



The Beach Club

Elin Hilderbrand

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In this juicy first novel by a talented newcomer, a series of personal dramas are played out during one summer at a Nantucket Beach Club. It's about the love of summer, summer love, and the special feelings we all have for that special summer place--in this case, a hotel and an island.

Mack Petersen, manager of the hotel, has been working at The Beach Club for 12 summers. Only this summer is different. His boss, the owner of the hotel, Bill Elliot, shows up in the spring with a new set of demands. His girlfriend Maribel is pressing Mack to get married and Vance, the African-American bellman, who has hated Mack since the day Mack stole his job 12 years ago, threatens him in a deadly scene. Mack knows something's got to give.

Love O'Donnell, the new front desk person straight from the slopes of Aspen, is desperately searching for a stranger to father her child. The bellman, Jem Crandall, who posed as Mr. November in his college calendar, is on his way to LA to break into agenting, until he falls in love with Maribel. Emotions are at a peak when a hurricane threatens to wash away The Beach Club and all it stands for.

An engrossing, sexy novel that will sweep you away to the beach any time of the year.

The Beach Club Details

Date : Published April 1st 2010 by St. Martin's Press (first published June 1st 2000)

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From Reader Review The Beach Club for online ebook

Maggie61 says

I have recently fallen in love with the works of Elin Hilderbrand and have read several now in the last month or so. This is the first of her Nantucket books and while I really enjoyed it, I have loved her more recent ones more.

The beach club started as just that, a beach club for the wealthy to rent, to be able to use a beautiful beach. It has now expanded to also be a 20 room hotel. This novel gets into the lives of the people who work there and those that stay there. Elin's books are all juicy little gossip treats. Instead of focusing on just a few people, you are thrust into the lives of many people, their emotions, their secrets. Sometimes when there are so many characters, the reader gets lost and confused, to me that is not the case with this author's books. They are fast reads, easy to keep up, and they satisfy that part of us that likes to know everyone's business.

I did find that I didn't connect the same with these characters as much as in the other books of hers that I have read. I found some of them; Vance, Maribel and a few others to be not likeable people and I didn't become as invested in them as I have in her other books. Sometimes I can read a book, and fall in love with the characters despite their faults while still enjoying the book, I didn't find that here.

I realize that none of the books she is writing are connected but I do find it a little odd that all of these books take place on Nantucket, an island that isn't all that big, yet so far I haven't noticed any of the same characters or places mentioned in more than just a single novel.

This author writes the best stories for beach reads, so engrossing and hard to put down, yet still fluffy and delightful.

I enjoy her books so much I am torn between slamming through all of her books quickly or trying to hold off and read them gradually. Either way, this woman really knows how to write great stories and I look forward to reading the rest of them.

Kwoomac says

I haven't been able to concentrate on any of my books recently so figured it was time to give up and just read summer junk food. I liked the premise of the story, following the staff and guests at a beach resort on Nantucket over the course of a season. Sadly, I didn't like most of the characters. Most of them wallowed in self pity, unable to move on from whatever bad thing life threw their way. Perhaps I'm heartless but I just wanted the whole mess of them to just shake it off and move on.

That said, I loved the setting. I have a soft spot for Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, also known as the cape and islands. Hilderbrand did a wonderful job of bringing the setting to life. This is the first of her many novels that take place on Nantucket, where the author lives. I've only been there once but I could clearly picture the club, the beach, the desolation in winter.

The author juggled a lot of stories. Some were satisfactorily resolved while others were either left unfinished or were kind of a bummer.(view spoiler)

Still, I got what I asked for. Quick read-check. Beach setting-check. Nothing too complicated-check. I just wish I'd liked the characters more.

Lorrea - WhatChaReadin'? says

Mac Peterson has been the manager for the Nantucket Beach Club and hotel for the past 12 years. When he was 18 years old, he stepped off the ferry and right into Bill Elliott the owner and was given a job that wasn't initially meant for him. But he made the best of his situation and now here he is at a crossroads in his life. He is now 30 years old, he has his family farm in Iowa that he needs to make a decision on, he's been dating Maribelle for 6 years and she's ready for the next step, and he has to decide if the Beach Club is really where he is supposed to be. Filled with guest problems along with personal turmoil from all of the employees, this summer is bound to be one none of them will forget.

Elin Hilderbrand is a new author to me. Over the past year, I have started to read her books and really enjoy the stories. It makes me want to visit Nantucket for sure. This book really resonated with me though because of the few references to the area I live in now.

This is a very interesting story about one season at the Nantucket Beach Club and Hotel. A staple in the community for years. Most people who enjoy the hotel come back every year and look forward to Mac being there when they arrive and helping them throughout their entire stay. Mac isn't sure who he would be without the Beach Club. When his girlfriend of 6 years give him an ultimatum, Mac isn't sure how to take it or what he's going to do. With advice and issues around every corner, he finally figures out exactly what it is he is going to do.

The story ends leaving you wondering what exactly is going to happen next for Mac and what kind of adventures he will have in the following summers at the Beach Club. If he indeed intends to stay there.

Andrea says

Overall enjoyable, but not as good as her more recent books. My complaints about the book are:

- 1) It didn't make sense for Vance to pull a gun on his boss. It was also an unnecessary plot twist. The description on the back of the book says, "Vance has his African-American pride," but it is not a good description of the character.
 - 2) The appearance of the school custodian was weird and even more weird when she gave the daughter money.
 - 3) Why are the hotel owners encouraging their 18 year old daughter to marry a 30 year old man?
-

Cheryl says

My beach bag author ?. Kept checking the cover to ensure this was Hilderbrand as I found this very first of her Nantucket novels unrecognizable to later works. For me, she hit her stride a few years after this, so while not nearly as titillating and un-putdownable, I much preferred this to her most current releases as it's far meatier, woven in realism, originality, and with character & story depth. I liked it.

Denise says

Most of the characters were immature and unlikeable. The ending was very convenient and way too tidy.

Sheila says

First off, I should admit this genre of book is not my usual read, so take this rating with a "grain of salt". Also, I have never read anything by this author, who I understand is very popular, so I cannot judge this book based on any of her other works. I can only judge it on my reading it, and I read it to participate in a discussion of the book in a group here on Goodreads.

I will admit that I enjoyed the story almost all the way through. It is an easy read, which didn't take a lot of effort, and would make an enjoyable "beach read", fitting to its title. I actually became interested in the stories of the multiple characters in the story, and was interested to see what would happen.

But then...the ending. Really!?!? That is how this is going to end??? That is the "answer" to the mysterious letters that were dotted through the book???? Really!?!?! The ending killed it for me. Seriously! LOL But maybe this type of ending is typical for this type of book, and maybe that is why I don't usually read this genre. To each his own.

Cherice says

I enjoyed this story because it was about owning and running a beach club and the many guests and employees made for some interesting stories. However, I found myself questioning the authors choices in some places (like the small, tiny, itty-bitty part involving the gun) because they seemed irrelevant and mindless. Thankfully those places were rare but enough to make me go, "hmmm". I liked the main character, Mack, although I felt he made some stupid life decisions and found myself rolling my eyes a few times. It's an easy read, a light read and a fast read. I like this author but this is not her best. Lastly, and I know this is trivial, the cover photo of the book is all wrong in my opinion. That bugs me. Five years from now if I see this book with this cover photo, I'll have no memory of what it was about.

Julie Barrett says

The Beach Club By Hilderbrand_ Elin

Hotel on the island and many come to work there to find love and other things.

Quite the mix of people work and come to stay for a bit during the warm summer months to be waited on hand and foot.

So many to follow and all the drama of the island.

Interesting to learn of all the jobs the men have to do prior to the sun rising so guests will have everything ready when they wake up and want to hit the beach.

Lovers, some cheat on spouses, one looking for a man to father her child, others looking for huge tips so they

go out of their way to please the guests.

Things go awry and people leave as the summer goes on-some run off to other countries, some bail on the bill, some leave to try new ventures and then a hurricane is forecast to hit-only a little bit, or will it hit them full on?

Surprise ending for all.

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

Rene says

Fabulous! Elin Hilderbrand is my new favorite author with her charming stories centered on the Island of Nantucket. I love picturing the beaches, people and other places around the island and setting myself right in the middle of it! Hilderbrand creates characters that you will remember for a long time. Although she seems to always use a lot of characters in her books, she focuses on each equally enough so that you aren't confused and you feel as though you know these people. I look forward to reading many more of her books!

Carla Eischeid says

I have read all of Elin Hildebrand ' s books and have never failed to be captivated....until now. I am happy I didn't read this one first because I would have never picked up another one. There Was zero depth to the characters and some of the scenes didn't even make sense. Vance just randomly pulls a gun on Mack? The school custodian shows up on Nantucket and gives Cecily money? Then the abrupt and predictable ending. I actually skimmed the 2nd half of the book. Painful.

Tia Bach says

I picked up Beach Club, Hilderbrand's first Nantucket novel. It's the story of Mack Peterson, a man whose parents died way too soon and sent him adrift on a journey to find himself. Problem is he's taking his sweet time much to his girlfriend's chagrin. Maribel wants Mack to grow up, make some decisions, and ask her to marry him. Yet neither of them really know what they want.

Bill and Therese Elliott own the hotel Mack loves, but they plan to retire soon and pass the hotel on to their only child, daughter Cecily, who has no interest for now. Several characters lead you through the story, and Hildebrand does an excellent job interweaving their lives and making the reader care. Nantucket is a major character, too. The town is so beautifully described I asked my husband if we could make plans to visit soon. Since Mack is so torn by responsibility (his family's farm) and his love (Nantucket), it was important to make the place special and intoxicating.

The story charms you while reeling you in. There's an endearing side story about Lacey, a member of the Beach Club for forty-five years, and the mother figure to all the characters. Mack and Bill turn to her in times of need, and she brings them together. Childless herself and a widow, she lives for her extended family and their challenges and failings. Along with the Beach Club itself, she's the tie that binds.

Beach Club is a quick and absorbing read. I wanted to know more about all the characters, even during the

times I was frustrated by their actions. They were imperfect but had rooting value, and I was emotionally invested. I must admit I wanted to know more about Mack's future, but he does grow up and make his decision.

Hildebrand has several books in her Nantucket series. Since she made me fall in love with Nantucket, I look forward to reading more from her.

Why did the book fall short of five stars? For a couple of reasons.

First, it didn't really cover new ground or score high on originality. It's a well-told story in a beautiful location with multiple story arcs, but I'm not sure it was memorable enough. Many books I enjoy don't stay with me, and I like to reserve five stars for those I think will. It cheapens a reviewer if they hand out five stars like candy.

Second, there was a spark missing to Hildebrand's writing. I wish I could explain that better. Quite frankly, if I could, I'd be the rich and successful author of a book all about writers finding their spark.

If you are looking for a beach read, one where the characters pull you along from page to page and the location makes you want to book a vacation, then Beach Club will not disappoint. Enjoy!

Heidi says

When I read her books I want to send all of her characters to see Dr. Phil or Dr. Laura. None of her characters seem to have any idea what is the best or the right thing to do. Her endings are really abrupt in the sense that you don't ever find out what the consequences of her characters' choices are. This is the last Elin Hilderbrand book I will read.

Shelly Ellis says

I gave this book two stars. I wasn't able to finish it (and I usually don't rate books I DNF) but this was a DNF for the worst reason so I HAD to write a review. (Spoilers ahead.) I read *The Blue Bistro* by Hildebrand and really liked it so wanted to follow it up with *The Beach Club*, the precursor. I was getting into the novel. The characters weren't perfect and had odd ways of justifying their questionable behavior but I was fine with that. (It's basically an upmarket soap opera that takes place in Nantucket so drama and bad behavior is expected.) But the one character that I had a major problem with and just couldn't get past even for the sake of finishing the book was Vance. As a minority reader who reads all types of fiction, there are things that can make you cringe and it's a bad and stereotypical representation of minority characters. Vance seems to be the only black character in the novel and he is at one point described by another character as "exotic," another character jokes that his shaved head "makes him look like he's in a gang," and he seems to suffer daily humiliation by the fact that he was originally supposed to be the manager of *The Beach Club* but by a poor twist of fate ends up getting the position as head bellman. (Really? The black guy... is the head bellman?) All of this was irritating but I was willing to keep going until Vance inexplicably decides to take a hotel guest's gun and threaten the hotel manager with it because he doesn't like him that much. WTF! Here is a college educated, professional man who suddenly decides to pull a gun on someone. At that point, I was done. I couldn't read anymore. I don't think it was the author's intention to be racist or promote stereotypes but that unwittingly

happened with this portrayal of a major character. I just couldn't read anymore and its a shame because I was really liking this author's work.

Brooke Moss says

This was an interesting book.....I really enjoyed it, but struggled. I think I am spoiled because the first book by Elin Hilderbrand that I read was The Blue Bistro, and I was completely captivated by it. So The Beach Club was sort of a struggle for me. Too many characters, not enough H.E.A. for my taste. But excellent, solid story line set in a beach club/hotel I pictured perfectly in my mind, and with enough drama to make me anticipate my reading time each day with a grin on my face. I recommend this read to anyone who likes a book with an expansive cast of characters, and who doesn't mind living without an H.E.A. at the end.
