyfriend is this the best move for her to do and does he slowly start to open up about his past as a child. Lorna is very keen on the dr but he is married but his wife and two young children are missing and he's about to get shocking news that will change his life and how does he and the people involved cope with this as it's not an easy time for them all. As the winter turns to summer can everyone be happy or is there more shocking news still to come with more of island people.

Great characters and I highly recommend reading as hooked from the first page.

Rachel Gilbey says

Easily without a doubt in my mind, the best book Jenny Colgan has ever written. My only regret was that I hadn't started it earlier in the day so that I could have read it in one sitting.

In fact, please don't waste your time reading this review, just go buy the book now, settle down in your comfy reading spot and read that instead, it will be a far better and more enjoyable use of your time.

Why?

Well that's because the book is brilliant. It is heartwarming, it is emotional and I just didn't want to put it down at any point. I adored being back on the island of Mure with Flora and her family, and although Flora is arguably the main character, I found it was all the other storylines that I was loving even more.

I loved catching up with Fintan, one of Flora's brother, and seeing how his relationship was progressing. In fact Coltan is pivotal throughout the book, and yet although you know he is up to something, I was open mouthed in shock when his big secret was finally revealed.

Then there is Saif, the refugee doctor on the island, who has been working hard to be accepted by the islanders, while continually awaiting for news of his family. Saif's story was gripping, I absolutely loved him so much, especially when seeing what he had to cope with in this story.

Joel who we got to know quite well in *The Summer Seaside Kitchen* is also full of surprises and we finally get to find out more about his background, as well as him being responsible for some of the rather shocking bits of the book.

This book is a sequel to *The Summer Seaside Kitchen*, but it could be read as a standalone. There are a good reminder in Jenny Colgan's ever present, and always useful letter to her readers at the start of the book, that even as someone who had read the first book, brought my mind right back to Mure and the story before it even got going.

Such wonderful writing, it draws you in and won't let you go, I really cared about every last character, and the children that are present in the book are fabulous too - including Agot who has such a great personality for a 4 year old and is a real tonic for any scene she is in.

I found the first bit of the book started slightly slowly, as it took a bit longer than I would have expected to be completely engrossed, but once I had a grip on the new characters, and recalled Mure fully, I had to keep reading and reading it. The many storylines are fantastic, and I really wouldn't have predicted a fair amount of the book.

The Endless Beach is already one of my favourite books of the year, I think this may be they start of a slight change in the writing from the author, as I don't recall feeling this emotional and churned up after other books by her in the past, and if that is the case then I am incredibly excited for the next releases.

Thank you so much to Sphere and Netgalley for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Jaclyn says

Quite simply, this is the best audiobook that I have ever listened to. It was like getting a hug from a book. Jenny Colgan is the perfect summer read and the *The Endless Beach* was a delightful follow-up to *Cafe by the Sea*. I loved going past the supposed "happily ever after" of the first book with Flora, Joel, Fintan, Coltan and the rest, only to discover that this happiness is something that doesn't come easily. This one was both sad and uplifting. If you get the chance to listen to the audio version, it is well worth it. Sarah Barron moves effortless through accents, making this book something special.

Kathryn says

What a heart warming yet bittersweet story. I am not ready to let these characters go, I want another book with their story to continue.

Hannah Symonds says

Doesn't the cover make you want to dive right in? Well it does for me as I am a huge Jenny Colgan fan. If you haven't read any of her books I would strongly recommend them with a big mug of tea and a biscuit or two. This story is all about life on Mure it follows on from the seaside kitchen where we first meet all the wonderful residents that live there. The characters make you feel as though your part of the community and shows you that no matter what your going through they will always pull together to help you. The added bonus is when you finish the book and there are some cracking recipes to test out yourself.

Mandi Schreiner says

This is a sequel to the Cafe by the Sea - so don't read this without reading Cafe first (Also a 5-star read for me)

I ADORED this book. I adored book one too. The character are so rich, so engaging, so real....I fell in love with them and the entire town. I absolutely adored every single page.

In this one - although very romance-centered, there is a storyline that will hurt your HEA heart. The main couple has a HEA but there is a storyline that a romance-only book fan will not like.

But this town and the people in it - can not be missed. I can't believe this author has never come onto my radar. HUGE thanks to Angie (<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/5...>) from Angievile who has been tweeting about this series. It's a must read.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Reading a Jenny Colgan book always fills me with contentment. I know the story will draw me in and the dialogue will be both funny and serious and I will love the characters. I just know it. And, I was not wrong this time either.

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Richard says

I may have said previously in reviews I don't like tasters. This is a sampler of the first two chapters of Jenny Colgan's book The Endless Beach set on the fictitious Island of Mure.

So, what is he doing requesting this romantic fiction piece clearly aimed at a female audience?

Good question. However, I do like good authors and Jenny had evidence of a long list of best-selling novels that she is excellent at what she does and highly respected in this genre.

Does it come over as sexist to rail against being drawn into a romantic story; saying it is more suited to my

wife's tastes and as an Alpha male I would protest so loudly.

Well it does read from the standpoint of the two main female characters and the males they encounter and have designs on at this early stage are not largely fleshed out. Weddings are spoken about and female extras are interestingly commented upon in terms of emotions and desires. Some male participants, fishermen are spoken off less favourably from a female perspective as being unsuitable boyfriend material due to their smell of fish and the number of digits left on their hands.

Standing outside the romantic notions and rich vein of relationship hopefulness the two main female characters introduced in these two chapters are Flora; dating a rich successful boyfriend who she has 'loved' for a long time and recently has 'noticed' her and currently they are together. However, work takes him away most of the time, he is broody and fails to communicate openly with her. Indeed, her boyfriend Joel seems to see her as a mystical creature, full of magic and wonder. He remains aloof unless united in their love making that is more body language than the spoken word. She is struggling to set up a business from scratch on the island and despite his wealth struggles financially and wouldn't dream of asking for his investment in the enterprise.

Walking along the beach (Endless Beach) is Lorna a teacher. She seems to have an inkling for a refugee whose status and right to remain is in doubt yet he practices his profession as a doctor among the community. Saif, left a terrible unknown county and has become separated from his wife and children. Lorna can't talk to him about such painful things where the island survives of gossip and tittle tattle this played out human tragedy is on another level completely.

The reader feels however that these are perhaps another potential couple in the making however such a relationship could play out. There is a timely potent sign. A whale close to the beach is breaking the surface and diving down again. Lorna is worried he may wash ashore and die but a further ominous factor is the islanders' belief that seeing the creature from the shore like this doesn't bode well and some calamity is likely to befall them.

So, in just a couple of chapters we are poised to learn more, but here endeth the first instalment – you'll have to buy the book it seems to learn more. Am I interested as a bloke or as a reader generally. No and yes. I like books set in close knit communities where everyone knows each other and make their own entertainment during long Winters ahead of a tourist invasion in the Summer I like the mystery of myth and legend, stories passed down and superstition pre-dating more refined beliefs with the coming of Christianity. I like the stranger, outsider introduced with a completely different life experience, scarred and suffering flashbacks and night terrors. I love the brooding boyfriend who has little romantic notions and absence doesn't appear to make the heart grow fonder. Joel cannot be read, he is a cold fish and either a workaholic or not a lifelong partner material most islanders find.

Perhaps there is intrigue but I despair that the genre isn't crime fiction 'cos it needs a murder. However, the author hasn't got where she is without her own tricks and a skillset to manipulate and create drama. I might just have to buy it for my wife and read it first!!

Karen Whittard says

If you love Jenny Colgan's books as much as me then this is not a book to be missed. Or if you haven't read a Jenny Colgan book before and you are a fan of romance/chicklit this book is for you. Without doubt a must read for all.

I simply loved this book. It was beautiful, romantic, emotional and heartbreaking. I greedily gobbled up this book in one sitting and absolutely loved it from beginning to end.

It was so lovely to go back to Mure again. A place I would absolutely love to live. Even though I know it is fictional it sounds such a beautiful place to inhabit. Being surrounded by the sea and the rolling hills sounds

idyllic.

Although this book is mostly about the main character Flora who owns the Seaside Kitchen. It is the other stories that run along side it. That make this book so beautiful.

Especially the story of Finton and Coltan. Their love story is so beautiful and really moving. It had me in floods of tears.

It is so nice to meet up with Saif again. The refugee doctor that we meant in the little book that runs along side the Summer seaside kitchen. His love story and learning about his life and what he has, had to live through were really moving.

Joel is also a pivotal person in this book. Who has his fair share of secrets and shocking announcements that we learn more about in this book.

This is the second book in the Summer Seaside kitchen, and although I would recommend you to read the Summer Seaside kitchen book first. Just so you get some more background and content to the story. This book can be read as a stand alone. Also while you are reading the first book. Make sure that you read the mini book that goes along side it. Which introduces Saif to the little island.

I always really love reading Jenny Colgan book as they always manage to put a smile on my face. All the characterisation in this book are Wonderful and you can help taking them all to heart and wishing them all lots of happiness.

This really is a lovely book. That I recommend you all to read. So don't forget to go and get it on the 11th Jan. it is sure to make you smile on these cold and dreary winters nights. I for one absolutely loved it. Another gem by the fantastic author that is Jenny Colgan.

Elizabeth of Silver's Reviews says

Flora quit her job as an attorney in London and moved back with her family on the Isle of Mure in the Scottish Highlands to work in the bakery.

Much to her surprise, her boss, Joel, decided to join her.

Flora didn't know what to expect, but she didn't expect love. She finds out Joel had a difficult childhood in foster care and doesn't want to open up about it. That is a secret Joel keeps, a secret that causes problems for him as well as Flora, but this definitely adds interest to the story line.

THE ENDLESS BEACH sounds like a wonderful place to vacation and relax. I don't think I would want to live there because of the remoteness, but the simple, stress free life would be lovely.

We follow Flora, Joel, Saif and Flora's brothers as lives, interests, secrets, and personalities are revealed. Each character had a story - some sad. some happy.

It took a few pages to get everyone connected and to grab my interest, but the bakery, the whales, and the atmosphere on the Isle of Mure made it a very appealing read.

If you enjoy being in a quaint, lovely place and enjoy visiting with unforgettable, lovable characters, THE ENDLESS BEACH is a book you won't want to miss. 4/5

This book was given to me free of charge and without compensation by the publisher in return for an honest review.

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

All reviews can be found on my blog at <https://thewritinggarnet.wordpress.com>

I will warn you now - my review of Jenny Colgan's new novel will not do the book justice in the slightest. The only way you're going to be able to appreciate such outstanding, literary craftsmanship, is by grabbing a copy for yourself, turning off every link to the outside world, and delve into a story which you will never want to leave.

I have been a huge fan of Jenny Colgan's novels for as long as I can remember, with every new release raising the bar just that little bit higher in terms of brilliance. Until now. 'The Endless Beach' hasn't just raised the bar of brilliance a smidge, no. It has completely sent the bar skyrocketing into space. 'What do you mean by that?', I hear you ask. Well my lovely readers, I mean that Jenny Colgan has written her best book ever with 'The Endless Beach', without a doubt.

Hand on heart, I have never read a book which I took me a couple of hours to read without stopping, due to me not wanting to break the hold which the author unknowingly had on me. The storyline pulled me in to a world I never knew existed. A place where friendships weren't just friendships, they were lifelines. A place where helping each other wasn't expected, yet the community helped those who needed it without question, or judgement. A place where a cafe wasn't just a place to grab a coffee and a quick bite to it, it was a place where the community could go whenever they felt lonely, knowing full well that someone would be willing to have a natter. A place where romance isn't determined by whats in your trousers, but what is in your heart.

Before starting 'The Endless Beach', I had absolutely no idea what sort of journey the book would take me on and, if I'm being totally honest, even after reading the book I couldn't even begin to tell you what sort of journey I went on. All I know is that it was a journey I had never been on before. A journey which I will be remembering for a very, very long time.

I wish I could go into detail about what I loved about this book, but because I don't want to give anything away, you're just going to have to trust me when I say that you need to read this book without stopping. Seriously. Ignore everyone. Ignore your bladder, and just read. This enchanting storyline needs to be cherished without the spell being broken.

Not only did 'The Endless Beach' make me smile until my cheeks hurt, it made me cry tears of joy and tears of pain. I felt the pain which certain characters endured. I felt the joy within joyous situations. Everything about this book was perfection - I cannot recommend 'The Endless Beach' enough.

Never mind being a book about an 'Endless Beach', it's a storyline with 'endless' possibilities, 'endless' joy, with 'endless' reasons to keep fighting when life throws you sand balls.

'The Endless Beach' has blown me away and ignited the fire in my belly which has been hidden for a very, very long time. This is, without a doubt, Jenny Colgan's best book yet, and it deserves to be cherished like the magnificent book that it is.

Beautifully written, enchanting, heart stopping, and utterly poignant; 'The Endless Beach' will warm your heart like the sun on a summer's day - absolutely incredible.
