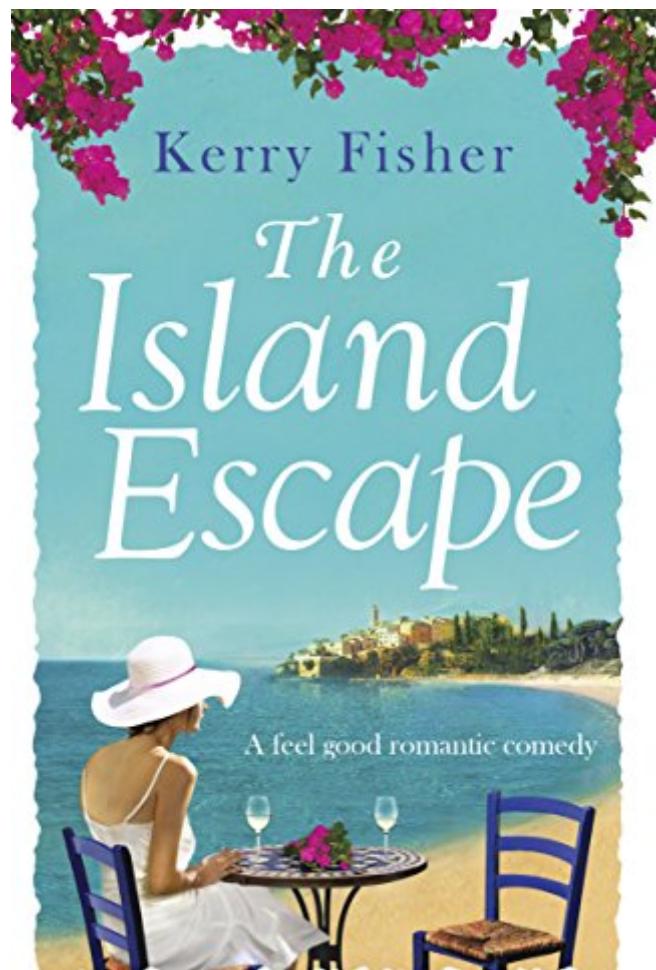


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# The Island Escape: A Feel Good Romantic Comedy



## Synopsis

Can one woman's marriage survive her best friend's divorce? Emily Giffin meets Jennifer Weiner in this summer's must-have read. What if there was somewhere you could disappear to? Octavia Shelton thought she'd have a different life. One where she travelled the world with an exotic husband and free-spirited children in tow. Instead, she's married to safe, reliable Jonathan, and her life now consists of school pick-ups and mountains of dirty laundry. She's not unhappy. It's just that she can barely recognise herself. So as Octavia watches her best friend's marriage break up, it gets her thinking. What if life could be different? What if she could escape and rediscover the person she used to be? Escape back to the island she visited years ago? And what if the man she used to love was there waiting for her?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Island Escape, written by Kerry Fisher, is an amazing and realistic story about life, marriage, and all that goes with it. This is the first book that I have read by this author, and I must admit, I absolutely loved it!! Octavia once had dreams of traveling the world and living a carefree life. Of course, life often has other plans for us, and dreams often take the backseat to reality. Octavia

accidentally becomes pregnant, and does the right thing by marrying Jonathan, the father of her child. They now have three children, and Octavia has a life many women can relate to...taking care of the house, the kids, and the husband. Somewhere along the way, Octavia feels as if she lost herself in the everyday life of being a wife and mother. To make matters even worse, Jonathan is home more now after a setback with his job, and this is driving Octavia crazy. She attends a class reunion with her best friend, Roberta, and things suddenly come to a head. She suddenly wonders what happened to her dreams? Why did she settle for her plain, boring life and is there more out there for her? She begins thinking back to her time in Corsica, and wonders about the wonderful man, Xavi, she met when she was there. Roberta is Octavia's best friend. She is married to Scott, and they have one child, Alicia. The beginning of the story tells exactly what type of marriage she has, and it definitely isn't a good one. Scott is not the ideal husband, to say the least, but Roberta can't imagine living without him. Again, life doesn't always go as planned, and their marriage falls apart. Newly single, she is trying to adjust to life on her own, with the support of Octavia. The story that unfolds is wonderfully written, and the author has a writing style that just draws you into the story.

The Island Escape had one of the best openings of any chic-lit type book I've ever read. Having absolutely adored Kerry Fisher's *After the Lie*, I knew immediately I was in for another winner, but I was still expecting a humorous, light-hearted chic-lit beach-type romance story. Don't get me wrong, there is lots of humor in Kerry Fisher's writing, but the plot was a lot deeper and more serious than I had anticipated. In fact, nearly halfway through the book, I was still wondering when the promised feel-good factor would appear. I found a lot of this story quite heartbreakingly honest and went back and forth between feeling sorry for some of the characters and getting angry with them. Definitely a very engaging and emotional read! Despite the title, two-thirds of the plot actually take place in Surrey, England. Told in alternating chapters from Octavia's and Roberta's points of view, we are privy to the disintegration of their marriages. Octavia and Roberta have been best friends since their school days though they could hardly be more different. Their friendship was lovely to follow, as they were always there for each other even if they didn't always agree. In Roberta's words, "Octavia was like family, just nicer". Roberta fell pregnant whilst at university and did the 'responsible' thing and married reliable, parsimonious Jonathan, the father of the baby. Sixteen years later, she is the busy mother of three kids, runs her own nursery school, has a predictable marriage, and is wondering what happened to the free-spirited girl who was going to travel the world. But she just gets on with her mundane life. Octavia rebelled against her parents and married the 'love of her life', but her

marriage didn't turn out as she had expected.

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