



Cure for the Common Breakup

Beth Kendrick

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Welcome to Black Dog Bay, a tiny seaside town in Delaware known as "the best place in America to bounce back from your breakup." Home to Better Off Bed-and-Breakfast, the Eat Your Heart Out bakery, and the Whinery bar, Black Dog Bay offers a haven for the suddenly single.

Flight attendant Summer Benson lives by two rules: Don't stay with the same man for too long and never stay in one place. She's about to break rule number one by considering accepting her boyfriend's proposal—then disaster strikes and her world is shattered in an instant.

Summer heads to Black Dog Bay, where the locals welcome her. Even Hattie Huntington, the town's oldest, richest, and meanest resident, likes her enough to give her a job. Then there's Dutch Jansen, the rugged, stoic mayor, who's the opposite of her type. She probably shouldn't be kissing him. She definitely shouldn't be falling in love.

After a lifetime of globe-trotting, Summer has finally found a home. But Hattie has old scores to settle and a hidden agenda for her newest employee. Summer finds herself faced with an impossible choice: Leave Black Dog Bay behind forever, or stay with the ones she loves and cost them everything...

Cure for the Common Breakup Details

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From Reader Review Cure for the Common Breakup for online ebook

Chloe says

Blonde fashionista, Summer, is a flight attendant and finds out her pilot boyfriend is going to propose in Paris and she freaks out. She is a jet-setter and she's not sure if she wants to settle down and get married. She kind of warms up to the idea, but on that flight to Paris their plane crashes and everything changes. She is injured, but the pilot is not. He comes to visit her in the hospital and he chooses that time to say that he wants to break up. He realized he "loves her but just not enough" or some other ridiculous quote like that. He admits that he had a ring but then changed his mind. What a jerk! Who goes to the hospital and breaks up with someone while they're there!?

A passenger leaves a magazine on board and in it is an advertisement for Black Dog Bay, Delaware- the place where people go to get over a break up. The whole town is centered around it and the hotel is like a recently dumped rehab. The owner takes your phone and puts it in a lock box so you can't text and make yourself look dumb. The clothing store is arranged into different stages of the grieving and moving on process. The jewelry store is there for selling back your rings! So funny.

Summer is a take-no-crap kind of person and is really thrown off when she's depressed and blue about the break up. She spends some time in the local bar and makes some friends- not least of which is Hattie Huntington- a mean, privileged old lady who thinks she rules the roost and is better than everyone. Everyone bows down to her and is scared- everyone except Summer. Summer doesn't bow down to her and so Hattie forms an odd kind of affection for her and offers her a job as her personal assistant.

When she first arrives to Black Dog Bay, she takes out someones rose bushes. Come to find out, its the young handsome mayor's- Dutch Janson. Their paths continue to cross, and despite not being her type at all, they fall for each other. She also forms a sweet friendship with his little sister, whom he's raising since his parents died.

In the end, Hattie wants Summer to go to Paris with her indefinitely and Summer has to choose- a 5 star, fully paid for trip to Paris OR staying in Black Dog Bay with Dutch and the gang. Hattie threatens that if she doesn't go then she's going to have resorts and condos built on the island and basically . make it a corporate sell out. At first, Summer goes, but only long enough to connect Hattie with her long lost sister and then she goes back to Black Dog Bay to be with Dutch.

I actually really liked Summer's character and I think this is one of my favorites of the series. Of course I think its silly that Summer, just one of the heartbroken that come to town, would have the whole weight of the island put on her shoulders. It's also silly that Miss Jet Setter would settle down and get married. It's also unlikely that Dutch, the man who doesn't date, would fall for her so quickly. **HOWEVER**, you have to suspend your belief a little with books like these-- the whole premise is a little silly and far fetched. For what it was, I thought it was a lot of fun. I'd definitely recommend it.

Cheryl says

Light chick lit about a jilted flight attendant who goes to Black Dog Bay to recover from a breakup. Although she puts on a party-girl veneer, her flirty "love 'em and leave 'em" attitude really hides a "dump him before he dumps me" fear. She dives into a rebound relationship with the town's mayor and becomes friends with the teen sister he's raising. As things get serious, she has to decide on playing it safe or giving in to real love.

I read the second book in this series first, and I liked that one better than this book. Less humor in this one, and I couldn't sympathize with the main character. An ok read, but nothing special.

Stephanie says

Um, can you say love? Because I loved this one.

Summer Benson, flight attendant extraordinaire, is your typical party girl who loves a good time and hates any kind of commitment, be it to a man or to a place. After a tragic accident though, Summer finds herself in a terrible place, feeling heartbroken and lost. Not knowing what else to do, she remembers seeing an ad for Black Dog Bay, a small tourist town in Delaware that caters to the heartbroken with places such as the Eat Your Heart Out Bakery and the Better Off Bed-and-Breakfast, and heads there right away. Almost immediately, Summer is accepted with open arms by the residents of the town, including Hattie Huntington, the most hated, evil old woman the town has ever seen. For the first time ever, Summer feels at home and doesn't feel like running. She's also possibly, maybe found love with a man she probably shouldn't be falling for but she's falling anyway, and life is looking up. Then Hattie, who is seeking revenge for a long ago wrongdoing, drops a bomb on Summer that may force her to lose everything she has only just started to find...

So. I really enjoyed this book and FLEW through it in a matter of days, which doesn't happen all that often as I'm a fairly slow reader. I loved everything about it from the small town setting, to the vibrant cast of characters, to Summer's witty one liners and hilarious attitude.

Black Dog Bay seems like an amazing place and I kind of wish it were real and that I lived there amongst the awesome locals (well, mostly awesome. Hattie was NOT so awesome). I love, love, love small towns and have always wished I lived in one because of the sense of community and kinship, and this fictional small town was no exception. It was full of sweet, little local businesses run by equally sweet people who welcomed Summer like an old friend. Despite her former wild, partying ways and globetrotting lifestyle, Summer quickly falls in love with the town and its people, most notably with Dutch, the stern but uber hot mayor who needs a little more fun in his life. Once Summer manages to get under his skin, both of their lives start to improve for the better.

I loved the characters in this story. All of the heartbreak themed businesses were run by local women who seemed both like great friends AND a lot of fun. I would have loved to pull up a bar stool and join them in their frequent gossip sessions at the Whinery Bar. Summer was a fantastic character who really cracked me up and always had just the right thing to say in response to any of Hattie's nasty quips. Hattie, on the other hand, was dreadful. She was very spiteful about something that had happened many years ago, and had since been torturing basically the whole town with her nasty demeanor and constant complaints. She and Summer tend to clash on most occasions, but when Hattie gives Summer an ultimatum that can destroy everything for both her and the entire town, she is torn about what to do.

I could go on but I'll close this by saying if you like chick lit, women's fiction, sweet stories, or funny stories, I'd highly recommend you check this one out. I'm already itching to read my next Beth Kendrick story!

Note: I received a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Angela Pineda says

This was pretty much a dud for me. I'm don't think I'm picky when it comes to chick lit but there was just *nothing* about this book. I loved Kendrick's "The Week Before the Wedding", liked "My Favorite Mistake" and was pretty meh on "Exes and Ohs" — this might be my least favorite. Nothing in the story was captivating, the characters weren't fully developed; there's nothing I hate more than "oh that guy/girl doesn't date anyone" on page 10 only to be obsessed/in love/flatly into someone on page 25. I get it's fiction, but none of it was believable or even fun. Maybe I got lucky with her first book and Kendrick's books just aren't for me.

Overall I'd skip this snooze. A lot better books out there in this genre.

Vicki says

The only thing I did today besides read is eat--with one hand holding my e-reader. I tried to slow down and make the book last but I couldn't. I want to go to Delaware and meet these people. Maybe Summer could befriend and mentor me; that's how real the characters feel. I have to go to the store now and buy chocolate to help me with this book hangover, because real life doesn't measure up to the funny world Beth Kendrick created with her snarky protagonist.

Melody says

Flight attendant Summer Benson has spent her entire career traveling to exotic places and enjoying relationships with men, all while guarding her heart and avoiding commitment. As she debates whether it is finally time to settle down, unexpected events land her in the hospital, and an anticipated marriage proposal ends up as a break-up instead. Summer finds her tidy world turned upside down and heads to a quiet little shoreline town to sort thing out...

Black Dog Bay, a small seaside village known as "the best place in America to bounce back from your break-up" is where she ends up. While there, she befriends the locals and quickly establishes herself as a member of the community. After running over his prized roses, Summer attempts to win the heart of the town's mayor, Dutch, and delves into the mystery of Hattie, the mean old woman who lives in the purple mansion and appears to hate the little town and everyone in it. But Hattie has revenge on her mind...can Summer discover why and bring peace to the little town she's grown to love?

What a fantastic summer beach read for this summer! The characters and their dialogue had me laughing out loud, and Summer's precociousness is second to none. Whether it's stopping in for a drink at the Whinery, a goody at the Eat Your Heart Out bakery, shopping at Retail Therapy or participation in the burning of wedding dresses on a driftwood campfire, you'll want to step right into the pages of this novel and join the girls at the bar!

Caroline says

Full Review on The Blog

www.carolineandrus.com/blog

You guys, I don't even LIKE chic lit and I can't rave about this book enough! This is more of a 4.5 but at the top of my recommendations right now for light, fluffy, laugh out loud reading material.

I knocked down half a star because I wasn't in love with how the story began, it seemed too over the top. Then Summer arrived in Black Dog Bay. And ran over the mayors rose bushes. And blamed it on turtles and Taylor Swift. From this point on I was 100% sold on this charming rom com.

If you're in the mood for a light, comedic, romantic page turner, THIS is the book to read!

Kourtney says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

I cannot recommend this book enough! To everyone who enjoys chick lit! To everyone who enjoys beach reads! To everyone who enjoys a great story! And to anyone who has ever tried to run away from a problem before rather than face it head on - this book is for you!

I found it difficult to put this book down once I started it. I too am a 32 year old unmarried female, who has had her share of "walking it off" moments. I found myself wishing I could escape to Black Dog Bay (please tell me it's real!) and drinking with the ladies of The Whinery!

Obsidian says

Please note that I gave this book 4.5 stars which I rounded up to 5 on Goodreads since Goodreads does not allow for half stars on its site.

We follow flight attendant Summer Benson after she survives a plane crash and her boyfriend (who she thought was going to propose) dumping her once she's in the hospital. She hightails it to Black Dog Bay in Delaware to lick her wounds after remembering the brochure being on the plane and mentioning that it was a place for those single and heart broken to recover. Once Summer arrives in Black Dog Bay she meets the year long residents, the summer residents, and the mayor and his sister who she finds herself attracted to and wanting to take care of in that order.

I found Summer to be hilarious from beginning to end. When she first arrives in Black Dog Bay she is beaten down, and as a reader I was surprised that she was honestly. She didn't seem keen on marrying her hot nice

guy pilot boyfriend. And for her to take things as she did felt weird. We figure out why, but it was a long meandering road to get there, and once we did it made sense, but I wish that we had, had some sort of resolution to Summer and her parents in some way. That whole thing hung over the book and honestly was one of the reasons why I didn't give this five stars.

The book was funny and sad in parts, but mostly funny. Reading about Summer and the other women in Black Dog Bay trying to get over their exes sounded like my friends and I in our 20s when we would burn our exes pictures. I have no idea why women do this, we just do. I thought adding in the little wrinkle with Summer trying to deal with Black Dog Bay's orneriest resident also made things interesting. But, another reason why I didn't give this book five stars, was the choice that Summer was forced to make. I felt like for a second this book had switched over to a regency romance since those are the only books that have set-ups like this. It really didn't work for me at all in a contemporary romance.

I have been to Delaware many many times, and I did laugh a bit that Black Dog Bay Delaware was super popular with summer residents and had people living there who had million dollar homes. If this was a place a little closer to D.C. maybe I could buy it, but other than that the fictional little town sounded cute and I wish that it existed. The book store, the Whinery, the hair salon and other places sounded like every single women who has been dumped fantasy.

The chemistry between Summer and the mayor, Dutch Jansen was believable and actually made sense. With Dutch and Summer both thinking that she is only there for a set point in time, it made a lot of sense that they would get together thinking that there would be no strings attached.

I thought the ending was very cute and I promptly went and bough the second book in the series after I finished this.

Stacy says

Another hit out of the ballpark for Beth Kendrick. Her books just keep getting better and better. I'm at the point where one per year doesn't suffice. :)

Black Dog Bay sounds like such an awesome place, if there isn't a town in America that's like this, there should be. I want to go there and I'm not even going through a breakup. And Beth did an excellent job of making you hate some of the characters in the beginning, but by the end of the book, showed you a different side to them that made you end up liking them.

Beth asked people on her Facebook page the other day, if she were to write a sequel starring another character from Black Dog Bay, who would we like to see in the starring role? I had about three different ideas and am hoping that she DOES write a sequel. There's so much she could do with it.

Can't wait for her next book, whether it's another Black Dog Bay book, or something else.

Pamela says

At first I liked Summer, the heroine of this so-called whimsical story. I found her to be witty, funny, and a hoot. But all of that soon wore off. A beautiful, stunning girl who's loved by all, a woman who I thought was a total flake and annoying. Instead of reading about a woman in her early thirty's, it read like that of a teenager. I didn't understand how her relationship with Dutch evolved into something so serious. For a guy who hasn't dated or been in a relationship for ten years, all of a sudden he's interested in Summer, and is proposing marriage to her within weeks of knowing her. What I didn't understand is how one woman, who came to visit a place just to relax and recuperate from a break-up, is suddenly responsible for saving the island from Hattie, a filthy-rich bitter old woman. It doesn't make any sense. Hattie threatens the residents of the island that she'll allow resorts and condos to be built on the island unless Summer accompanies her on her travels throughout Europe, all because she wants to keep her away from Dutch. WTF?? That's stupid. Why not just get rid of Summer instead of paying her to be her personal assistant? Better yet, if Summer so desperately wants to save the island, why doesn't she just leave? Instead, she's being blackmailed for something that has absolutely nothing to do with her. Maybe it's just me, but holding her accountable for the entire island is just asinine. Not only that, the ending of this novel has to be one of the worst I've come across. It's been weeks and weeks since she left Dutch. She hooks up Hattie with her estranged sister and once they became close again, Summer flies right back to Dutch. For a guy who was turned down, the second he saw her he grabs her and takes her to bed. No conversation, or explanation, no sorry, nothing. They're going to live together, the island is saved, and all is good in the world. Give me a break! The ending was seriously a waste of my time. It's that pathetic. Don't even get me started on the people on the island as they're just as pathetic. They've got Summer and Dutch already getting married after a night out. I think this will be the last book of Kendrick's I'll be reading.

Elyse says

"You Could practically hear waves of estrogen sloshing around" That 'quote' (in the book itself) --pretty much sums up my experience.

Or this line: ""Mmmm. You smell all woodsy and delectable". She shivered at the feel of the calluses against his smooth skin". I 'shivered' too, but at such a 'hog-wash' story!

My biggest question I had of this book was....

"What happened to all the people on the plane after the plane crash? Not 'one' word was mentioned about the passengers after an emergency landing -'plane crash'. The pilots girlfriend, (stewardess), was in the hospital (of course) --long enough for the Pilot to break off with her ---(he didn't love her "enough").

But....prior to the breakup when the girlfriend (from the hospital bed) and her pilot were talking ---he told her he was on TV as he had to speak about the crash. Her words were...."I bet you looked handsome"....NOT??? "How were the passengers"?

Instead ---The story takes place in a small town in Delaware ---where people go after they have been 'dumped. "A Healing-Town-for-breakups".

"IF this is what they summer reading --I'll pass!

NOTE: The cover of the book has delicious-looking ice-cream cones --- but in the story --the 'healing food' of choice was M&M's.

P.S. I'm soooooooooo sorry if I've disappointed the 'gals' who enjoy these books: I don't want to take away anything for the people who enjoy these types of books. As for myself: I guess I just can't go here too often! (but I do adore and respect my GR's friend who read it first)!!

We've enjoyed many other books 'of-the-same' ---(and I'm sure we will again)

Lauren R. says

4.5 stars I think. I loved this. Beth Kendrick became a quick favorite when I read Second Time Around and I decided to explore the Black Dog Bay series via audiobook. Summer was such a sassy character who knew exactly what she wanted. I loved being inside her head. I shipped the romance HARD and the friendships she developed even harder. The town of Black Dog Bay is amazing and I can't wait to see who else I'll meet in the upcoming companion stories. (The setting is known for being a haven for the newly heartbroken, with places called the Whinery bar, Better Off Bed & Breakfast, and Eat Your Heart Out Bakery. Sooo fun!)

K. says

Trigger warnings: plane crash, minor car accident, blackmail.

3.5 stars.

After reading a string of slightly mediocre books, I was hoping that this would be the one to break the string of 3-3.5 star books. But LOL NOPE. It just continued things. Sigh.

Still. It was an enjoyable enough read about a flight attendant whose pilot boyfriend goes from about-to-propose to we're-done in the length of time it takes for their plane to crash. So she takes herself off to Black Dog Bay, Delaware, which she read about in the onboard magazine as being just the place to recover from a break up.

The town itself was delightful. Founded by a woman recovering from a broken heart, the town has set itself up to be a hub for heartbroken women. There's a B&B where the owner confiscates your phone so you can't make drunken 3am phone calls to your ex. There's a bar that plays nothing but break up songs. There's a clothing shop where everything is sorted according to which stage of grief you're going through. And the characters that went along with these places were equally delightful.

But I had two issues with this:

1. All the romance is fade-to-black stuff. Which, like, fine. But if you're going to do that? It takes a LOT of work to make the chemistry between the characters and the way their feelings are developing obvious. And this didn't quite go as far as it needed to in order to make Summer and Dutch a believable couple.
2. The antagonist is a grumpy old lady who owns half the town and who inexplicably ends up hiring Summer to be her companion, only to blackmail her into ending her relationship with Dutch because Dutch's grandfather wooed her and then left her for her sister like 50 years earlier??? And, like, I understand old ladies who hold grudges. My grandmother went to her grave pissed off at her dead sister-in-law for not

inviting her to the movies one time in 1943. But to threaten an entire town because the mayor's grandfather threw you over years earlier and to blackmail your employees into ending their relationships because their boyfriend's grandfather was a jerk to you? WTF.

So yeah. I wanted to love this. And there were definitely aspects of it that I loved. But overall? It fell a little short.

Suzanne says

I read "Cure for the Common Breakup" as part of Booksparks PR's "Summer 2014 Reading Challenge" and I loved it! Kendrick weaves a wonderful story!

Summer Benson is a flight attendant who travels the world, never setting down roots and fleeing any type of serious relationships. When a near-tragedy grounds her, she ends up in Black Dog Bay, Delaware - dubbed the world's best place to recover from a breakup, only to find that she doesn't need much time to recover. From day one, she makes her mark on the town, "handling" its most difficult residents and becoming a local hero. Summer is only planning to stay a few weeks, but ends up falling in love with the town and its residents. But will it be enough to ground her permanently? Read the book and find out!
