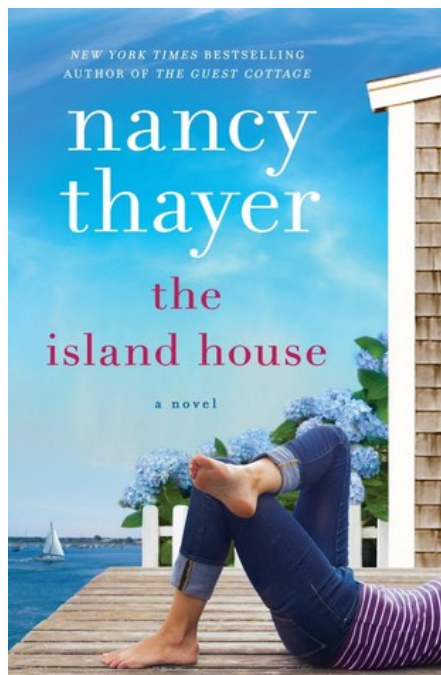




The Island House

Nancy Thayer

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New York Times bestselling author Nancy Thayer evokes the shimmering seascape of Nantucket in a delightful novel that resonates with the heartache and hope of growing up, growing wise, and the bittersweet choices we must be brave enough to make.

Courtney Hendricks will never forget the magical summers she spent on Nantucket with her college roommate, Robin Vickerey, and Robin's charismatic, turbulent, larger-than-life family, in their gorgeous island house. Now a college English professor in Kansas City, Courtney is determined to experience one more summer in this sun-swept paradise. Her reason for going is personal: Courtney needs to know whether Robin's brother James shares the feelings she's secretly had for him.

Time with the Vickerey family always involves love and laughter, and this season is no different. Vivacious matriarch Susanna Vickerey is celebrating her sixtieth birthday, but beneath the merriment, trouble is brewing. The family patriarch, Dr. Alastair Vickerey, is quiet and detached, while unspoken tension looms over oldest son Henry, a respected young surgeon. Warm and witty Robin, the most grounded of the siblings, is keeping a secret from her parents. Iris, the colorful baby of the brood, remains rudderless and in need of guidance. And the sexy, stunningly handsome, untouchable James--to Courtney's dismay--may be in love with a beautiful and vibrant local artist. As the summer unfolds, a crisis escalates, surprising truths are revealed, and Courtney will at last find out where her heart and her future lie.

Weaving the trials and uncertainty of real life into a tapestry of passion, hope, and courage, *The Island House* is a beautifully told story about the ties that bind us--and how the blessings of love and family heal us in ways we never dream possible.

Praise for *The Island House*

-Thayer's latest should be filed under a Best Beach Reads of 2016 list. . . . The characters are complex and their struggles and concerns feel real. . . . Thayer has a really wonderful ability to showcase the meaning of family.---**RT Reviews**

-A perfect book to read while sticking your toes in the sand this summer!--**Bookish Devices**

-A touching story about friendship, family, and the uncertainty of love.---**Bustle**

Praise for Nancy Thayer

The Guest Cottage

-A sweet book with romance, laughter, and love after loss . . . Thayer knows her Nantucket history, and it shines in this book.---**RT Book Reviews**

-It's a pleasant escape to a state of mind in which rebuilding a life is as simple as pitching an umbrella and spreading out a towel.---**Kirkus Reviews**

Nantucket Sisters

-Thayer obviously knows her Nantucket, and the strong sense of place makes this the perfect escapist book for the summer, particularly for fans of Elin Hilderbrand.---**Booklist**

-Thayer keeps readers on the edge of their seats with her dramatic story spanning the girls' childhood to adulthood. This wonderful beach read packs a punch.---**Library Journal**

Island Girls

-A book to be savored and passed on to the good women in your life.---**Susan Wiggs**

-Full of emotion and just plain fun, this novel is delightful.- --**Romance Reviews Today**

The Island House Details

Date : Published May 31st 2016 by Ballantine Books

ISBN :

Author : Nancy Thayer

Format : Kindle Edition 305 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance

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From Reader Review The Island House for online ebook

Toni says

Read this in a few days after looking for a light read. This certainly fit the bill. Interestingly though, in addition to all the typical characters you would expect in a beach read, the members of the primary characters of one family, struggled with mental illness. This part raised the level up a notch, since it was developed quite well.

However, the drama of everyone else in the novel drowned out that little story. Doesn't it always seem to work that way?! Not bad.

Peebee says

This book was bad bad bad. I don't even want to waste time explaining why, after wasting the time it took to finish the book. But one thing really annoyed me: every single time a certain character (Jacob) was mentioned, the author had to remind us that he was fat. There was no other character development, and in a book where everyone seems to end up with someone during the course of the book (not a spoiler, it's what happens in these kinds of books) it's no shocker that he lost the game of romantic musical chairs. Everything else, just banal, but that was offensive. That, and not distinguishing between Missouri and Kansas when Courtney lived and worked in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lynn says

A light summer read. Great characters. terrific setting on Nantucket Island. Very predictable plot and ending. Just what you want to read on a lazy summer afternoon. I love these books for pure mindless escapism .

Judy Collins says

A special thank you to Random House and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Nancy Thayer returns to the island of Nantucket with **THE ISLAND HOUSE**, with her summer beach installment-- the story of two best friends, Courtney and Robin. From children, loves, secrets, friends, and family and lots of summer drama. (*a lot of players; not a lot of depth*).

Meet the Vickerey Family, the Summer Children, the Family Friends, and the Cowboy.

- Vickerey Family: Alastair- father, Susanna- mother, Henry-oldest child, Robin-youngest daughter, James-second son, Iris-second daughter.
- Vickereys' Summer Children: Valerie-Henry's friend/love, Jacob-Henry's best male friend, Courtney-Robin's best friend, Callum Findlay-James best friend, Pearl-Iris's best friend.
- The Family Friends: Quinn Eliot, Christabel-Quinn's daughter
- The Cowboy: Monty Blackhorse

The summer children -what Susanna (now 60) called her four children's best friends who spend every

summer in the Vickery home, even though those children were adults and had been for years.

Courtney is returning to Nantucket for Suzanna's sixtieth birthday. She had come to the island eleven years ago and every summer since. Nantucket was like her second home. James Vickerey was the real reason for returning. She had been in love with him since she first met him. After what happened to them, she knew she had to return to the island for *one more summer*.

However, Monty Blackhorse *adds to her confusion*.

From the Midwest, now an accomplished university professor, at twenty-nine, she is caught between two men and two different lifestyles. She is here in Nantucket to figure it all out.

From family, secrets, lovers, friends, mental illness, passions, romance, and relationships. A light fluff summer beach read.

Sorry guys you are reading this once again. As I have mentioned previously, I really enjoyed Nancy's older books (have read them all)—was a huge fan; however, over the last several years, the author has steered away from her earlier absorbing, engaging, and suspenseful style. The same with Elin Hilderbrand. I keep reading and waiting, and it is not happening. Guess I need to move on. *Please go back and find your earlier groove*. It worked! Your fans miss your earlier work. I have read other similar feedback from fans. I keep hoping and waiting.

Piepie says

To me, this book sounded more promising than what it really was. At the beginning, I was confused by all the characters and flashbacks, but at about the 30% mark, when we found out more about Robin's lover, the story grew more interesting.

There were no "earth-shattering" moments in this story. Nothing shocked me. Everything was fairly predictable. I did like the New England summer setting, and the end with the whales. However, Robin's new love interest seemed to come out of nowhere, and I felt as if I didn't really know him.

In the end, this story did have its good points, but it wasn't outstanding. The biggest issue I had with it was the emphasis on having children. WHYYYYY. I felt so sure that James would bring Courtney round!

(crossposted to netgalley)

Jessica says

A disappointing read not up to par with her other work. I only finished it as quick as I did because I was home sick.

Susan says

I have loved most of Nancy Thayer's books, but this one was such a dud. Horrible discussion of mental health, native Americans, and women's roles. Absolute pass.

Ang says

Holy crap, this was terrible. Nancy Thayer has really lost her touch. I think it's either that she needs a better editor (though her editor for former books was fine...) or that she needs to stop churning books out so quickly.

No really, this was an AWFUL outing for an author that I normally really enjoy. I feel sad, because I know this means I'll be less likely to pick up Thayer's books in future summers.

Morgan Schell says

Provided by NG in exchanged for an honest review.

? This book took longer than I anticipated to finish, and that is because I would lose interest at times. My mom is a fan of Nancy Thayer and I wanted to give her books a try, but this one at least moved far too slowly to keep my attention. The story lines were good and held some interest, but not often enough personally.

Mayra says

This book started out so promising. Courtney, a darling Kansas girl, goes to Smith and meets Robin from Nantucket. Courtney spends her summers on the island with Robin's family the Vickery's and quickly becomes one of the summer children. The author flashes back and forth between the past and present. We spend ample time understanding Courtney's rural upbringing with her outrageously handsome best friend Monty Blackhorse and we know that presently Courtney is in love with James, brother to current best friend Robin. Then the train derailed. Nothing tied together, it was quite unbelievable at times and the unimportant details were more than I could bear.

Also, the language was so old fashioned I had to keep reminding myself that this book was set in the present. I skimmed the last half of the book and found it to be a disappointing read.

Eva • All Books Considered says

Review originally posted at **All Books Considered: 3 STARS**

I feel like summer requires books by Elin Hilderbrand, Nancy Thayer, etc . . . probably because they all release a new book every summer and it's usually set in the summer. How I long to visit Nantucket and see if it really is as amazing as these authors describe. This book, once again, sets us right in the heart of Nantucket and in the midst of a fun and sprawling family. The matriarch, Susanna, has always had "summer children," the name she gives to the best friends of her four children that have spent a lot of summers living in the family's huge house on Nantucket. This summer it's her 60th birthday and all her summer children return for

the party, each with their own secrets. What worked me was the setting and the family but the first half of the book (before the real conflict) was so much better than the second half. Still an enjoyable read and I'll add it to my beach reads shelf for that particular mood!

Pick this one up if you want a contemporary beach read although I much preferred Nancy's release last summer, *The Guest Cottage*. I also always have to recommend Elin Hilderbrand's backlist for the BEST Nantucket settings.

You would think, Courtney, thought, that a woman as versed in literature as Courtney would not be surprised by anything that happened between a man and a woman.

You would think that any woman, no matter what she did, couldn't be shocked by any man if she had grown up with a father, a brother and a male best friend.

Danielle says

I'd lean more towards 3. 5 stars on this one. I loved the Vickery family, and I wanted to be a part of them. Beyond that, this book was just "ok" for me. It was a typical light summer read, which is exactly what I was expecting. However, it was overly formulaic and at times, the writing seemed very amateurish, even seeming to be pulled out of a bad romance novel.

My love for Nancy Thayer is strong, though, and I'm already looking forward to her next book. While the quality of her writing has diminished over the past few years, she never fails to transport me as I read, and I turn to her books as an escape. I'm lowering my expectations of her books and hopefully will be less dissatisfied in the future.

Suzanne says

[I thought the book really fell

Mary says

I don't think this book deserved the scathing reviews it received from some. However, it is the definition of a light summer read. A young woman who spends her summers with her college roommate's family on Nantucket has loved the roommate's brother from afar. She returns for one more summer to find out if he feels the same. All the Vickery children and their summer friends have relationship issues. There is a warm earth mother who watches over everyone and a gruff father whose facade almost cracks at one point; and what is with the ridiculous thing with the whales? There was no real suspense and no couples you could really like. I soldiered on and finished it. It wasn't awful, but it wasn't that great, either.

Nancyann says

I am puzzled by all the four and five star reviews. The Island House was a really bad book even for a summer beach read. I was unfamiliar with Nancy Thayer's writing and picked up the book at the library because I liked the jacket art. Who doesn't enjoy a novel of Nantucket? It certainly works for Erin Hilderbrand and with Erin I shall stick. The Island House is the cutesy story of "summer children" and interactions over the years with the actual children of the local Vickereys. An elaborate birthday party is in the works for the matriarch of this extended family, all hands are on deck to help with the celebration, and all sorts of predictable lovers' misadventures ensue. Boring and insipid, the dialog between our two main characters Courtney and James appears to have been written by naïve eleven year old girls who think this is what lovers sound like. Seriously, it read like pre-teen angst. I was determined to finish the book (and I did) certain that it would get better. It did not.
