

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

# The Blue Bistro

Written by Elin Hilderbrand

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Published by griefconvention

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# The Blue Bistro

By Elin Hilderbrand

## The Blue Bistro By Elin Hilderbrand

Elin Hilderbrand, author of the enchanting *Summer People* and *The Beach Club*, invites you to experience the perfect getaway with her sparkling new novel.

## The Blue Bistro Nantucket

Adrienne Dealey has spent the past six years working for hotels in exotic resort towns. This summer she has decided to make Nantucket home. Left flat broke by her ex-boyfriend, she is desperate to earn some fast money. When the desirable Thatcher Smith, owner of Nantucket's hottest restaurant, is the only one to offer her a job, she wonders if she can get by with no restaurant experience. Thatcher gives Adrienne a crash course in the business...and they share an instant attraction. But there is a mystery about their situation: what is it about Fiona, the Blue Bistro's chef, that captures Thatcher's attention again and again? And why does such a successful restaurant seem to be in its final season before closing its doors for good? Despite her uncertainty, Adrienne must decide whether to open her heart for the first time, or move on, as she always does.

## The Blue Bistro Review

Infused with intimate Nantucket detail and filled with the warmth of passion and the breeze of doubt, The Blue Bistro is perfect summer reading.

There's some sort of magic in the air at The Blue Bistro—the food, the ambiance, the people—take your pick, it's all intoxicating.

If you haven't found the time to read an Elin Hilderbrand yet (Ahem . . . what are you waiting for?!), be prepared to make a new entry on your bucket list—a trip to Nantucket or maybe even two. Making a choice between sun and sand or holiday cheer during Winter Stroll might seem easy (I'm a beach girl!), but then again, I'm not so sure. All I know is, after being tra There's some sort of magic in the air at The Blue Bistro—the food, the ambiance, the people—take your pick, it's all intoxicating.

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Through Adrienne Dealey, we get to experience Nantucket from a newbie's perspective. A twenty-something prone to flitting from one resort town to the next, usually when her most recent relationship goes south, Adrienne is determined to leave the hotel scene behind and make some real money working in a restaurant. Armed with three self-imposed rules, she heads from a ski town to the beaches of Nantucket. Lucky for her, she lands an assistance manager position at one of the high-end restaurants on the island, The Blue Bistro.

A world-renowned chef, who balks at interviews and is best described as a kitchen hermit, Fiona's food is remarkable. It's not foofoo or over the top fancy, it's rich and delicious—it's foodgasm worthy by all accounts. I'm warning you now, munching while reading is pretty much a given; the vivid descriptions of Fiona's yummy dishes are bound to get your stomach growling.

Fiona and Thatcher, her best friend and business partner, have created a familial feeling amongst the staff, which makes the inner working of the restaurant incredibly fun to watch. There's an instant connection between Thatcher and Adrienne, but things are complicated by his lifelong friendship with Fiona. There's something more going on there and Adrienne seems to be the only one that's not in on the secret. The author plays up the intrigue well, but it's obvious what's going down. That's not to say figuring things out took away from the story in any capacity—my heart was still torn in two.

A ton of emphasis is placed on the food and the day-to-day of the restaurant, which I enjoyed, but I would have appreciated the same level of emphasis on Thatcher and Adrienne's relationship. There

## The Blue Bistro

were aspects of their budding romance that were glossed over and sort of left to the reader to infer. The ending also felt a tad rushedâ€”not quite as satisfying as I imagined Fionaâ€™s savory doughnuts to be.

All in all, this was a great read and definitely one worthy of being dogeared during a day of beach reading. ...more

## The Blue Bistro Book Review

The Blue Bistro is about a woman in her late twenties named Adrienne who comes to a crisis point in her life after her boyfriend, a drug addicted, unemployed loser, steals her life savings and thousands more from her employer. She turns him in to the police and flees town, heading to Nantucket where she hopes to find the next in a long line of hotel resort jobs she has worked since graduating from college.

Adrienne has made a string of bad romantic choices, opting consistently for men who are emo The Blue Bistro is about a woman in her late twenties named Adrienne who comes to a crisis point in her life after her boyfriend, a drug addicted, unemployed loser, steals her life savings and thousands more from her employer. She turns him in to the police and flees town, heading to Nantucket where she hopes to find the next in a long line of hotel resort jobs she has worked since graduating from college.

Adrienne has made a string of bad romantic choices, opting consistently for men who are emotionally unavailable or flawed in major ways. When a kind college professor falls in love with her, she freaks and runs, breaking his heart. Her fear of commitment "to person or place" has its genesis in the death of her mother when she was a young girl. Her grieving father, a dentist, embarked on a nomadic existence, dragging her with him. This sets a pattern Adrienne continues in adulthood.

Flash forward and Adrienne lucks into a job as assistant manager at the wildly popular, magical Blue Bistro on Nantucket. Hilderbrand's description of the island eatery, the camaraderie of the staff, the food, the wealthy, famous customers, were richly detailed and drew me into a world that I could see, hear, smell, touch, and taste.

Adrienne is attracted to her boss, Blue Bistro co-owner Thatcher. The problem? Thatcher's complicated enmeshment with his partner, Fee, his first love and best friend since childhood. Fee suffers from cystic fibrosis. Her lifespan is likely to be short and she has emotionally manipulated him into investing in her dream restaurant. Despite having what should have been a sympathetic story, I didn't like her. She is brusque, selfish, and controlling. She is also seeing a married man. This is presented in such a way as to make her role sympathetic, but it didn't work. It is another manifestation of her selfishness.

Thatcher falls in love with Adrienne, but Fee's medical and emotional needs trump Adrienne's every time. I understand that he has a strong commitment to his longtime friend, but his treatment of Adrienne is dismissive and inexcusable. I never got a clear sense of him. For me, he never evolved into the hero of the piece. He doesn't choose Adrienne until after Fee dies. I felt he was weak and spineless, not man enough to take a stand, ever the slave to dominating Fee. A pantywaist. A milquetoast. A poltroon. (The thesaurus has some pretty great synonyms for wimp.) Not a man who would move Heaven and Earth to be with the woman he loves. Adrienne deserves better.

Although I enjoyed descriptions of food, after a point it became repetitive. I found myself skipping

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forward. The romance throughout was fleeting and fade-to-black. I don't need porny sex scenes, but I would have liked a stronger emotional connection and sense of intimacy between the main characters. In the end, the conflict was resolved too easily and at the speed of light. When Adrienne felt Thatcher's new wedding ring on her cheek as he kissed her, she should have had a strong reaction, but she didn't. If he went back to Nantucket looking for her, why the hell didn't he take the damn ring off? I was left thinking, "That's it? All's forgiven? They're going to breakfast? WTF?"

I am ambivalent about this book. I went back and forth between 3 and 4 stars. It could easily have been a 5 if Hilderbrand had put as much rich detail and development into the relationship between Thatcher and Adrienne as she did into describing the inner workings of The Blue Bistro. Also, it would have helped if Thatcher had grown a pair. ...more

Every so often I like to pretend I'm an open-minded person. So, one day, when I am innocently shelving this book in the course of my library duties, and for some reason it catches my eye, I check it out and think to myself, why not? I almost never read this kind of thing, so why not try something that goes against my grain? After all, I reason, as a writer, shouldn't I read as widely and voraciously as possible, including stuff I wouldn't normally?

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And hey, I like mental mashed potatoes, fluffy and overladen with butter, as much as the next guy. Who doesn't need the occasional (or frequent!) reprieve from, well, thinking? But man, oh man. This was insipid, even as insipid fare goes. The protagonist, Adrienne, is a nonentity who evidently looks good swathed in silk and sipping champagne. There is endless and deeply irritating talk about teeth (Adrienne's father is a dentist), and Adrienne's email correspondence and face-to-face interactions, and hell, her whole relationship with her father will have you wanting to toss your cookies. Of course she has the requisite dead mother. And of course someone else important is dying. Human Tragedy. Where would we be without it? Certainly not on a Nantucket beach, looking gorgeous in silks and sipping champagne.

That said, I saw this through to the bitter end, which is unusual for me, especially when a book makes me grind my teeth (sorry, Dr. Don) as much as this one did. There must be a reason for this. Maybe it's because I'm a sucker for food porn. Maybe because the character of Fiona was alright. Maybe it's because instant mashed potatoes don't come close to homemade (represented in this genre, I guess, by Maeve Binchy), but they're still mashed potatoes, so suck it up, pile on the butter, and clean your plate.

Okay, now, back to the Tolstoy.

...more

## The Blue Bistro Sequel

I have mixed feelings about this. 1. Thatcher was so selfish it drove me nuts. 2. The ending. I want to know what's next for Thatcher and Adrienne. 3. What about Dr. Don's wedding?? A good portion was spent on the wedding and Adrienne's acceptance of Mavis. How does Dr. Don feel about Thatcher now? As long as it took me to finish this book, I feel a little let down.

Another great beach read by this author. The Nantucket setting, a little romance and a slight mystery makes this a charming chick-lit book. I was not expecting to read the ins and outs of the restaurant business but I enjoyed it nonetheless. 3+ stars but not quite 4.

## The Blue Bistro Littleton Co

I really liked this book...until I got to the last few pages. It ended so abruptly and not in keeping with the rest of the book...it was like the author got sick of writing it and just wanted to end it as quickly as possible. It was a fairly lengthy book, so why not add a few more pages and have a more well-developed ending; I think it would have been worth it.

With Elin Hilderbrand books, you always pretty much know what you're going to get but, since this one was set in a restaurant, it was a little different and I liked that. I had a picture in my mind of what The Blue Bistro looked like, from the author's description. ...more

I have read quite a few books by this author and normally really love reading them. This book was quite different for me. The plot being focused on the restaurant and food became tiresome as the book progressed. Also, I did not find myself rooting for the main characters to be together. A guy who is controlling, deceitful, and doesn't drink but requires you to get drunk is not a good person for you to be around. Also, he takes her to dinner but doesn't eat - weird! At the end of the book I found myself rooting for her to have the courage to stay away from him! ...more

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## The Blue Bistro Restaurant

Quick Summary - The Blue Bistro follows a woman with a transient lifestyle as a hotel concierge who starts a job as a Nantucket restaurant assistant manager after being left penniless by her scumbag boyfriend. Over the course of the novel she learns the ways of the restaurant world, rubs shoulders with important and wealthy Nantucket residents, makes friends, and finds love.

The Blue Bistro is an okay beach read - I went in with exactly those expectations and, after the slow-ish start up, was fairly entertained for the majority of the book. The best parts were by far centered around Adrienne's (main character) shifts in the restaurant, which are well-written in Hilderbrand's fast paced style. I have to say that the underlying "mystery" is INCREDIBLY weak, bordering on pathetic. Within the first couple chapters readers have solved this "mystery" and it's really not that earth-shattering. The love story is expected, predictable, and (while fun to read) slightly boring. Overall, if not for the restaurant moments this book would have been a dud. There are so many beach reads out there that it's not necessary to clutter your bookshelf with this one! ...more

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This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

Definitely a fluffy beach read (unrealistic in many ways). Has anyone been to a restaurant where employees are told to drink during the job? Some more restaurant research might have been helpful (having worked in restaurants this really irked me). Some of the writing got a little annoying after a while (phrases like "love. love. love." And last but not least it seems the author spent too much time describing food that she plum forgot to give the book an ending. Oops!

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## The Blue Bistro Littleton

Title: "Blue Bistro" (a Nantucket Novel - stand alone)

Author: Elin Hilderbrand

Published: GoodReads shows dates in both 2005 & 2006; I need to follow up on the actual US date.

Genre: fiction, adult fiction, drama, romance, ? Chick-lit, ? Beach read.

Read: April 19-20, 2012

Format: ebook via Nook Color ereader by Barnes and Noble.

My GoodReads rating: 4.5 of 5 stars.

Brief remarks:

Yet another instance of me longing for half stars! lol... I give this novel a very solid 4.5, though it is "on the bubble"

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Yet another instance of me longing for half stars! lol... I give this novel a very solid 4.5, though it is "on the bubble" of five for me.

Mrs. Hilderbrand is an excellent writer with a unique story telling method. Although I typically prefer an intense murder/thriller/mystery or a soft, quick-to-read and always happily ending romance, I find myself drawn to her books.

I am not sure how the booksellers (or the author herself), classify this book; I think I am dubbing it as a "drama". I guess that is likely my own fictional category, but I really feel it is a good way to describe it.

"The Blue Bistro" is a story that covers family dynamics, island living, chronic illness, happiness and heartbreak. (I do not believe in "spoilers" therefore always limit what I share.)

I do recommend this book, as well as this author, to almost anyone despite one's typical preferences, like those I mentioned for myself. This story reads smoothly, the characters are well developed and there is enough "action" to hold one's interest easily.

The Blue Bistro

Off course, this is all subjective/in my opinion, but if you are reading my little blurb here I think you will enjoy the book. I usually only post when I find a book really good or really disappointing! :D

Enjoy fellow reading fans!

Happy Spring and cheers,

Lisa aka: NurseLisainOhio (GoodReads, Twitter & instagram username) ...more

Okay, I just didn't get the obsessive friendship between Fiona and Thatcher. It sure seemed one-sided--all on Thatcher's side. I felt for Fiona, who wouldn't but show a little something--ANYTHING that resembles warmth or friendship. Sure I get really strong, solid friendship--but why did this friendship have to be sooo dramatic to the exclusion of all else for Thatcher? That said, there were some really touching moments between Thatcher and Adrienne--not fully developed, but I felt them. I was t

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## The Blue Bistro Restaurant Nantucket

Took this on a flight recently - perfectly light and digestible - just what I needed to while away 17 hours in the air. Set in Nantucket, story centers around the Blue Bistro, her staff and her patrons. Just enough romance without being too gushy. I will look for more Elin Hilderbrand to read during the summer (as I think she is the perfect author to read while you are laying in the sun).

Elin Hilderbrand is such a wonderful writer. I seriously could not put this book down and read it in a day. I loved reading about Nantucket and the high-end restaurant business--the employees were like a real family. Adrienne, Thatcher and Finoa were great characters--I want to know more! This is recommended!