



On Love's Gentle Shore

Liz Johnson

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Fifteen years after she left Prince Edward Island, Natalie O'Ryan had no plans to return. But when her fiancé, music producer Russell Jacobs, books their wedding in her hometown and schedules a summer at Rose's Red Door Inn, she sets out to put the finishing touches on the perfect wedding. But she can't possibly prepare for a run-in with Justin Kane--the best friend she left behind all those years ago after promising to stay.

Justin's never forgotten Natalie or the music career he always dreamed of pursuing. He'd been prepared to follow her off the island until his dad died and he was left to run the family dairy farm. He's done the best he can with the life that was thrust upon him--but with Natalie back in the picture, he begins to realize just how much joy he's been missing.

After Natalie's reception venue falls through, she must scramble to find an alternative, and the only option seems to be a barn on Justin's property. As they work together to get the dilapidated building ready for the party, Natalie and Justin discover the groundwork for forgiveness--and that there may be more than an old friendship between them.

On Love's Gentle Shore Details

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From Reader Review On Love's Gentle Shore for online ebook

Susan says

4.5 stars

Liz Johnson has created a cast of characters I would truly love to meet in her Prince Island Dreams series. In this third book of the series, we are able to immerse ourselves in the familiar world of North Rustico once again. Natalie O'Ryan has returned to the island to make the final arrangements for wedding. This is her first visit back to the island she fled from fifteen years earlier. Natalie is forced to confront her past, one that is filled with pain. Liz Johnson skillfully allows the details of Natalie's past to slowly surface. This is a story of forgiveness, repairing relationships she thought were over. A series of unexpected circumstances force Natalie to work closely with Justin, her best friend for many years. Both felt a sense of betrayal when they separated years earlier. Will they be able to get past their bitterness, the feelings of betrayal and find their friendship is still as strong as ever? Will Natalie allow herself to be loved, "warts and all"? Or will she continue to hide her true self, believing she is not worthy to be loved?

Johnson skillfully depicts the beauty of the island, allowing her readers to momentarily enter the peaceful world of this small community on Prince Edward Island. We feel we have returned to visit with the fictional friends we have made in the earlier books. For those new to the series, this can be read as a stand alone. But don't be surprised if you find yourself unwittingly drawn into this charming world, grabbing the first opportunity to read the earlier books in this series.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book which I received from the author/publisher. I was not required to write a review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Becky says

The best kind of reads are the ones you can't bear to put down, the ones you find yourself thinking about when you're not reading them. That's exactly what I experienced while reading On Love's Gentle Shore.

It's safe to say that author Liz Johnson gets better with each novel in the Prince Edward Island Dreams series. I enjoyed The Red Door Inn, and I loved Where Two Hearts Meet, but On Love's Gentle Shore is on another level. I kind of wish I hadn't given five stars to the second book, as that doesn't leave any room for improvement ratings-wise, yet On Love's Gentle Shore is just so. much. better.

Though there's never any doubt about the novel's conclusion (really, when is there in a romance novel?), On Love's Gentle Shore engaged my emotions in the best way. I ached for Natalie as she dealt with feelings of rejection and inferiority. I longed for Justin to just spit it out and let Natalie know his true feelings, yet I admired his restraint and respect for her relationship. And I wept as the novel reached its ultra-satisfying conclusion. With strong, fleshed-out characters, a toe-curling romance, and a beautifully written lesson about bitterness and forgiveness, On Love's Gentle Shore is easily one of the best books I've read so far this year.

Disclosure of material connection: I received a copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review, and the opinions expressed are my own.

Madison says

What fun to return to the shores of Prince Edward Island. This series has continued to delight, and the third book, *On Love's Gentle Shore*, share the same mix of love story and characters who yearn to find a place to call home.

For Natalie, returning home to Prince Edward Island only brings back the childhood trauma that she tried to outrun years ago. But her fiancé, music producer Russell Jacobs, decides that PEI is the perfect place to hold their wedding. Before Natalie knows it, she is back home neck deep in wedding preparations and face to face with old memories and people she would rather have never seen again. And then there is Justin. Her childhood best friend, he was her everything until she ran and he never followed. Thrown together with Justin, Natalie will have to face her past if she wants to follow her heart in the future.

On Love's Gentle Shore starts with a combination of my two favourite love story beginnings - best friends to more and love at first hate, well at if not hate a whole lot of unresolved anger and feelings of betrayal. Natalie and Justin have so much history, but so much of it has been left unresolved. Natalie returning to the island gives them a chance to rekindle their friendship and maybe, finally, explore what might have been. I loved watching their relationship move away from anger and bitterness and back towards the deep friendship they kindled from the age of five. They have a beautiful connection.

The writing is very descriptive in this book. There were times when I just couldn't take any more detailed descriptions of the delicious delicacies that Caden creates. I get it already, it tastes amazing. Stop it, you're making me hungry! But there is no doubt that the writing places the reader firmly within the gorgeous setting of PEI and within the middle of the characters' emotions.

I truly enjoyed Natalie's story. Everything she has overcome is so heartbreaking and seeing her get her happy ending is wonderful. Justin is equally wonderful. He is a fantastic best friend - every girl needs a Justin. But there is no doubt that they were always destined for more than friendship. As Natalie wrestles with her past, Justin faces his grief over losing Natalie all those years ago, and they both must assess what they want for the future. Faith is an underpinning factor in this story, but doesn't take much of the focus. Natalie wrestles with a God that could love her, as feeling unloved is something she has struggled with all her life. Justin's simple faith has always been a comfort to her, but something she didn't pursue herself.

On Love's Gentle Shore is a delightful contemporary romance, with charming main characters, a strong romance founded in friendship, and wonderful secondary characters, many of whom are old favourites from the previous two books in the series.

The publishers provided an advanced readers copy of this book for reviewing purposes. All opinions are my own.

Find more reviews, reading age guides, content advisory, and recommendations on my blog [Madison's Library](#).

Melanie Kilsby says

"This book had me in tears by the end."

Real life can be hard and the past even harder.

In this book, our MC tried running from the pain and abandonment that her past brought her for most of her adult life. Running so far as out of Canada and straight into the United States. But when Natalie is preparing for her new life via her wedding with her busy finance, she gets a surprise when he wants to get to know her more and decides to have their wedding in her old stomping grounds, Prince Edward Island. An idea he thinks is great and she agrees with, hoping that she can still pretend her life never happened there. And more importantly praying he never finds out the shame of her past either. Soon, there is no choice but to face it and the people she has desperately tried to avoid, head on.

A couple of things made me want to read this book.

1. It was set in Canada!
2. It had a red head on the cover :D
3. It dealt with real life issues.

I have to admit, this was a hard book for me to read for a few different reasons.

First up, when the side characters of PEI were first introduced, it felt like I was down South in the States. Not in Canada on the island. This was hard for me to navigate, being Canadian. But, once I adjusted my thoughts a bit, I was able to get through the book.

Second, it is a romance novel and romance alone is hard for me to get into. That being said, I did like the development of this story because it wasn't simply about romance. It was about trust, misconceptions, loving people when it's hard and some aspects of faith. All these elements were amazing in this story.

Thirdly, and following up on the whole romance thing... It also had a fiancé that was barely around and Natalie was quick to not really care or seem to have any standards of being alone with men when she was engaged to another man. That kind of bothered me, especially when she had a past with one of the men and was getting married, a life long partnership, to another man.

Lastly, I can relate to a lot of Natalie O'Ryan's past. Some would say that is a bonus in a book. But this one felt a bit too close to home for me and literally had me in tears in the end. It definitely pulled on the heart strings a little too deep, digging out my own wounds. All-be-it, very different issues than this book, but still-- I was hoping they stayed buried, lol.

This is NOT a bad thing or negative mark on the book, just hard for me to read. And I let it work on my heart... breaking up the fallow ground... so to speak in my own life. Which was difficult, but good. If this was what Liz Johnson was hoping to do, she accomplished that in my heart. Something I can respect her for and was brilliant.

All in all, I really appreciated the social issues brought up in this book and for that reason alone, it is worth reading. I love the determined, yet kind of crazy character of Natalie. The character arc was great for both her and Caden. As well as the side characters I grew to love!

I enjoyed On Love's Gentle Shore and was so grateful that Revell Publishing gave this advanced readers copy to me to review. And also allowing me the freedom to give my personal opinion as well.

Due to some of the relational aspects of this book, I have rated it slightly lower.
Recommended as an Adult Christian Fiction Romance novel

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This book was oh-so-angsty and I loved it! Natalie is in some serious denial through most of the book which frustrated me, but in a good way- I was totally consumed by the need for her to open her eyes and see how much better the alternate path would be. I loved seeing her process all the hard stuff as she reconciled with Justin and realized how much their separation devastated him too. Renewing her friendship with him also woke up a dormant part of her personality that she had suppressed, and it was interesting to see the clash between the submissive fiancé Russell knows versus the vibrant, funny, passionate woman Justin sees. I loved reading from Justin's perspective and how deep his feelings run, even though he attempts to be the strong and silent type. The amazing setting of the island and the Red Door Inn was a huge part of the book and I loved that the characters from the previous books played important roles in this book as well. One of my favorite scenes was the "kitchen party" where Justin and other musicians came together to play and we see how he puts his feelings about Natalie into his songs. A wonderful conclusion to the series and I highly recommend reading them all!

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Melanie says

On Love's Gentle Shore is the third and, I think, final book in the Prince Edward Island Dreams series. It is also my favorite of the series, which is a surprise considering I wasn't sure about the romance in the beginning...I mean, the heroine was engaged at the start of the book and yet it seemed like there was going to be a romance between her and her old beau -- or at least there were sparks -- and unless it was done right, I knew I wouldn't like the breaking up of a relationship that was serious.

Now I don't want to spoil anything, so I won't say what happens or which way the romance went, but I did end up loving the book and I found the story captivating. I didn't want to put it down and am sad that it is over.

As with all the books in this series, I loved the characters and setting. The writing was fantastic; it held my interest and the story wasn't hard to follow. There were also some scenes that had me on the edge of my seat because I didn't know what was going to happen next and I didn't want it to be anything bad.

All in all, I recommend On Love's Gentle Shore. I don't think you need to read the previous books in order to enjoy this one, but since they were so good I think you might want to. ;)

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review. As always, all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

Deanne Patterson says

On Love's Gentle Shore (Prince Edward Island Dreams #3) is the third book in the series by Liz Johnson. I don't read many contemporary books, I am more of a historical reader but I will be reading more by this

author!

This is my first experience with this author and I am so glad I decided to give her a try!

Ahhhh. the description she gave of Prince Edward Island, I'm on the next plane there :)

I have books one and two in this series and though I may be reading the series out of order I definitely will be reading them!

Because her fiancée, Russel books a summer stay at the Red Door Inn and makes plans to have their wedding on the island on PEI, Natalie O'Ryan is forced to return to her hometown and the many memories she would rather leave in the past. Her family, while it lasted was fodder for the rumor mill and she hung her head in shame as a teenager. The last thing she wants to do is return and have the talk start up again. She is in love with the idea of being in love but not with her fiancée. She sees him as a way to stay off the island she made her escape from 15 years ago when she was 17. He has no idea of her past or of the abuse and neglect she went through. Upon returning to the island she runs into her former best friend, Justin. They stuck together like glue, through thick and thin. He knows the real her and all she has been through. He has respect for her but he is upset she left without a word to him all those years ago. After she returns to the island he is so mad at her for leaving and hurt too. They develop feelings for each other even though she is engaged to Russel. They both do their best to not act on these feelings. Russel doesn't know the real her and she can't keep up this facade anymore. Such a sweet story of redemption and strong tones of forgiveness. Very enjoyable read!

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Thank you to NetGalley and Revell for a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

Sarah says

Enter in the most beautiful Island your mind can take you and that is where Liz Johnson takes the reader. I have loved every single minute of The Prince Edward Island Dreams series! If you have not read any of the books, I highly recommend that you put them on your summer reading list, like now! Before summer is over. "On Love's Gentle Shore" is the third book in the series, but can be read as a stand alone. Don't worry if you decide to just pick up this book because you'll fall in love with the small Cape Town feel and the amazing characters. Will an old town flame spark up a previous romance and end a wedding or will Natalie go through with her wedding? The only way to know is to grab the book and start reading. Once you do read this book, you won't be able to put it down! It is definitely a book to throw in the beach bag and read in one sitting. I give this book 5/5 stars. Thank you to the publisher for providing me a complimentary copy. A favorable review was not required. I am sad to see this book end, but I am thankful to have spent time in Prince Edward Island. Get ready for an amazing book!

Kav says

True confession: I really don't like love triangle romances. And I really, really don't like it when either the hero or heroine is engaged to one person while developing a relationship with someone else. So I hesitated reading On Love's Gentle Shore since Natalie is engaged and is getting married in her hometown where her first love just happens to still live.

Angst Alert!

But, here's the thing -- I adore this series and I trust Liz Johnson to deliver an impactful story so...I took a deep breath and dived in...and loved every emotionally gut-wrenching minute. (Not to mention the Prince Edward Island location softens the blow somewhat.)

Johnson has such an exquisite way with words that she lulls me into a reading stupor even in the gnarly parts. Like this: "Russell's words hung out there like underclothes on the line, too embarrassing to take down after someone else pinned them up for the whole town to see." (p.40) I mean, if you're going to read a tumultuous story you might as well enjoy the prose!

Natalie and Justin reunite after fifteen years of misunderstandings and bitterness. They were seventeen when their respective worlds shattered and acted with as much immaturity as you'd expect teenagers to. I had to keep reminding myself of that as the story unfolded. Especially where Natalie was concerned.

She might have fled the island but the emotional damage she endured as a child stayed with her. She just buried the hurt and uncertainty under a polished facade. Her life is a charade and it starts to unravel the second she sets foot on the island. Justin has allowed bitterness to take hold of his heart. Resentment and anger surface when he lays eyes on Natalie for the first time since they were kids. These two have a lot to work through before they can finally be free to see hope in their future.

Painful and thought-provoking and uplifting. This isn't just an exceptional love story -- it's a cautionary tale on the power words play in our lives. Both words spoken to us and by us. On Love's Gentle Shore would make an excellent book club read because of the depth of discussion starting points.

Book provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications Ltd.

Beth says

I am glad to have finally continued on with Johnson's series. I read the second book first a few years ago, and finally got around to the first book and this book this year. Johnson's writing has a unique, compelling quality about it that I've come to enjoy. It flows so well and easily keeps my attention. Once again, I was captivated by the setting of Prince Edward Island and loved the small town feel of the story. Of course, when everyone knows everyone, it's hard to live your past down, and no one knows this more than Natalie O'Ryan. Natalie is back on PEI for her wedding, drawn back against her will by a fiance who thinks he's secured the wedding spot of her dreams. However, Russell doesn't know the true Natalie, and that's the way she likes it. Safe and secure, away from the ugliness of her past. Her former best friend, Justin, knows Natalie well, and when he is roped into helping with her wedding, their reunion is not a happy one. However, memories are hard to forget, and those who loved Natalie always hoped she would return home.

I truly think this is a case of "it's me, not you," since one key part of the story is just not my favorite. It's a personal preference more than anything else. I really like to root for couples, and while both characters are wonderful, I just couldn't root for them as a couple. So I admit the romance fell a bit flat for me. However, I was captivated by Natalie's personal growth and her overcoming of tragic childhood circumstances, as well as the strong theme of reconciliation and forgiveness. It was also lovely to see Marie and Caden, who were lead characters in the first two books. Though book two remains my favorite, I did enjoy all of the books in the series. I recommend it to fans of contemporary romance, who also enjoy stories of overcoming past traumas and personal growth.

Susan Snodgrass says

Natalie O'Ryan left Prince Edward Island many years ago and now her fiancé has surprised her with wanting to come back for their wedding destination. She doesn't tell him, but she sees so much pain here on this island and wants nothing more than to leave. So she puts on her happy face and determines that she will soldier on.

Justin Kane was Natalie's best friend for many years during her time on the island and was always her safe place. Can he still protect her when old memories are brought back with startling clarity?

I've loved Liz Johnson's 'Prince Edward Island Dreams's. With the first one, I felt it was my favorite, then along came the second and I felt the same way. But with this third and final novel in the series, it is definitely my favorite. Heartbreaking at times, but also joyful, this is a novel to be savored to the fullest. And, as one reviewer put it, 'there is enough snap, crackle and pop' romantic tension between Natalie and Justin to satisfy any romance fan.

It is great to catch up with characters from the first two novels in the series. Johnson has created a community here that I personally would love to visit and her characterizations are wonderful. There are a few fictional places I'd love to visit and this is one.

Liz Johnson also manages to plumb the depths of human emotion in Natalie's character. I was overcome during parts of the book. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of this book and felt it is Johnson's best work to date. Don't miss this one!

*I was given a preview copy of this book. My opinion is my own and honest.

Amy says

The third book in Johnson's Prince Edward Island series takes off from the very first page. If you've come across this series and picked it up based on an 'Anne with a E' passion for the Island, this will not disappoint. These books are classy and unhurried.

Each story that I read in this series, makes me want to pack my bags and book a flight immediately. Is there really an Inn with the appeal of the Red Door? I sure hope so, this setting oozes charm and small (extremely small) town familiarity. Set in North Rustico, which Natalie refers to as the 'Crick' (I wasn't quite sure what that was), the everyone knows everyone, and then all your business too, hasn't worked out quite so well for Natalie O'Ryan. Daughter of the Island philanderer and town drunk, a mother who neglected and abused her - getting far far away at 17 was all she ever dreamed of. Subject to constant gossip, she was one girl who didn't feel like she had one good thing in her life. Except Justin Kane. A chance childhood meeting in a lighthouse on Kane land, their friendship blossomed. With a pact to leave together, it all came to a crashing end on the sudden death of Justin's father & a nasty accusation. Not looking back and vowing to never return Natalie packed a bag and ran. Thinking Justin would come find her, but never did she felt abandoned by the last person she had. 15 years later and our story begins. She's back on PEI again with a fiancé in tow, with a wedding to organize. With the help of Marie, of the Red Door Inn, we return to our beloved characters of the

first two books, and a chance meeting in O'Gradys. She's back and Justin doesn't know what's hit him.

I literally couldn't put this book down. This might be my favourite of the 3 so far, and I loved the first two. I felt every tender emotion. Every tug at the heartstrings. The history they had shared together, meant it was inevitable Natalie & Justin would need to find some kind of resolution. There isn't a heavy dose of inspirational dialogue, which I think worked really well in this case. Sometimes it can overpower the storyline, and when you have a character as deeply troubled as Natalie, her healing process needs to come from a gradual natural place of inner growth. Of course God can play a powerful part in our restoration of self worth, I was just appreciative of the way Natalie found her peace in the story.

Thoroughly enjoyed it, you could read this without the others first, even though the characters play significant roles in this book. However, I loved that I knew them already and we have such a natural continuation. So, seek out the first two and enjoy some PEI bliss.

Thanks to Netgalley & Revell for the eARC. This is my honest review.

Maureen Timerman says

This is the third book in this series that I have read, and oh I loved to be back at the Red Door Inn, back with Marie and Seth, and the beautifully described Island of PEI, and yes I wish I were there!

This is Natalie and Justin's story, a little girl who was not seen as a child of this Crick, and if she was seen she was bullied, so can you imagine coming back here after fifteen years? Yes she has grown up and now is being married, and yet the bullies are still here and we see a few of them are still at it. Then there are those who did as much as was possible to help this neglected little girl, yes Aretha Franklin, and Mamma Cheese Kane were two who embraced this woman as a child, and then there was Justin, he stood up for her, and yet she feels he wasn't there in the end.

How could she come back to the demons that abound here, and yet isn't it time to face them, she is now in her thirties, and about to be married, as her fiancé has made the plans to marry where she is from.

We get to watch as the events unfold leading to the wedding of the year on this Island, and enjoy picking the flowers and yummy cake, along with the venue.

There are some surprises here and some concerns that will peek your interest, and a lot of needed healing and forgiveness. Enjoy!

I received this book through Bethany House Publishing Blogger Program, and was not required to give a positive review

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

I absolutely adored this series. The whole Prince Edwards Island Dreams series was one you will not soon forget. The love story and the setting alone are worth the read. But Natalie's story was one of the best romances you will read this year.

One thing that I found great was getting to get together with some of characters from the first two books.

You are going to want to fall into Justin and Natalie's story, be careful you might just be like me and never

want to leave PEI.

This is a 5 star book and I highly recommend it.

The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher for review. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own.

Rebecca says

"The island is all about lights and gentle shores."

That may have been true for most residents of picturesque Prince Edward Island, but coming back to her childhood home to be married was only full of dark shadows for Natalie O'Ryan. Unknowingly, because she had never told him otherwise, her fiancé surprised her with a destination wedding site that he thought would thrill her, instead she is busy stuffing down humiliating memories, while trying to keep Russell far removed from the gossip that continually swirls between local residents.

Justin Kane would know those riotous red curls anywhere. Growing up, it had always been "them". "There hadn't been a Natalie with Justin. Or a Justin without Natalie." Until she left, without a word. Natalie O'Ryan has certainly grown into a beautiful woman and her appearance back on the island is a brutal shock to his senses; but as he continually reminds himself, she is getting married, getting married, getting married . . . to someone else. . . . and it seems, the celebration venue is his old abandoned dairy barn.

The romantic tension between these two former soul mates greets the reader instantly, and with enough "snap, crackle, and pop" to fill a thousand cereal bowls. What could possibly be gained, at this juncture, by telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Can Natalie discover that it is never too late to "do the next right thing"?

"On Gentle Shores" is a lovely conclusion to Liz Johnson's "Red Door Inn" series, seamlessly inserting characters from previous stories into the present one, making life on Prince Edward Island nearly impossible to resist. I am grateful to the author for an advance copy of this book; the opinions stated are entirely my own.
