



## Just for the Summer

*Jenna Rutland*

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Dani Sullivan has come to Lake Bliss to write her latest cookbook and take a breather. After the year she's had, she deserves a summer retreat to reevaluate priorities and make peace with past decisions. But from the moment single dad and sheriff Matt Reagan shows up, she has a hard time convincing herself that a life away from Lake Bliss could beat the life she might have here.

Recently divorced Matt is ready for a new relationship, but he doesn't want short-term—his son needs permanence, and so does Matt's heart. Unfortunately, it's the smart-mouthing and sinfully sexy Ms. Sullivan who catches his eye. But when Matt learns Dani's secrets, will he still want her to stay? Or will her chance for love last just for the summer?

## Just for the Summer Details

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Author : Jenna Rutland

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Adult

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## From Reader Review Just for the Summer for online ebook

### My Book Addiction and More MBA says

This story was about Dani Sullivan who was taking a break from nursing to come to Lake Bliss under the pretense of writing a cookbook. She was actually there to check up on the son she gave up for adoption eight years before. What she found was her son being raised by Sheriff Matt Reagan who was divorced. Her intention was to only stay for the summer and make sure that her son was happy. However, once she became involved in their lives she had to decide if she could walk away or confess her secret to them.

This was a refreshing love story on many levels. It showed the love a mom had for her son and the sacrifice she was willing to make for his happiness. Also, the relationship that develops between Dani and Matt was adorable. They both were not looking for a relationship so it started with flirting and sarcastic remarks but developed into so much more. Keep the tissues handy! I hope there will be additional books about the other characters that were introduced in this book.

Rating-4

Reviewed by Donna McClaugherty, My Book Addiction Reviews

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### Helena says

#### ★★★ BLISSFUL SUMMER STARS

I really love these short sweet reads and *Just For The Summer* was exactly that. It was a fun, very flirty, wonderful story about family, forgiveness and second chances.

Dani's story made my heart ache, she has come to Lake Bliss for the summer to work on her cookbook and get away to relax as far as anyone else is concerned. But she also has another reason for coming to Lake Bliss that she plans to keep to herself...a hope that she can catch a glimpse of the son she gave up for adoption 8 years ago.

Matt is the towns sexy sheriff and also a single father who has been burned in the past and doesn't trust easily. He lives his life for his son and only wants what is best for him. Always putting his sons needs before his own, he has not been in a relationship since his ex-wife walked out on them. His reason for this is that it will only hurt his son to have women walking in and out of his life and he wants forever not a casual hookup. Yes Matt is super sweet....a perfect father :)

Watching the relationship develop between Matt and Dani was fun....they were fun! It started with casual flirting and stayed at that for quite a while....but remember they each have their reasons for not wanting to commit. Matt because he isn't looking for a fling and Dani's only around for the summer. And Dani...well because she was keeping something from both Matt and Sam that she knew could/would eventually blow up in her face if her secret ever came out. Eventually the harmless flirting turns into more and before they know it they have fallen in love with each other, but Dani has some confessions she has to make before they can move on.

Overall it was a fantastic read. The plot was great and flowed flawlessly, it was nice and light but had just enough angst to keep you on your toes, and wanting to know what's going to come next. I found myself thinking "*oh my gosh how is she going to tell him....when is the perfect time?*" You will definitely laugh, and you may even shed a few tears (I did) but I definitely recommend reading this fantastic story of love and family.

*\*\*Copy kindly provided by Entangled Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\**

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### **FicTalk Blog says**

Reviewed by Autumn

Lisa and I were just speaking about Entangled the other day. It really seems that the publishing house puts out some solid books. So far, I haven't read one from them that I haven't liked. They've really become a dependable "go-to" if you want a solid romance.

Just for the Summer is a short light romantic read. It's the story of Dani, who arrives in Lake Bliss for the summer in search of the son she had given up eight years prior. She's not there to take him away from his adoptive parents – rather she wants to make sure that he's happy, healthy, and loved.

This is the only part of the book which confused me in regards to the adoption. It's stated that the adoption was closed. Which, according to my understanding after reading this wiki entry, means that the adoption records are sealed and therefore I assumed Dani would have no information who adopted her son. Maybe I didn't read enough of the article or misinterpreted something. Whatever the case, that little fact didn't mar my enjoyment of Just for the Summer.

Dani ends up meeting Sam, who she knows is her son. She also meets his hunky Sheriff of a dad, Matt Reagan. Matt is now divorced from his wife, Gina, who never wanted children to begin with and lied to Matt. Cue the flirting. When they get to the sex, which isn't detailed and I didn't mind, the zingers are upped. There were some great lines between Dani and Matt. Not to mention the only funny and sexy weather forecast that I've ever heard in all the years I've been on this planet... "A precipitation shaft will slowly rotate..."

There are a lot of emotions throughout the book which made it a major roller coaster ride. I don't want to spill too much of the plot and give it away. There's secrets, sex, happy times, a bull headed mother, a funny kid, a cute dog, a hunk of a sheriff, a cute nurse, and a tragic past which all end up equaling a totally great read. I think some would consider it a "beach read."

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### **Kari says**

I was so in the mood for a good romance this week and boy I got one with Just for the Summer. The book is well written and I stayed up late to finish it. The story isn't just a romance; it's about hope and second chances. I loved the flirtation between Dani and Matt. It was fun and really heated up the passion between the two. I was really rooting for them and hoping they could work things out.

Along with the romance, there is a very emotional component to the book. I liked Dani. As a mother, I can't even imagine what a woman goes through when she decides to give up her child for adoption. I respected Dani for her decision and the reasons behind it. During the scene when she has to say goodbye to Sam for the second time in her life, I actually cried. I can't remember the last time that has happened to me while reading a book.

I definitely think that Entangled Press has found a winner in debut author, Jenna Rutland. She has a bright future and can't wait to visit Lake Bliss again!

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### **Autumn Review says**

I really love reading these Bliss novels. They're quick easy reads that truly are enjoyable. I haven't found one I haven't liked yet. Just for the Summer was no exception. It was fun, flirty, sweet, and a great family story.

Dani's story broke my heart a little bit, but I felt that Matt complimented her well. Even though her past was traumatic, she has healed and lives a "normal" life. Matt also has relationship wounds, but is optimistic that he will find love again. He wants to find a stable relationship and someone who will love his son as much as he does.

Watching Matt and Dani's relationship develop was fun. They have a flirty and sometimes, snarky banter with each other that made me laugh. It was a tricky situation that they were in. Dani never expected to fall for her son's father. I kept thinking to myself..."How do you have that conversation?" Couldn't even imagine. I wanted them to become a family so badly. I was thrilled that Sam loved Dani and they developed a great relationship before he even finds out she's his mom. It was such a sweet little bonus.

Overall, I really enjoyed Just for the Summer. I laughed more than I thought I would. I went in thinking this one might be a bit more serious and there were some intense moments, but it was really a fun read. I definitely recommend it.

#### **Quotes:**

~"Know what's nice about this kind of device? It's very flexible. I can measure around curves and corners."  
"Very important," she agreed.

"A good carpenter has to worry about width and length and measure correctly so things fit together properly." -Loc 737

~"I'm going to officially make you forget your name and lean how to scream mine." He received a give-me-a-break expression, which he probably deserved for his lame line.

"Just what I like. A shy man who doesn't exaggerate his abilities."-Loc 1784

~"Tell me what you like," Matt said.

As if she heard a starting pistol, Dani leaped into his arms.

She wrapped her legs around his waist. "Just do a bunch of stuff and I'll let you know if it's working."-Loc 1814

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### **Lori says**

A short story about a young woman that gave her son up for adoption eight years ago and now she wants to know that her son is loved and with a caring family. Her only mission in the beginning was to just check and see if her son, Sam, was ok and happy...until she came across Sam's SINGLE dad, Matt. Matt is your typically hottie Sheriff that of course turns out to be irresistible.

This was a quick refreshing story. It took me about half a day to read (with interruptions) and moved at a nice pace. At times I found myself wishing it was longer with the story a bit more dragged out and the love scenes a lot more steamy. However, all in all it is a nice clean NC-17 book that gave steaming flirting a new name. I loved the banter between Matt and Dani and found myself disappointed when the book took a more serious turn.

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There was ample angst and tragedy for the couple to overcome and the story progressed such that I didn't want to put it down. I give it a solid 3 stars and would recommend it for a quick filler between longer

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### **Roxanne Snopek says**

Some of the best sexual tension I've read in a sweet-category book! Loved the scenes with the son, especially the health issues. Well done!

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### **Irene says**

4 stars

I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed reading Just For The Summer.

The characters were all likeable and the sexual innuendo between Dani and Matt was fantastic. I'm never going to look at a weather report again without thinking of these two characters :)

I highly recommend reading Just For The Summer, it was a lot deeper than what I was expecting but to me this added to the story.

I will be reading more from the author Jenna Rutland in the future.

Thank you to NetGalley for the ARC in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Tina "IRead2Escape" says**

Just for the Summer by Jenna Rutland is the first book in the Lake Bliss series. This was my first book by Jenna Rutland and it certainly will not be my last. I can not believe how much emotion this book wrung from me.

Dani Sullivan gave up her baby 8 years before and knows exactly where he is. She's decided to escape to Lake Bliss for the summer to work on her cookbook and to get a look at her son. She doesn't want to ruin his life or even interrupt it. She just wants to make sure that he is happy and loved. After all, he is her only living relative and she needs to know that her decision to give him up was the right one.

Matt Reagan and his wife adopted a lovely little boy 8 years before. This was the happiest decision he's ever made, however he had no idea that his wife was lying when she agreed to the adoption. She had been taking birth control the whole time they were "trying" to get pregnant and it all came out after the adoption. She just didn't have it in her to be a mom. Whatever her feelings, Matt loved Sam and loved being a father. So, he and Sam were going at it alone. He promised himself and Sam that he would never bring another woman into their lives unless he was positive she was wife and mother material.

Dani and Matt hit it off immediately. He flirts with her mercilessly and it doesn't take long for her to flirt right back. Sam gets diagnosed with childhood diabetes and since Dani is a nurse she steps in to help the family get used to the changes that need to be made with this diagnosis. Dani considers this a gift. She gets to spend more time with her son and save memories to last her a lifetime. As her and Matt's relationship heats up Dani becomes more and more convinced that she has to hide her secret until the end of the summer. She knows Matt will be furious and it will be the last she sees of either of them.

This book was heart wrenching. The circumstances that Dani got pregnant and the hardest decision she would ever have to make were hard enough. But, to then see her fall in love with father and son only to know that she has to be satisfied with a couple of months. I got a good cry with this book, that's for sure. But, it's not all sad. I loved how the townspeople adopted her into their community and made her feel welcomed. The romance is sweet and the banter is funny and witty. Matt began a game of bad pick up lines that made me smile.

***"I'm going to officially make you forget your name and learn how to scream mine."***

Thank you to NetGalley.com for the loan of this book in exchange for my honest review.

You can find this review and others at <http://riverinaromantics.blogspot.com> and <http://tinar1121.blogspot.com>.

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### **Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says**

Sappy yet satisfying. The premise relied on too many convenient coincidences, but I enjoyed the book anyway. Check your skepticism at the door and just go with the flow of this feel good romance.

Full Review:

When I picked up Just for the Summer, I was leery. The premise gave me pause. It relied on too many convenient coincidences in order for the couple to have their HEA, and I just didn't find it believable. Despite this reservation, the writing is so upbeat and the story is so emotionally charged that I couldn't help but get caught up in the emotions of the story. It's all about second chances and finding self-forgiveness, and finding your happiness after life kicks you in the teeth. It's about hitting rock bottom and finding the strength to hope again. I found it unabashedly sappy, yet I finished the last page feeling satisfied and happy.

Dani is still recovering from the death of her mother a few months ago. She's renting a cottage in Lake Bliss, Michigan to work on her recipe book, taking a break from her nursing job. She also has a secret. The real reason she's in the small vacation town is to find the son she gave up for adoption eight years ago. She wants to reassure herself that he's happy and has a loving home. It pushed the bounds of believability when she finds him so quickly, and in need of first aid. The perfect in for Dani to get closer to Sam. She discovers that his parents are divorced, and that his father, Matt, the town sheriff, has custody. Besides being single, Matt also happens to be sexy, compassionate, and in the market for a good woman to fill the void in his life and in his family. When Sam is diagnosed with a life-threatening health condition, Dani is called on to teach Matt and Sam how to manage his health.

While I had a hard time getting past all of these lucky breaks, I found that I couldn't put my Kindle down. I liked Dani and Matt, and I wanted them to find the happiness that had been denied them. I liked the secondary characters, too. Lake Bliss seems like a cozy little place to set down roots, with everyone in town knowing everybody's business – and trying to help out in times of need. There are no usual town snobs or drama queens, and the most adversity Dani faces, at least until her big secret is revealed, is Matt's mother. Feeling threatened by Dani's presence in their lives, and in her kitchen, Elaine offers only a little bit of opposition before Dani charms her, too. There's not much external conflict for Dani to overcome; instead, she is waging a battle with herself. She feels guilty because she is in Matt and Sam's lives under false pretenses, but she's terrified to fess up. She knows that she will lose not only her son, but Matt as well.

I think the story worked for me because I was totally caught up Dani's quest for inner peace. As she works her way through difficult choices she made as a young, damaged woman, she sees that she made the right one, even though it has haunted her every day for eight long years. Giving up her baby for adoption, hoping that her son would find a better life than she could offer, wasn't easy. Not only did she face her own self-recrimination, other people in her life made no secret of their disapproval. Dani has felt the crushing burden of guilt for years, even as she was trying to come to terms with the awful things that had happened to her. She wasn't emotionally or financially ready to raise a child, and recognizing that painful fact was the hardest realization that she had ever come to. That part of the story resonated with me; she deserved a second chance and she deserved to finally forgive herself for something that wasn't her fault.

In the end, I found *Just for the Summer* sappy yet satisfying. Likable characters kept the pages turning, and I gobbled this up like it was a banana split (with extra fudge). This really is a great beach read, so check your skepticism at the door and just go with the flow of this feel good romance.

Grade: B with reservations noted above

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### **Shona Booky Ramblings of a Neurotic Mom says**

Review originally posted on <http://beanieboo78.wordpress.com/>

This book is only 131 pages long, which I didn't know until I came to write my review. 131 pages? Doesn't sound very much does it. How Rutland managed to fit this story into 131 pages is beyond me, but she did and it was great.

From the very first page I felt sorry for Dani despite not knowing the circumstances of the adoption, you knew she regretted it. Which is why of course she had come to the town, to prove that she had done the right thing for her son even if it wasn't the right thing for her. She tries so hard to put some distance between her and Sam and Matt but there were several moments she shared with Sam where my heart broke along with

hers and if I was in her position I wouldn't have been able to stay away either.

There were so many moments in this book where my feelings mirrored Dani's, when she finally tells Matt the truth I could barely read, the tears where flowing so much. This I find is a truly remarkable talent, not many authors can draw the reader into the emotions of the character but Jenna Rutland does it beautifully

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

\*I received a free ARC of *Just for the Summer* from Entangled via Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\*

This is one of the sweetest contemporary romances I've read in a while!

This and other reviews can also be found on my blog (un)Conventional Bookviews.

When Dani arrives in Lake Bliss, just for the summer, she has no idea how quickly she will feel like she's a part of the community. She meets her biological son Sam on the first day, when she has to put her nursing skills to the task in order to help him get some sand out of his eye. As Dani strikes up conversation with Rachel, she learns that Sam is living with his father Matt, and that Rachel had him over to play with her own three boys for the day.

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### **Autumn (Fic Talk) says**

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There are a lot of emotions throughout the book which made it a major roller coaster ride. I don't want to spill too much of the plot and give it away. There's secrets, sex, happy times, a bull headed mother, a funny

kid, a cute dog, a hunk of a sheriff, a cute nurse, and a tragic past which all end up equaling a totally great read. I think some would consider it a “beach read.”

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 Stars

This book should come with a hanky warning and yes, I know I'm a crier because hell, I cry at certain commercials but I really wasn't expecting this story to be so emotional. I mean, I looked at the cover and read the blurb and I'm thinking, “Okay nice summer romance story and a good beach read.” It is a nice summer romance but it packs a punch so be warned. Jenna Rutland is a new to me author but after reading *Just For The Summer*, I will continue to check out her work.

This book is well written, the characters are well developed, and the story is not likely one you'll forget. This is an amazing story of a woman's journey to get the closure she needs to be able to move on with her life. I don't know what I would have done had I been in her shoes at any time in her life, but I admire the hell out of her and she is one strong, courageous woman!

The past year of Dani Sullivan's life has been horrendous, so she decides to take the summer off and spend it at Lake Bliss working on her latest cookbook. While she writes cookbooks, she's a nurse by trade and finds herself administering aide her second day at the lake to someone who is part of her past and she hopes might one day be part of her future.

Matt Reagan is trying to get his life back together following his divorce and a job change. His mother is now living with him and his 8 year old son and while it works, it's not always ideal. Matt dreams of a future that includes a wife. A wife unlike his first wife; someone who loves kids and wants to be a mother to his son, Sam, and any future children that come along. When Dani comes to his office about a parking ticket he's hit with immediate lust, but knowing she's just a summer transplant takes her out of the running in his head. Too bad his body doesn't agree.

These two characters made me smile from the beginning to the end of this story. I love their sexy banter and their ongoing foreplay. These two spend a lot of time deciding they shouldn't sleep together but can't seem to keep their words, lips, and hands to themselves! Matt thinks he has a good reason for not sleeping with Dani, but little does he know that Dani's reason could absolutely change his life. Dani is such a strong character and I admire her in that she doesn't let what happened in her past totally affect her future. I like that while she's attracted to Matt, she knows that getting involved with him isn't the best thing to do for his sake and that of his son. I admire her convictions and I give her a lot of credit for being able to do what she felt she had to do for her sanity and being strong enough to leave despite how it affects her. I love that Matt puts the moves on Dani but she just flirts and walks away (well most of the time). He's thrown for a loop when Sam gets sick and I admire him for asking Dani for her help and expertise even though he knows it's going to upset his mother. There were a couple of times I wanted to punch him for things he said, but given what he went through with his wife I can understand his feelings. The fact that when Dani told him some things about her past, that he didn't freak out, and worked to make sure, she felt safe did not go unnoticed.

There's so much more that I want to say about this book, but I don't want to spoil it for anyone and given the

nature of the plot I simply can't say more. What I will say is that this is an excellent story, it's touching, it's heartbreaking, and it's hopeful. Just For The Summer is an emotionally charged yet playfully sexy romance that is not to be missed. I have no doubt you'll fall head over heels for these characters but don't forget to keep the tissues close by; you are going to need them!

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## Aman says

Reviewed @ Enticed by Books

Entangled Bliss is turning out to be my favorite source for sweet heartfelt romances. I loved **Just for the Summer**. It was a perfect length, summer story that took place in a small town where a mother searches for the son she gave up for adoption 8 years ago and now wants to see for herself if she made the right decision for her little boy. In the process, she ends up falling for the very flirtatious, single father of her son and is stuck in a position where she can make everyone happy by pretending or hurt them by revealing her true identity.

Dani is one of the sweetest and most genuine character I've ever came across. Reading about her makes me feel like I know someone like her, she has that nurturing quality that I admire in a person. Her story of how she became pregnant and why she had to give up her child was heart-breaking but I commend on her courage to do the right thing, no matter how hard it was for her. Her moments with Sam were precious to read and I enjoyed seeing them together. Besides the serious issues, this book was filled with playful flirtations and witty banter between Dani & Matt. Some of their dialogues are so spontaneous and lough-out-loud hilarious that you know you're going to have a blast reading their story. I had so much fun reading about Dani & Matt, I was praying them to work out their differences and have happy ending because they both deserved one.

**Just for the Summer** is a fast-paced, light yet very very romantic book about a mother and the consequences of her past decisions that brought her to where she was always supposed to be. It had a very cute ending and I loved it. I highly recommend this book. Better yet, give Bliss imprint a try if you haven't already. As far as some of their books I've read, they always leave me satisfying and makes me smile in the end.

*A Copy was provided by Entangled Publishing via Netgalley for an honest review. (Thank You so much!)*

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