



The Beach Café

Lucy Diamond

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Evie Flynn has always been the black sheep of her family - a dreamer and a drifter, unlike her over-achieving elder sisters. She's tried making a name for herself as an actress, a photographer and a singer, but nothing has ever worked out. Now she's stuck in temp hell, with a sensible, pension-planning boyfriend. Somehow life seems to be passing her by. Then her beloved aunt Jo dies suddenly in a car crash, leaving Evie an unusual legacy - her precious beach cafe in Cornwall. Determined to make a success of something for the first time in her life, Evie heads off to Cornwall to get the cafe and her life back on track - and gets more than she bargained for, both in work and in love...

The Beach Café Details

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From Reader Review The Beach Café for online ebook

Rebecca Carter says

I wasn't sure I'd like this book as I've only just started introducing some chick lit books back into my reading, as after a long stressful day I need some easy fluffy reading that doesn't require much brain power. I don't mean that in a sneery look down my nose snobby kind of way, as chick lit can be great. It's definitely my guilty little secret again.

Anyway I'll get to the book! It's centred around Evie a woman whose life is stuck in a bit of a rut and feels like she's the black sheep of her family. Her boyfriend seems disinterested, she hates her job, has enrolled in a teaching reading course for lack of any other choices and feels a failure compared to her sisters and their "perfect" lives.

She suddenly inherits a beachside cafe down in a seaside village in Cornwall and initially thinks she can manage it from Oxford.

Well I won't go into too much detail or that'll defeat the need to read it - but the remainder of the book is following Evie's new life.

Evie's quite an identifiable character and I'm sure many readers will fall in love with the bay and the characters. The descriptions of the bay make it seem extremely vivid and you really can imagine how it looks and practically smell the ocean and feel the sea breeze. It also made me crave pasties and delicious cakes and I really think it will make me actually attempt some baking.

I think this book is perfect holiday reading material and escapism. I used to believe living in a picturesque destination would be perfect. Until I lived in a postcard perfect place and was bored stiff once I realised there was nothing beneath the surface and while it was great for a holiday, it wasn't ideal (for me anyway) as a permanent thing. However Evie's village sounds lovely and almost makes me want to move to Cornwall ;)

As it's now December and in the run up to Christmas and I enjoyed this book, I'm now going to read Lucy Diamonds follow up books -Christmas at the beach cafe. I'm really looking forward to revisiting the characters and seeing where they are now up to with their lives. Hopefully they'll be some mouth watering descriptions of delicious Christmas food that'll make it feel more Christmassy. As being in Australia in the sun and heat for another few weeks, I need all the help I can to evoke the sense of Christmas and hopefully Lucy Diamonds books can help.

Connie (hoot reads books) says

After some thought I decided to boost my rating from 3.5 to 4/5. It's a really good contemporary romance and one of the better ones I read so far!

I find it rare to come across a fictional character that you can relate to which is exactly how I felt when reading about Evie Flynn. She is a thirty something year old who is a dreamer and a wanderer. Most of her life she has been an actress to photographer but nothing has ever worked. Now Evie is stuck in a stupid temp job with a half decent boyfriend. I know how it feels to be stuck in a rut, wandering from job to job and not getting anywhere with your career. I'm stuck doing temp jobs and still I haven't made a name for myself unlike my successful siblings. The more I read about Evie's character the more I could relate to her anxiety

and fears of going nowhere in your life. The only difference between me and Evie, is the beach cafe.

After her Aunt Jo died, Evie decides to run the beach cafe without any experience in business management or how to run a cafe period. Although she may not be as over achieving as her sisters, she sure has her aunt's spontaneity and recklessness. I love how Evie refuses to succumb to be like her sisters and is determined to run her life her own way without anyone telling her what to do. I love her carefree attitude, her determination, and her supportive friends who embrace her free spirit. She's so gutsy and thoughtful of others that all I ever wanted to do was support her as she tries to run the new cafe. I was disturbed how so many people in the town of Cornwall were so judgemental of Evie without getting to know her first, but in the end, after showing everyone her true colors and how she managed to run a lovely cafe all on her own, people started to respect her. The way the story ended was like watching a good romance movie where everything fell into place so neatly that you feel a heartwarming feeling inside. And I was so moved of how the community was supportive and helpful to Evie that I almost went into tears because it reminded me how important friendship is, and when disaster strikes you can always rely on your neighbours and friends to help you.

This was a cute and touching story that I loved, with a memorable character that I can relate to as I know how it feels to be the black sheep in a family, but it also reminded me how there is still hope in turning your life around and that you can always count on your friends to lend you hand.

Anne says

Set in Cornwall, the heroine of the story is Evie - a thirty-something woman whose life is in a bit of a rut. She's the black sheep of the family, her sisters are both successful, gorgeous, well-groomed, married with children and have great careers. Evie goes from one temp job to another, not really knowing what she wants to do, her long-term relationship with geeky Matthew has gone a bit stale - the only great thing in her life is Saul, Matthew's young son who Evie adores.

Evie is devastated when her aunt Jo is killed in a car accident. Jo always believed in Evie, never criticised her and allowed her to be herself. Evie spent many happy holidays at Jo's beach cafe in Cornwall. The whole family are shocked and surprised to learn that Jo has left the cafe to Evie. Everyone expects Evie to sell up - after all when has she ever made a success of anything? Evie is determined to prove them wrong.

This is a fabulous read. Evie is one of those really likeable characters that you soon grow to love, she reminded me a little of Bridget Jones - daft, funny but very caring. Sometimes she makes huge mistakes, sometimes she does things that are incredibly annoying, but you can't help but love her!

Lucy Diamond is very good at creating some great characters, really human and believable and her descriptions of the Cornwall village and beach were fabulous.

Ok, there may be a smidgeon of predictability along the way, but I'm not complaining - everyone needs a little romance in their lives and Evie deserves it more than most.

I enjoyed every page of *The Beach Cafe*, it has all the ingredients for the perfect summer read and I can't wait to read more of Lucy Diamond's novels.

Elke says

Ik geloof dat ik stiekem durf te zeggen dat ik mijn favoriete schrijfster heb ontdekt. Wat kan ze schrijven zeg! Als je op zoek bent naar diepgaande en super spannende literatuur moet je niet bij de boeken van Lucy

Diamond kijken. Hier en daar zijn ze misschien ook wel een beetje voorspelbaar. Toch weet Lucy Diamond mij keer op keer te verrassen. Ze weet een heerlijke sfeer te creëren (volgende vakantie gaat naar zuid Engeland) en door de vlotte en makkelijke schrijfstijl leest het boek super snel weg. Een ware page turner en een genot om te lezen. Welverdiende 5 sterren dus!

Valerie says

Dit boek staat al heel lang in mijn currently reading. In de tussentijd heb ik nog andere boeken gelezen. Toen ik uiteindelijk weer verder ging lezen was het eigenlijk best makkelijk op te pakken, en ik had geen moeite om het verhaal steeds ergens opnieuw op te pakken.

Misschien ook doordat ik er lang over heb gedaan en het boek lange tijd heb weggelegd, dat ik het verhaal niet zo heel bijzonder vond. Het was makkelijk te lezen en te volgen, maar geen ander soort verhaal dan andere feelgood boeken.

Ik weet dat het een serie is, en misschien ga ik toch wel het vervolg lezen. Puur om er achter te komen wat er verder met Evie zal gebeuren.

In dit boek volgen we Evie die een cafe erft. Ondanks wat struggles vanuit haar werken en relatie besluit ze het cafe te houden en deze te runnen. Alle tegenslagen maakt Evie mee, maar ze maakt er wel wat van. De vriendschappelijke en open sfeer die zich in het cafe voordoet, houdt zich het hele verhaal aan en dat is wel prettig om te lezen.

Al met al een prettig, niet moeilijk boek voor drukte of even niks bijzonders te lezen.

Kay Townsend says

This book was a really good read which I enjoyed.

Suad Shamma says

After the last few books I read, I was really craving some lighthearted material to pass the time. I looked through my chick-lit books that I had lying around waiting to be read, and found this little gem. I had it for many years now, and I remember I bought it because of the rave reviews, so it seemed the perfect choice to get me going. Given the title, and the beach weather we've had here, it was exactly what I needed.

The Beach Cafe was a very well-written book, with interesting characters, the right amount of humor, pain and romance intertwined with a storyline that I found myself quite invested in. Evie Flynn is in her 30's living with her five year steady and extremely sensible boyfriend and working at a temp job that she hates but needs. Evie "seemingly" has everything any girl could ask for, right? Wrong.

Her 'sensible' boyfriend is a little too sensible, bordering on boring and tightfisted as he makes all the plans for their future and continuously puts Evie down for being more spontaneous and opinionated. Evie has been with him 5 years now, and he did save her life when she almost caught fire waitressing at a bar he was at,

and she does love him...she's quite sure she does. Or does she?

Since meeting him, she's stopped her spontaneous trips around the world, she's stopped trying out new things and living her life to the fullest, instead she's found herself becoming more "ordinary" as she planned for a future that seemed to be going nowhere.

When her aunt Jo suddenly dies in a crash, Evie is devastated. She used to spend most of her time at her aunt's, and now she can't even remember the last time she's visited or seen her in Cornwall. When she drives up there along with her family for the funeral, they are all shocked to find out that her aunt had left Evie the Beach Cafe she owned. Her family, with little to no faith, encourage Evie to sell it as they are certain she won't be able to manage it and besides, she can't keep making the trip up and down between Oxford and Cornwall. Evie is torn though, she feels a unique pull towards this cafe, towards this town...and its people. And yet, she knows her family is right, even though she resents it.

Of course, we can all guess what happens next and what she decides to do and where it all leads. I'm not saying this is the most exciting unpredictable story with all these twists and turns...no of course not. It's a chick lit and as such, certain elements are expected to be present making it quite predictable, but no less enjoyable.

I loved Evie's character. She frequently frustrated me, but I really respected her and liked her. The frustration mainly stemmed from the fact that I could never be as nice and as reasonable as her under the circumstances. I mean, she gets it from all sides. Her idiot boyfriend, who ends up leaving her because she chose the cafe, her sister, who is a complete and utter bitch that I would have probably pulled her hair out and then stuck it where the sun don't shine, her parents who really just have no faith in their daughter and the employees at the cafe, who I'd have fired from day one. Not to mention the townspeople, who also had little faith in Evie taking over their beloved Jo's cafe.

The way she handled it all though, and was able to control herself was, well...admirable. Something I would never be able to. I'd lash out, and speak my mind, and probably create a lot more problems than needed. Evie's nice. She really is, and nice people usually annoy me, but not in this case. She was the kind of nice that I could tolerate and almost envy. And being nice took her a long way, so it sure as hell worked for her.

A great, entertaining read and comes highly recommended. I'm going to be on the lookout for more Lucy Diamond books in future.

Amanda Patterson says

Easy is the best way to describe this book.

Evie Flynn feels like a failure. Her work life is as lacklustre as her love life. Her aunt dies and leaves her a beach café. Does she change her life? Do I even have to answer that? Easily read and easily forgotten, this is a fluffy bit of nothing.

A beach read if you like reading on beaches.

Rosanna Threakall says

The title is pretty self explanatory, this book is a cute summery read about a cafe by the beach! I loved that, despite the setting being Cornwall, I imagined my favourite sea side town in the UK, Broadhaven. The setting in this book was so good that it was so easy to imagine the cafe actually existing. I loved the protagonist, except her attitude towards men drove me a bit insane and I preferred her when she was in her independent woman phase.

This book wasn't perfect, though. I thought I could see a twist coming a mile off which killed the suspense for me but the twist didn't go the way I expected but actually I think it would have been better if it did?! Idk.

This book isn't short and I read it quite fast. It has a feel-good ending which will never fail to make you smile.

I will definitely be keeping an eye out for more of Lucy Diamond's work.

Rachel says

I wasn't sure if I'd like this. I'm a big fan of Jenny Colgan and I wondered if it would be a bit of a rip off of her Cupcake Cafe, Beach Street Bakery, or Sweetshop novels. But it wasn't at all. I ended up unable to put this book down. The main character, Evie, was identifiable and likeable, and she had a great relationship with her best friend which was nice to read. The lead guy in the book was great, and all the personalities of the characters involved in the Beach Cafe were great too. I'm keen to read more of Lucy Diamond's work now!

Jo says

Loved Evie & her Cornish adventure!
Real easy read with great characters!
Enjoyed this book a lot!

Zelly says

Recension: ZellysBokhylla

Rea Cobb says

Whilst I am waiting for some of my favourite authors to release their new books I have found myself reading a few books by authors I have not tried before. I have just finished The Beach Café by Lucy Diamond. I have seen books by Lucy Diamond on the shelves before but they have never seemed to stick out for me until I came across this one which once I had read the blurb I decided to give it a try.

Plot

Evie Flynn is in a relationship which doesn't seem to be going anywhere and is also stuck in a job which she hates. Evie is thrown a life line when she receives tragic news that her dear aunt Jo has died in a car crash but has left her precious beach café to Evie. This is an opportunity for Evie to make something of her life. Surely she can run her aunts café how hard can it be?

Evie soon finds out that running the café although enjoyable is hard work and she is missing her life back home will she be able to stick out running her Beach Café or will she decide to sell up and head back home?

My Opinion

I was looking for a summer read, as a few people have asked me to recommend a great holiday read and although I have read some great reads recently I have yet to find one that has been released this year which really gets me in the holiday mood! This was why this book took my eye as I was sure with the title The Beach Café it was sure to get me in the right mood.

I found that the book had a slow start but by chapter 5 the book started to pick up its pace and I really started to slip into the story. The remainder of the book continued at a comfortable pace. Personally I felt that we didn't need the first part of the book as the story really started for me when Evie arrived in Cornwall.

The main character in this book is Evie. Her character was easy to warm to from the start of the book. She seems to be stuck in a rut and is unsure of what to do about it. She is the black sheep of her family and her family always seem to be sitting waiting for her next failure to happen. It was great to see the determination in Evie to prove to her family that she can achieve something without failing miserably. As the reader we can see that Evie's relationship with Matthew is going nowhere and I was glad that the relationship was not drawn out to long as I think this would have dampened the storyline.

I really enjoyed the mix of characters in this book and the relationship between Evie and the other characters come across so well. I especially enjoyed the relationship between Evie and her chef Ed and Phoebe who was a teenage homeless girl who Evie reached out to. I thought I knew what the outcome of Phoebe was going to be but I was wrong! Although Evie was our main character we did learn about each of the other characters stories which made each of the characters feel more meaningful. I was glad that the book wasn't predictable other than the romance side of things in this book which is why I found it very hard to put this book down.

I thought the storyline was perfect and enjoyable. the story being based in Cornwall was a nice touch and made the book feel more realistic with it being set in a familiar place.

I would recommend this book as a holiday read although a word of warning put it in your hand luggage as the book is 489 pages long so will damage your luggage allowance! After reading this book I will keep my eyes open for future book releases by Lucy Diamond.

Also on my book blog <http://reabookreview.blogspot.com/>

Luise says

This definitely was the perfect choice for my summer holiday read.

The characters are lovely, the setting is great and it has a really good balance of positive events and disasters happening.

So, while lying on the beach at the Dutch North Sea coast, I could perfectly immerse into the story about Evie Flynn and her charming beach café.

Alison says

I have no idea why I decided to buy this book, but buy it I did.

Evie Flynn is a bit of a drifter. She has artistic tendencies and wanted to be an actress but has settled for temporary office work. She lives with her boyfriend in Oxford and has two older, prettier, more successful sisters who love to condescend to "poor Evie".

When Evie's aunt dies in a car accident she leaves her beach cafe in Cornwall to Evie, her favourite niece. Evie soon discovers that she can't leave the cafe to muddle along by itself, the existing employees aren't capable or reliable. Soon she has to make a hard decision, sell the cafe or move to Cornwall. But can she escape from her daydreams of a bucolic existence wafting around the cafe being glamorous and successful, long enough to actually learn how to use the coffee machine and make a bacon sandwich?

This is a lovely feel good story, a triumph of hope over adversity as Evie learns what it takes to run a business and becomes embedded in the local community.

I look forward to reading more in the series.
