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Jenny Colgan

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For fans of Sophie Kinsella, Jojo Moyes, and Jennifer Weiner, a moving, laugh-out-loud novel—with recipes!—about a young woman who begins her life anew as a baker in Cornwall.

Amid the ruins of her latest relationship, Polly Waterford moves far away to the sleepy seaside resort of Polbearne, where she lives in a small, lonely flat above an abandoned shop.

To distract her from her troubles, Polly throws herself into her favorite hobby: making bread. But her relaxing weekend diversion quickly develops into a passion. As she pours her emotions into kneading and pounding the dough, each loaf becomes better than the last. Soon, Polly is working her magic with nuts and seeds, olives and chorizo, and the local honey-courtesy of a handsome local beekeeper. Drawing on reserves of determination and creativity Polly never knew she had, she bakes and bakes . . . and discovers a bright new life where she least expected it.

Little Beach Street Bakery Details

Date : Published March 31st 2015 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published March 13th 2014)
ISBN :
Author : Jenny Colgan
Format : Kindle Edition 448 pages
Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Romance, Contemporary, Adult

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From Reader Review Little Beach Street Bakery for online ebook

Galleane says

Je ne peux que vous conseiller ce roman. Si les personnages manquent de profondeur, ils restent marquants grâce à leur personnalité, au rôle qu'ils ont dans la vie de Polly et plus généralement dans l'histoire. Polly est une femme intelligente, un peu trop gentille et manquant de caractère, mais je l'ai beaucoup apprécié, de même que les seconds rôles les plus présents. La passion de Polly pour la fabrication du pain se fait très bien ressentir et les passages parlant de ce qu'elle fait sont des plus réussis. Entre prises de risque, passion pour ce qu'on fait, amitiés, amours, déboires, déceptions, faux pas, descriptions -de tous horizons- craquantes et figures locales ou autres de tous types, ce roman a été une lecture qui va longtemps me rester en mémoire. C'est un livre doudou que je garderai précieusement, un livre feel-goo qui fait du bien.

Ma chronique complète : <http://bloggalleane.blogspot.fr/2016/...>

Arlene says

Jenny Colgan is quickly becoming one of my go-to authors when I don't know what to pick up next. Her cast is eclectic and fun to get to know, her storyline is engaging, and the recipes she incorporates into her books are mouthwatering!!!

In this novel, I enjoyed getting to know Polly who at the age of thirty-something has to find a new career when the graphic design business she started with her boyfriend goes bankrupt. With so few options at her disposal and rent being so expensive in town, she decides to take residence in a small beach town that seems to be inhabited by folks that are set in their ways.

As she begins to bake bread for the local towns people and finds new ingredients to add to her concoctions, she quickly begins to make friends with most of the town with the exception of her land lady. However, her desire to continue baking and finally do something she enjoys overpowers the constant trouble she finds herself in.

Overall, I loved Polly, Huckle and Neil the puffin!! I could read their story for many many more chapters!! It was fun to get to know the towns people and the ins and outs of the local fishing business. The recipes that Polly concocted with the local ingredients and Huckle's Honey sounds amazing. I've never baked a loaf of bread, but I think I'm going to give it a try when the summer heat wanes.

Wonderful story that takes place in a small Cornish seaside town where the inhabitants are full of character! Enjoyed it much!!

Paul E. Morph says

This is a great, relaxing, summer holiday read. Perfect for the beach or by the pool.

Polly and her husband run a graphic design business together that goes belly-up. Their marriage doesn't survive the stresses of declaring bankruptcy and Polly moves to a dilapidated flat in a small seaside town in Cornwall, as it is all she can afford (slightly hard to believe, knowing how much seafront property goes for in

this country, but I'll let it slide).

Polly finds herself befriending a crew of local fishermen, butting heads with the local baker, having an encounter with the local ghost and rescuing an injured puffin. Oh, and there's also this hunky American guy who lives nearby, but I'm sure he's not important to the story at all...

It's all a little cheesy but it's good natured and a lot of fun. It even throws off the light-heartedness for a while to give the reader some bona fide peril on the high seas and a little tragedy for good measure. The author even throws in the recipes for some of the baked goods featured in the book at the end.

Overall, this is never going to win the Pulitzer for literature or anything but I enjoyed it quite a bit and will be reading the sequel.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I absolutely LOVE Jenny Colgan's books, they always fill me with such happiness and I love jumping right in and immersing myself in her novels, so I was VERY excited about Little Beach Street Bakery.

In Little Beach Steet Bakery, Polly is not only recovering from a bad relationship, but the company she set up with her ex Chris was declared bankrupt, leaving Polly unable to afford her flat and with no job or business either. As Polly struggles, she stumbles across the little place of Polbearne, and moves there to somewhere more affordable. After moving miles away from everyone, Polly is left living above an abandoned shop, where her new home is barely liveable. However, after adding her own touch to it, and facing her new neighbours, Polly finds comfort in her favourite hobby – making bread. And as she pours her heart and emotions into her baking, the locals begin to hear about it....

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, in fact I read the entire novel in one sitting because it was just so lovely being back with Jenny Colgan's writing.

I really liked Polly, she has such a great personality and I warmed to her straight away. She had not had much luck with her relationship or her business as they went bankrupt, so as soon as Polly started baking and spent more time kneading dough, I was thrilled for her and I spent the rest of the book cheering her on with a huge grin on my face! I became completely swept up in Polly's world, her emotions, her feelings, and most importantly, her bread! I also REALLY liked Huckle and I always looked forward to his scenes with Polly.

Little Beach Street Bakery was everything that I hoped it would be and more! There are a wonderful selection of characters to meet and get to know, and by the end of the book, all of the local people felt like my own personal neighbours and friends. I especially loved that they had their own individual voices and issues in their lives, and that some of these were explored too. And best of all? The book even has the most adorable puffin in it!

One thing I PARTICULARLY love about Jenny's recent novels is that there are some fantastic recipes in the back relating to the novel. I really enjoy devouring the novel then trying out the recipes, and imagining that I'm in the bakery making some of these delicious items!

Little Beach Street Bakery is a completely delightful read full of love, life and pursuing what you're passionate about. This story will definitely touch you, warm your heart, and have you wanting to bake so please buy a copy and enjoy!

Thyago | MrsMargotBlog says

Um romance delicioso e inebriante, que mexe com as nossas memórias olfactivas e nos leva a viajar!

Este livro tem todos os ingredientes que adoro numa história, um romance, uma viagem e a descrição de aromas e sabores que nos transportam para dentro do livro.

Foi difícil largar a leitura, daquelas que são tão prazerosas que se lê tudo num instante.

Só não dou nota máxima porque achei o final muito corrido, mas como sei que tem continuação, não vejo a hora de ler o segundo.

E depois como adoro cozinhar, adorei as receitas que autora deixa no final do livro! Maravilhoso! Ainda estou a salivar com as descrições que a personagem Polly ia fazendo dos seus pães.

Myrna says

Good chick lit book with a mix of tragedy and humor. It was an easy read with likable characters. I also enjoyed the descriptions of the seaside English town. I was expecting a foodie book with succulent descriptions like in a *A Taste of Heaven* or *The Cake Therapist*. Instead, there are lots of other things going on besides the bakery like a wedding, fishermen, puffins, and beekeeping. If you like escapism reads about second chances, this book might be for you. 3 star read! One a side note, I knocked off 1/2 a star because the narrator of the audiobook made the main character sound like an elderly woman.

Ian says

Polly's relationship has failed, her business has failed, she is homeless, bankrupt and living on the couch of her all too perfect best friend. Desperate to escape her woes and start rebuilding she rents a ramshackle apartment above a shop on a bleak windswept island.

With nothing else to do, she returns to the love of her life, baking bread. At first she gives it away or trades it but over time she finds she has a small business. But she has to avoid the despotic owner of the town's other bakery who just happens to be her landlord.

Little Beach Street Bakery was quite a magical story about a woman who, in doing what she loves most, manages to revive the fortunes of a small fishing town. It's not all that surprising but with characters I genuinely loved I found myself well and truly pulled into the story and had to set aside a couple of other books I'm reading just so I could focus all my attention on this.

Flannery says

After enjoying my audiobook experience with *The Bookshop on the Corner*, I requested that King County Library System purchase this audiobook so I could keep going with Jenny Colgan's books, which I'd hoped would fill that quirky romance fix I sometimes have. The story in this book is the same sort of deal as that one: a woman has some problems in her life and decides to start anew somewhere else. She builds up a

business and finds someone special. End of. That's not what I want to mention about this audiobook. If you like those kinds of books, read this in book format. It's cute and you get really hungry listening about all the baking. It makes you want to visit more fishing villages. Whatever.

The biggest issue with this book is the abysmal casting for the narration. Veida Dehmlow has a fantastic voice, but **at least to me**, it would be better suited to Miss Marple-type mystery stories, classic books or historical romance. The main characters in *The Little Beach Street Bakery* are around 32, but they sound like they are in a retirement home. Have you ever heard two old ladies playing bridge while talking about going to bars and getting laid? Yeah, it's probably not happening too often. (except maybe on *The Golden Girls*, which I will go to my grave saying is one of the best shows ever) There are a lot of male characters in this book, and they all have the same voice: husky, drunken monster. The love interest is supposed to have a Southern drawl, and his voice makes him sound like a simpleton version of the husky, drunken monster.

So anyway, read this book if you like quaint, quirky romance. If you are thinking about listening to the audiobook, put it back on the shelf.

Mafi says

Adoro livros relacionados com culinária e comida e este foi uma perdição, admito que de tanto ler sobre pão e bagels, aquando de uma passagem pelo supermercado tive de trazer uns bagels, tudo por causa deste livro!

Passando à minha opinião do enredo, gostei claramente como já devem ter notado contudo achei que o livro esticou-se em demasia e que a autora realmente não tinha muito por contar e portanto foi introduzindo personagens secundárias e plots secundários só para prolongar a trama. Gostei da estória da antiga padeira da vila e gostei bastante da inclusão da pesca e dos pescadores no livro, principalmente por a actividade piscatória ser tão importante no nosso país e portanto o livro teve outro sabor. Ouve situações que me pareceram mesmo desnecessárias e que senti que estavam ali só para encher o livro mas no final acho que quase tudo teve o seu propósito, seja o romance da Polly com o pescador ou a aparição súbita do ex-marido a pedir-lhe uma segunda oportunidade.

<http://algodaodoceparaocerebro.blogspot...>

Bonnie says

When Polly's long-term relationship comes crashing down and with it the business they've built together, she's left to start over completely from scratch. With so few options available to her, she agrees to rent a run-down flat with a leaky roof on the island of Polbearne. She finds solace in utilizing her baking skills and filling the air of the island with the enticing smell of freshly baked bread.

St. Michael's Mount

Source

Polbearne, a quaint seaside village off the coast of England, is based off the actual island St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall. Colgan's descriptions of the village were thorough, detailing not only the people and their way of life but of the town itself and the sole causeway being the only way to come and go on the island. While the people in the village weren't always the most friendly (since they saw Polly as an outsider),

the village itself sounded like a such a lovely place to reside with its small shops on cobbled streets and a ruined yet still charming castle on the top of a hill overlooking the island.

Polly's ever-constant baking was also given much detail and constantly left you craving delicious breads. After one particularly tasty sounding chapter I became determined to also become a master bread maker. Long story short, I failed miserably. Bread is FAR harder to bake than Polly makes it sound like just so you know! I didn't actually attempt any of the recipes included in the story (Cheese Straws, Sweetcorn Fritters, Cinnamon Rolls, Focaccia, and my favorite: Shortbread) but I'm determined to try again. Someday.

This fun little foodie novel is not without its fill of drama though. Polly immediately begins butting heads with her landlord who is the sole baker on the island and Polly's freshly baked bread is hampering her sales. Her landlord has her own personal history that ends up being told as a side-story. Polly also gets involved in some romantic complications that ends up being something akin to a love square. While I'm not a fan of love triangles and especially squares in general, what really disappointed me with this one in particular was the lack of chemistry between Polly and any of the men. What I loved most about Polly was her empowering story of hitting rock bottom and finding the strength to not only make a living but to find out who she is while being on her own again. The romance element wasn't completely necessary in my opinion and especially not that many romances. It made it all avoidably messy and I would have appreciated a much more simplistic story in that regard.

I don't know how I've failed to mention the best part of the story this far into my review! When Polly moves to Polbearne she unintentionally takes on a new pet which she names Neil. Neil, the puffin.

Neil was by far the cutest addition to the story even though he was unrealistically tame, but whatever! Now I want a pet puffin.

Little Beach Street Bakery is a sweet, entertaining tale about learning to navigate the harsh realities of life and finding what you're passionate about. It's the perfect read for foodie fiction fans and readers simply looking for a light-hearted read.

I received this book free from TLC Book Tours in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Michael Cayley says

If this is chick lit, I am an honorary chick. This is a delightful book about a woman whose relationship breaks up when her and her partners' business goes bust, and who settles on a fictitious island (loosely akin to St Michael's Mount) connected to mainland Cornwall by a causeway. Jenny Colgan does not hide the harsh side of life in a small fishing community, but this is a lovely warm book, complete with pet puffin.

Sonja says

Nach einer gescheiterten Beziehung und beruflichen Niederlage wagt Polly einen Neuanfang in Cornwall. Sie zieht auf eine kleine Insel und mietet sich eine etwas renovierungsbedürftige Wohnung. Hier backt Polly ihr Brot, was schon immer ein großes Hobby von ihr war. Schnell spricht sich unter den Insulanern herum,

dass Pollys Brot einzigartig gut ist. Damit macht sich Polly jedoch nicht nur Freunde, denn ausgerechnet ihrer Vermieterin gehört die einzige Bäckerei auf der Insel, und die sieht Pollys Konkurrenz gar nicht gerne...

Mein Leseindruck:

Dieser leichte Roman ist genau richtig, wenn man sich einfach unterhalten lassen möchte und etwas fürs Herz sucht. Die Geschichte ist nicht besonders anspruchsvoll, dafür aber wunderschön und liebenswert. Die Charaktere sind zum Verlieben, und sogar der säuerlichen Vermieterin von Polly kann man im Laufe der Geschichte näherkommen.

Auch eine Liebesgeschichte ist natürlich enthalten, aber sie steht nicht unbedingt im Vordergrund. Trotzdem ist sie wunderschön und ans Herz gehend.

Auch das Setting ist hervorzuheben. Ich liebe Cornwall und somit haben eigentlich schon alle Geschichten, die hier spielen, bei mir einen Bonus. Aber wenn man dieses Buch liest, fühlt es sich wirklich ein bisschen wie Urlaub an. Man kann sich gedanklich vom Alltag entfernen und die Seele baumeln lassen.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

After reading Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery, book three in the Little Beach Street Bakery series did I just have to read the first book because I found the one I read marvelous.

Jenny Colgan has quickly become a favorite author of mine. I love the mix of seriousness and humor in her books and several times did I smile as I read this book. However, it's not all smile and laughter, and since I have I read book three did I know that I should not become too attached to a person that is not longer in the story after this book. I failed at that, to be honest, the person in question become one of my favorites, despite the person not being fully truthful to Polly.

Little Beach Street Bakery is a wonderful book, there are so many wonderful parts in the book, like everything concerning Neil the puffin, Polly secretly baking bread to everyone (long story read the book), her best friend Kerensa and Reuben and their weird kind of "thing". Polly getting to know Tarnie and Huck, the two men in her life. No, this is not a triangle drama book. I even liked in a heartbreaking way the sad part of the book that came towards the later part of the book. The only thing that felt a bit off was part of the ending, I did like the last part, the wedding is marvelous, but I found myself annoying with the whole relationship drama towards the end of the book with miss misunderstandings and hurt feelings. Still, the book is definitely a really good book, despite the weaker part at the end of the book and I hope to read book two soon!

One thing, that confused me, in this book Polly's father died when she was twenty and she has a brother. But in Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery did her father walk out of her mother before she was born, and she has no sibling. Both books I've read has been in Swedish, is it a translation problem or is it a miss from the author side?

Steffi says

This was a lovely and cute read but unfortunately I missed the final sparkle. Most characters were lovely, especially Polly but I just couldn't feel any chemistry between her and Huckle. The atmosphere of that little island town was great and I could imagine it perfectly.

Jennifer says

★★★½

Good bread is hard to find. Getting just the right texture, density, crust, aroma, and flavor is a talent that I personally don't have. I do have a tiny handful of places I know of that can deliver perfection. Too bad this book is a work of fiction; I want to add it to my list. I want to crawl inside the pages and devour every perfect morsel the heroine created. The descriptions of the freshly baked breads were perfection.

And the people and atmosphere of the small seaside village setting (which the author reveals IN THIS INTERVIEW was inspired by the real-life St Michael's Mount in Cornwall). So well-written.

I have read Jenny Colgan before and have had a "meh" experience, but Little Beach Street Bakery was bounds better and is my favorite book from this author to date. Much of the book reminded me a bit of the plot and community dynamics seen in the film *Chocolat* (2000). A newcomer who brings a much needed baking talent to her new desperate community, a villain type of character who strongly discourages it, and a tiny town who is heavily conflicted between craving the illicit food and succumbing to intimidation. Little Beach Street Bakery brings drama, heartache, humor, beauty, friendship, food, love, and light romance to a "gentle and relaxing" reading experience. That description is in quotes because a fellow member of Chick Lit Book Club used this in our BOTM discussion located [HERE](#) and I thought those adjectives were absolutely perfect.

Unfortunately though, I do have a few complaints. The first one has to do with the romance. It was evident that the heroine and hero were headed that way based on the events and story build-up, but I found their chemistry was sorely lacking. After all of the detailed writing up to that point, the romance just felt like words in comparison. Second, you won't find any recipes in Little Beach Street Bakery so you'll have to fulfill your carbohydrate cravings some other way. Third, the voices of the audiobook narrators are far too mature for the ages of the written characters. A goodreads friend gave me a heads up on this factor beforehand and thankfully I was prepared so it wasn't too distracting but it was obvious and a bit confusing to be honest. Regardless, I really enjoyed Little Beach Street Bakery overall and would recommend it to fans of chicklit/women's fiction.

My favorite quote:

"Beyond the window was...nothing. Just a stretch into outer space, or, as it revealed itself to be on closer examination, the sea. The picture had been taken on a day when the sea and the sky were the same shade of gray and blended into one another. It was a great big expanse on which nothing was written. Polly stared at the picture for a long time, fascinated. It looked exactly the way she felt: hollowed out, empty. But also strangely calming. Like it was all right that there was a lot of gray in the world; grey was how it was."

Note: I realize the above quote isn't consistent with how light I made the book sound but this quote stood out to me. I love the ocean and find it very therapeutic. I've experienced this quote first-hand and I marked it immediately.

10/20/2016:

I've been craving fresh-baked artisan bread all day...and honey. Lots of raw honey. Thanks for the carbs

Jenny Colgan.

Full review to come after I stuff my face.
