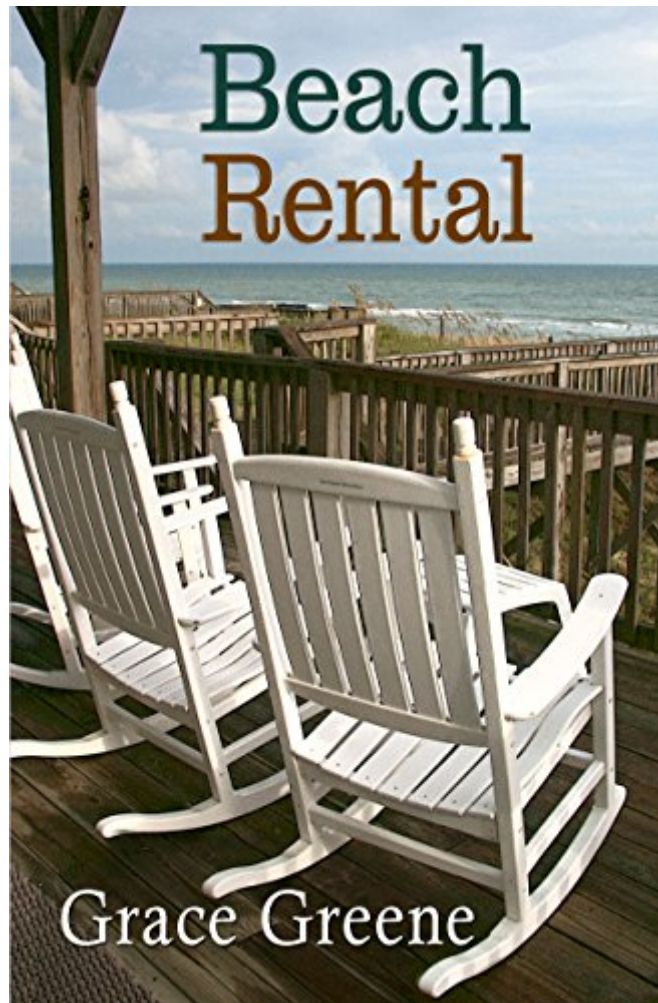




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Beach Rental: An Emerald Isle, NC Novel (#1)



Synopsis

On the Crystal Coast of North Carolina, in the small town of Emerald Isle, Juli Cooke, hard-working and getting nowhere fast, marries a dying man, Ben Bradshaw, for a financial settlement, not expecting he will set her on a journey of hope and love. The journey brings her to Luke Winters, a local art dealer, but Luke resents the woman who married his sick friend and warns her not to hurt Ben and he's watching to make sure she doesn't. Until Ben dies and the stakes change. Framed by the timelessness of the Atlantic Ocean and the brilliant blue of the beach sky, Juli struggles against her past, the opposition of Ben's and Luke's families, and even the living reminder of her marriage to build a future with hope and perhaps to find the love of her life if she can survive the danger from her past.

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Customer Reviews

Loved the different story line as so many books today seem to be copies of each other ! The author has done an excellent job of developing the sights and sounds of the "Outer Banks" backdrop. One could feel the salt air and ocean in all of it's glory from a beautiful house with an exquisite view. I wanted to live there ! The story was an interesting one and made you think about what you would do if this opportunity was bestowed on you. Making Ben so very "perfect" was probably necessary but as time was of the essence due to his impending demise but seriously I would have liked to see some imperfection exposed ... just to completely humanize his character. The twists and turns were not expected and were executed at the proper place and time. The saddest part to me was seeing the "perfect" guy lose and the "edgy" guy win. Then again it seems that was the most REAL part of the entire book. Don't they always seem to ??? Meanwhile , Juli does so little and is rewarded with so much ... money...a true love.... a baby ... many new friends who don't sit in doubt about her ...the only saving grace is that we are left believing that she well appreciated al the "gifts". This book was very enjoyable on many levels. I appreciate the gift bestowed on me by the author using her creative and complex mind to bless readers with such a thought provoking book. I further appreciate this was all accomplished without bombarding us with hot.. steamy... unnecessary sexual episodes !! Sex was not the primary focus what a novel approach! so look forward to reading the next book by Grace Greene.

Juli Cooke works hard at two dead-end jobs, yet she's getting nowhere. Then, a chance meeting with a dying man opens an opportunity to change that. Can she afford the risk? Juli spent her life shuttling from one foster home to another, so she has low expectations, but when she meets Ben Bradshaw at a fancy party where she works as a server for the caterer, things change. Ben is ill and asks her to drive him home, then offers to pay for a cab to take her to her apartment. The following day she's at her day job, checking at a grocery store, when Ben invites her to lunch and has a proposition: marry him, and he'll settle a sum of money to help her financially when he's gone. Ben, the co-owner of a couple of art galleries with his cousin Luke, has terminal pancreatic cancer. He wants companionship with someone who won't grieve for him while he's still alive and who won't be emotionally invested in him when he dies. He considers himself a good judge of character, and he likes what he sees in Juli. Wary, Juli considers the offer, and finally decides that Ben is a kind man and she can make both their lives better by accepting his generous offer. What she doesn't count on is the love that follows. She's not in love with Ben, but she grows to love the wonderful person that he is, even though Ben's family consider her a gold digger. Especially Luke Winters, his cousin, who warns her off hurting his best friend. When Ben dies, everything changes. Can Juli cope with

her new-found status, with the resentment of Luke and Ben's family, and with her past? I loved Beach Rental. Long after I finished this superbly written story, the characters remained in my mind. Ms. Greene's debut novel is stunning in both depth of content and characterization. Juli has some hard edges when the story opens, but her kindness and humanity soon have you rooting for her, and Ben is simply wonderful, a man of faith in the nicest way. Luke is edgy and exciting, and has to find his own transformation. Maia, Anna and the other secondary characters are three-dimensional and well defined. Then there's the Carolina coast, itself a character of comfort and drama. This is a sweet romance, but packed with emotion. Faith plays a major role in bringing the protagonists to their own thrilling fulfillment, yet it's done in a delightful, non-preachy way. Author Grace Greene has developed multiple layers in her wonderful story: a tender romance, emotion, great pacing and superb characterization. Kudos to Ms. Greene in her stunning debut. She is definitely an author to watch.

What a heartwarming story that will take you to the shorelines of North Carolina. Very written story with a great cast of characters that intertwine with each other so well. They will make you feel like you are in the small town of Emerald Isle. The story will make you laugh and cry. It is filled with twists and surprises. Wondering what will happen next. I loved every minute of the story!

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