



Nell

Nancy Thayer

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Now available for the first time as an eBook, this beloved novel by "New York Times" bestselling author Nancy Thayer tells the uplifting story of a single mom seeking independence and struggling to find her way. Nell St. John is not living the life she imagined for herself--not by a long shot. She was once a glamorous young actress married to influential director, Marlow St. John. Together, the A-list couple was the toast of the town. But then Marlow's star fades and tensions at home skyrocket. Marlow takes up with another woman and abandons Nell, leaving her to pay the bills and raise their two boisterous young children. A string of attractive suitors is not the answer to her lack of fulfillment, but what is?

When she's offered a job at a posh clothing boutique on Nantucket, Nell uproots her young family and moves to the island. Soon, her college age ex-stepdaughter Clary, who has her own romantic troubles, moves in with her, and Clary and Nell fall in love with island life and its gentler pace. Nell also captures the attention of an eccentric man about town. And in that carefree, romantic summer of tender passion, she looks within and discovers much more than she ever dreamed possible.

Includes a captivating preview of Nancy Thayer's upcoming novel "Nantucket Sisters"!

Praise for the novels of Nancy Thayer

"The queen of beach books."--The Star-Ledger

" "

"Thayer has a deep and masterly understanding of love and friendship, of where the two complement and where they collide."--Elin Hilderbrand

"Thayer's gift for reaching the emotional core of her characters [is] captivating."--Houston Chronicle

" "

"One of my favorite writers."--Susan Wiggs

"Thayer portrays beautifully the small moments, inside stories and shared histories that build families."--

"The Miami Herald"

"Thayer's sense of place is powerful, and her words are hung together the way my grandmother used to tat lace."--Dorothea Benton Frank

Nell Details

Date : Published January 1st 1985 by William Morrow & Company

ISBN : 9780688043391

Author : Nancy Thayer

Format : Unknown Binding 380 pages

Genre : Fiction

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From Reader Review Nell for online ebook

Carol Nummy says

A major disappointment

I usually love Nancy, but this one was tedious and endlessly repetitious. Being her first book, thank goodness she has grown and improved. Don't bother.

Mary says

Nell St. John is not happy with the way her life is going - not by a long shot. She was once a glamorous young actress, married to an influential director, Marlow St. John. Together, they were the toast of the town, an A-list couple destined for fame.

But then Marlow's star fades and tensions at home begin to skyrocket. He soon takes up with another woman and abandons Nell, leaving her to pay the bills and raise their two boisterous young children by herself. Even a string of attractive suitors is not the answer to Nell's lack of fulfillment, but then, what is?

When she is offered a job working at a posh clothing boutique on Nantucket, Nell uproots her young family and moves to the island. Soon, her college age ex-stepdaughter Clary, who has her own romantic troubles, moves in with her. Clary and Nell quickly fall in love with island life and its much gentler pace, that they discover while living on Nantucket. Nell also captures the attention of an eccentric man about town.

And in that carefree, romantic summer of tender passion, Nell looks within and discovers so much more about herself than she ever dreamed possible.

This book was a great read for me. A gossipy, engaging beach read; definitely a woman's book if ever I've read one. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It certainly wasn't your typical 'fluffy' romantic love story, but filled with multi-dimensional, well-developed characters that I connected with very deeply. I give this book an A+! and am looking forward to reading more from this author in the future.

Linda L says

Excellent book, even though it doesn't have the picture perfect ending. Still an interesting journey through a woman's life -- marriage, divorce, children, jobs, friends, lovers. Nell manages to survive it all with a sense of humor, even when the man she loves turns out to be selfish and self centered.

Jeanne says

Nancy Thayer writes about a single mom looking for love..does a great job expressing a woman's emotions.a very satisfying read

Julie Barrett says

nell by nancy thayer, woman lives on nantucket island, after college she marries a leading man and raises her children. he leaves her for another and she continues with dinner parties on the island and contemplates with her panic attacks selling the house, taking the old trees down, and just being able to live there still.

life on the island, the nursery day care she starts up to survive and all her love interests over the years.

Cheryl says

The style of writing in this book was very different from her other books. It was quite beautiful and detailed. But overall, I found the story to be quite dull and slow moving.

Christine says

This was the 2nd book by Nancy Thayer that I read in the mid eighties and the first one taking place on Nantucket, my favorite place on earth.

Beautiful love story and description of Nantucket.

Laurel-Rain says

Nell and Marlow St. John had been a golden couple: he, a famous director, and she, a talented actress. Could their life get any better? But then the children came along. First, Jeremy, and two years later, Hannah.

Life gradually changed for them, and then, unexpectedly, Marlow left Nell for her best friend Charlotte. In some ways, she felt more betrayed by Charlotte than she did by Marlow.

Five years later, Nell is still alone, struggling financially, working in a high end boutique in Cambridge, and moving from one lover to another, never seeming to find The One. She just wants to love someone, and have him love her in return. Is that too much to ask?

When Nell's boss Elizabeth asks her to manage the boutique on Nantucket for the summer, it seems impossible, but when Marlow agrees to take the children for two months, Nell sighs with relief.

Finding her groove on the island comes quickly, and almost immediately, she meets Andy Martindale. They quickly connect and he seems to be everything Nell has been looking for.

But why, after almost three months on the island, spending every free moment with him, has Andy not talked about a future together? Could her boss's warnings have been true? That Andy is unable to make a commitment?

"*Nell*" is a very introspective tale narrated by the MC, a divorced woman struggling with single parenting, supporting herself, and trying to find love again. The story is set in New England, mainly in Arlington, Cambridge, and Nantucket, sometime in the 1980s. The themes are familiar, but Nell's voice is very appealing. She could seem a bit narcissistic, focused on her issues constantly, but remember that this was set in a time before social networking, online groups, and all that those connections can bring. Isolation is more complete in such an era, and instead of writing a blog, a woman like Nell is forced to introspection during her time alone.

Which is why this story engaged me. Nell's dilemma is an age old one, not easily corrected, and without the connections most of us take for granted these days. As I headed toward the book's end, I suspected that Nell's solution would probably be one of acceptance. And living in the moment rather than projecting into the future. But could there be surprises ahead?

While the book was not my favorite by this author, it had the ingredients I have come to count on: delving into familiar issues, while showing the reader what the life of the characters looks like, from all the messy details of daily life to the flaws and foibles that make us able to relate to them. A little predictable, but comforting, this one earned 4 stars.

Sandy says

Tedious read, missing her usual humour.

Michelle Stanish says

This book could of ended in a variety of different ways...in the end I enjoyed the outcome. Dived into Nell's story straight from page one and kept me entertained page after page.

Holly Ollivander says

I was living in North London, down to my last shilling and a week to go before my visa ran out when I discovered this book. Not my usual style, I was still immediately captivated — Nancy Thayer is that good a writer.

If you ever really want to understand the way a woman's mind works, read this. *Nell* is like source code. It will change everything.
