



Leaving Jetty Road

Rebecca Burton

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Nat, Lise, and Sofia are best friends. This year, their last year of high school, none of them foresees the changes that will occur in their lives.

This is the year that Nat—the go-between, the peacemaker—gets a job and meets a drop-dead gorgeous chef named Josh.

This is the year that Lise—quiet, shy, and solitary Lise—decides to take control of her life by taking control of her weight.

This is the year that Sofia—the ultimate guy magnet—gets her nose pierced and falls seriously in love for the first time in her life.

This is the year that will change each of them forever.

Leaving Jetty Road Details

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From Reader Review Leaving Jetty Road for online ebook

Julie says

Nat, Lise, and Sofia are best friends. This year, their last year of high school, none of them foresees the changes that will occur in their lives. This is the year that Nat—the go-between, the peacemaker—gets a job and meets a drop-dead gorgeous chef named Josh. She forms a relationship with him and is devastated when she discovers that he has taken up with his ex-girlfriend whilst she studies for her final exams in SWAC Vac.

This is the year that Lise—quiet, shy, and solitary Lise—decides to take control of her life by taking control of her weight. Her mental health steadily declines and she suffers several panic attacks - which she fails to realise what they are. In the midst of one of her first Year 12 exams, she suffers a panic attack and runs out from the room. This then leads her to receiving help and she is hospitalized. This is the year that Sofia—the ultimate guy magnet—gets her nose pierced and falls seriously in love for the first time in her life. This is the year that will change each of them forever.

Libby Edwards says

If you have lived in Adelaide and know Glenelg, you will relate to this book. Being in Yr 12 at a girls' private school with the future ahead of you, choices you make have an impact not only on yourself but those close to you too. Value your friendships. Old friends are like diamonds most precious and rare. False friends are like autumn leaves found everywhere.

Kayla says

LEAVING JETTY ROAD by Rebecca Burton

There's not really much to say about this book. It was pretty boring, not much happened, there wasn't really anything for me to care about or keep me truly interested. It wasn't a complete waste of time, but I would have rather spent the time on another book if I could've predicted the flatness of this book. It was a pretty dull read; I don't recommend this one.

"There's only so much misery you can allow yourself before some little stubborn part of you bounces back in rebellion."

Overall Opinion: C

Full review on my blog. :)

~Kayla

My Blog

Leaving Jetty Road Review

Alexa Hamilton says

Lise, Nat and Sofia are three girls in high school in Australia who make a New Year's resolution to become vegetarian. Lise takes it too far and becomes anorexic. The other girls go about their somewhat normal lives. It's told from Nat and Lise's perspectives in alternating sections. The book works because you see Lise both from Nat's perspective but you get the added benefit of being inside her head once in awhile. Though I didn't love the book, it's still a good portrayal of a frighteningly common disease.

Watermelon Daisy says

The premise of *Leaving Jetty Road* is a wonderful one.

A lot of people have stated in their reviews that this book is plot-less, and in a way, that's true. It's basically the lives of three girls as they uncover their true-selves. So really, there's no main "plot."

But I loved the lives of Nat, Soph and Lise. Especially Lise, who I think is one of the best female characters I've come across in a long time. I can also connect with her.

However, I found Nat and Soph's story kind of paled in comparison to Lise's. Sure, theirs were interesting and kept me turning pages, but could've been made a little more important. Then again, I guess that's the whole charm of this story: it's realistic. Not everybody's going to have problems as major as Lise.

It's a great book, but I don't think it's worth anything more than 4 stars. There's just something preventing me from giving it more.

Rebecca McNutt says

Nat, Lise and Sophe, three friends coming of age in Australia, about to graduate high school with big aspirations for the future, are about to find over the span of one year how rapidly things can change. Nat is dealing with Josh, her eco-freak/chef boyfriend who prefers to be cynical and doesn't really get along with Nat's friends. Lise is hiding a dark secret - what begins as a resolution to become a vegetarian in support of animal welfare, becomes a dangerous eating disorder. Sophe is rebelling more and more all the time, unsure of whether she even wants to follow her career plan. In *Leaving Jetty Road*, friendships get tested and nothing will ever be the same again. Set in Australia, this book is truly much better than I'd hoped, well-written and descriptive and interesting.

KRISTI ? ? says

Wow. This is again, more of a girl book. (Ehhmm Josh) xP

Anyways, this book is rrrreeeeallllyyyy good. It's SO detailed and the amount of friendship and love in it...wow...it's just REALLY aamaazing. I think that all the girls should read this book 'cause it'll teach you a

lot of important things in life. It's really touching and really detailed and when you read *Leaving Jetty Road*, it's like your IN the book. It's like you can SEE everything and FEEL everything that the characters are seeing and going through. So seriously. READ THIS BOOK! :)

Jess says

I will start off by saying that I LOVE LOVE LOVE that *Leaving Jetty Road* was set in my hometown of Adelaide, South Australia. Glenelg is a very popular beachside suburb here (I think it's overrated, but that's just me lol), and I could picture it all in my head as I was reading. Burton doesn't go into GREAT detail describing it, but what she does write about the place IS very accurate. Jetty Road is the real main road leading down to the beach and the jetty, and it's lined with shops, ranging from cafes (alas, the Wild Carrot Cafe was imagined by Burton!), craft and clothing stores. There are indeed two tram lines running along the road that take you from the beach right into the heart of Adelaide city.

So yes, what I did love about the book was that it was set in Adelaide and I caught onto a couple of local colloquialisms (there weren't many) like shopping in Rundle Mall, the notorious 40-degree weather we get in summer, the Moreton Bay fig they sit under, a mention of the Italian food chain Fasta Pasta, swotvac*... these all contributed to the book's authenticity for me.

What I thought was strange was that it was only in the POVs of two of the three girls spoken about in the blurb. I kept waiting for a POV of Sofia to come but it never came. However in the end, I accepted that we probably didn't need one as we found out enough about her life through her two friends. The REAL heart of the story came from Nat, and how she perceived herself and those around her, most particularly her mum, and secondly, Lise. Nat experiences her first love, and gets her very first job, and these happenings are balanced nicely by Lise's chapters of her personal body-image issues and insecurities. On top of all this, we have the stresses of Year 12 and exams, and the third (and free-spirited) wheel of the duo - Sofia, who pops up every now and again.

Credit to Burton for creating a realistic portrayal of an eating disorder and anxiety; how it not only effects the person suffering, but their family and friends too. I liked that it wasn't too heavy handed. At times I wanted to dive into the pages and shake Lise until she came to her senses, because the way she saw herself was heart-breaking.

I originally had this pinned down as a 3/5 stars, but now I'm upgrading it to a 4 after writing my review. Mainly because it was a great book, with realistic situations and characters, and a well-rounded, hopeful, positive ending. I can't imagine wanting to read it again in a hurry, but it was an easy read and I loved that it was Australian.

* Swotvac is a term commonly used in Australia to describe the 'revision week', the week before end-of-year exams start. It combines the term SWOT (an acronym for Study WithOut Teachers) and VAC, for Vacation. Most terrifying week of my 17-year-old self back in 2006 :P

Liralen says

Not bad, although I think the book takes a rather simplistic view of the characters' problems. I wish the

author had delved deeper - not that I want the characters to suffer more, per se, but I felt that she didn't do more than scratch the surface.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Marta Morrison for TeensReadToo.com

Leaving Jetty Road was a good read. I enjoyed the book and the different characters. Nat, the main narrator, is a calm B personality, Lise is the intense, very shy A personality, and Sofia just walks to another drummer.

In their twelfth grade year in Australia they make a New Year's resolution to become vegetarians. This leads the three of them on different life paths. Sofia finds her true love, Nat finds her first love, and, for Lise, being a vegetarian is the magic bullet for weight loss. Unfortunately, that same magic bullet also leads Lise to intense exercise and makes her panic attacks become wickedly more frequent.

I liked the way the author got into the heads of Lise and Nat and gave them a very realistic voice. The reasons that Lise has for becoming anorexic are valid and real. She feels inferior within her family, school, and tight social circle. Nat, going through the throes of first love, made me think of that time in my life as well. The way that the relationships changed throughout the course of the book was amazing and also very realistic. I had to laugh, though, because periodically throughout the book I had to remind myself that the setting is in Australia. Summer heat in December? School beginning in January? Being cold in June? Oh yeah, Australia!

All in all, LEAVING JETTY ROAD is a memorable book and one that I think most girls will identify with.

Renee says

Something that bugged me so much I nearly put the book down: italicising odd works. Like Chandler from Friends, but not funny.

I overall found the book just okay. I've read it twice and it didn't get any better. I found Lise to be quite unrealistic and the other two weren't likeable. That said, parts of the story were good.

Meg says

This book by Rebecca Burton is a coming-of-age story about three teenage girls who are very determined to look for a better change on themselves.

Leaving Jetty Road narrates the challenges on love, friendship, health and school that the three best friends encounter in their lives. The aspect of an eating disorder, anorexia nervosa is included in the story which happens to one of the girls in the book.

Kat (Lost in Neverland) says

2.5 Stars.

Starting Year 12 at their high school, best friends Nat, Lise, and Sofe are all hoping to get good grades and maybe even fall in love.

Nat gets a job at a local cafe and meets Josh, the drop dead gorgeous chef. They have an instant connection ~~lustiness~~ and Nat is swimming in happiness.

Lise, on the other hand, is busy being torn apart by her own mind. She wants to lose weight desperately and it soon becomes an obsession. Normally chubby Lise is now getting compliments on how lean and fit she's looking. But the compliments quickly turn to wary amazement, and even worry, on how she's eating...or lack of eating.

Not much to say on this one. I couldn't stand one of the narrators, Nat, and her 'you know?' and 'totally' talk. Plus she was a selfish bitch.

Nat blames her other for not helping Lise when her issues were becoming apparent, when *she* herself didn't give two shits on how her best friend for years was doing all because of her hot new beau. And then she expects sympathy after she breaks up with Josh and wanting things to be 'more simple like they used to be'.

Lise infuriated me as well with her "I'm *not* thin enough!" and "I don't *look* any different, even though I'm 90 pounds." mindset but I pitied and felt for her because I know that's what anorexic girls think. It's all psychological, and you just have to tell someone about it.

Sofia was really this book's saving grace, surprisingly. She was the only girl I liked, and slightly envied for her freedom.

Grace says

The first thing I have to say is that the title should be printed in a different font, because for the longest time I called this book, Leaving Jelly Road, because I couldn't tell the difference. But aside from that, its a very good read.

The only interesting story line in this book is the story line about the girl with the eating disorder. (I haven't read it in a while so I forgot names) The other girls are very minor characters with forgettable stories and personalities. The girl with he eating disorder was however very impactful, and basically carried the whole story. My heart went with her through every trial she faced, and I'll completely honest, at times I skipped over a few pages from the other characters points of view to get to her story.

For any young teen girl this is a good read to get insight on the real world and what it means to grow up and leave things behind. The characters are realatable, however forgettable they are, and I enjoyed reading this as a beach read during my free time a few summers ago.

Deliasue says

It takes place in Australia.

3 teen girls are fast friends and it's about their life as friends and also in their alone time.

one suffers from an eating disorder and the others either do not know or are afraid to approach her about it.

They stay friends through prom, graduation, and life in general.
