

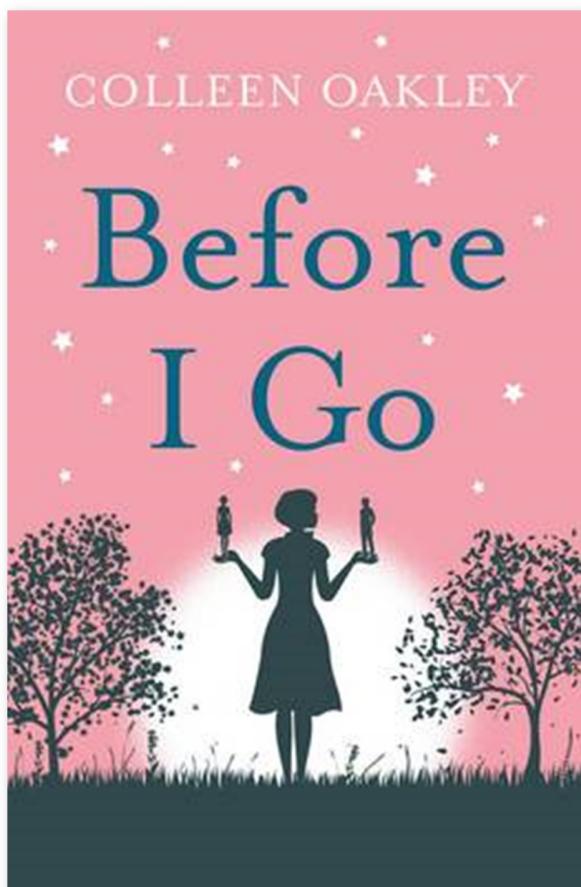
Lovereading Reader reviews of Before I Go by Colleen Oakley

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Barbara Goldie

***A sensitively written novel
about a difficult subject, a
great read!***

The front cover of the book is very enticing and although the subject matter in the novel is not one I would normally choose to read I am pleased that I did. It is a well written book, very thought provoking and well crafted. It is an easy read and sensitively written. The main characters are well drawn and quickly become a group of friends that you need to know more about, need to be with them on their journey, and the book quickly becomes hard to put down and can be easily read in two or three sessions. I really liked Daisy, felt her pain, got annoyed at her, wanted to tell her not to do this or to do that, just like her best friend Kayleigh. Jack and her mum were also strong characters, loving her so much during difficult times. It is a very emotional story with the news that her cancer is back on what should have been a 'cancerversary' celebration; Daisy starts her search for his new wife. The dialogue is easy and believable and a great sense of time and place are set so that as a reader I felt included in their journey. The ending is very satisfying, there is also a bit of humour along the way, and I truly recommend this book as a great read.



Sue Burton

Moving and thought provoking book but also funny in a bizarre way.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it certainly made me look at peoples thoughts when they are told devastating news in a different way and could totally understand the thought process that they were going through. I loved the two characters Daisy and Jack who throughout all the emotion and pain still maintained a sense of humour. I would thoroughly recommend this book to anyone.

Humaira Kauser

The little sticker on the front of the book said "as good as JoJo Moyes or your money back". Let me tell you something. This book isn't as good as JoJo Moyes. It's better.

Where do I begin with this book? I've just finished this book and I'm baffled at how brilliantly and beautifully Colleen Oakley has written this book that not has only made me experience emotional trauma but a trauma I would go through again and again, reading this book because it makes me feel something.

I love it so much. I love how I read it so quickly and didn't realise how the time has passed by. I love how I got lost in to Daisy's world, experiencing everything she went through as if I was by her side the whole time. I think what I love with this book so much (and other books) is that once you get into the book, you forget where you are and what you are doing. It's like you're not reading words off paper, it's like you've escaped from the real world for a little bit. And then you come back to reality.

Colleen has quickly become one of my favourite authors and I desperately need her to write more books. There's very few people who can write so elegantly; that the words just flow off the page like silk. Colleen Oakley is one of them. I feel that I'm not doing any justice to this book but I hope everyone picks up this book and escapes for a few hours.

Caroline Mathews

A chick-lit style novel about Daisy's emotional journey through terminal breast cancer. Not too gritty, and easy to read.

The cover proclaims this book to be 'as good as JoJo Moyes or your money

back'. I didn't pay for it, so I won't be asking for my money back, but for me, it certainly wasn't as touching a read as 'Me Before You'.

The book focuses on Daisy's emotional journey through her terminal cancer rather than on any of the gory medical details, and perhaps because of this, seems to be a lighter read that the subject matter would have you believe.

I really enjoyed the first half of the book, but I did find it tailed off after the halfway point and I was a bit bored by the time I got near to the end. The final chapter was nicely written.

I didn't feel much connection with either of the main characters and perhaps because of this I didn't find the book particularly emotional, but I did find it quite thought-provoking as far as how a terminal diagnosis might affect different people.

Cat Hogwood

*When time is limited how can you prioritise your last days so your loved ones are looked after when you are no longer there? A **heart-breaking story of love and loss**.*

This story is based around Daisy. Having survived cancer once it seems that days for her and Jack are endless. However, when tragic news is given to Daisy, she worries more about Jack being alone when she has gone.

This sad story is also heart-warming. It explores true love and the lengths you will go to protect and care for your loved ones even if it means you are not fully happy yourself.

This book was so well written it made for an easy read, although at times you obviously felt the emotions that Daisy was experiencing which was upsetting. It gives hope in the sense that you and your loved ones can cope and that with family and friends around you are never truly alone.

However, I didn't totally buy into the story and found some parts fairly unbelievable but this is just my view. A few things also didn't tie up very well but I won't elaborate as would hate to ruin the story for those that will read and enjoy it.

Overall I did enjoy reading this book and it was very well written.

Hannah Ward

*It is always hard to read a book that has someone in it that has cancer, it is hard when you know someone that has been through it whether they are still here or not. To be honest speaking from personal experiences as I lost someone who was battling cancer. I wasn't too sure if I would like this book or not I did find some of it hard to read and I did have a little cry, remembering certain things. I like the way this story was written as I haven't before read a story about the actual person's way of coping with the disease. **This is a story that really makes you appreciate life and really makes you think. I think this book will stay with me for life.***

Tracey Copeland

I read this book in one night, although not a very nice subject, on which effects most people in one way or another. Daisy finds out her cancer has returned and the news is not good. Her husband Jack is a vet and busy man, he seems to be concerned but not always there for her, maybe he doesn't wish to admit just how bad things are. We live through Daisy's ongoing treatment, and the way this dreadful, unforgiving disease changes people's lives. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to read this book.

Janet Gilliard

As good as JoJo Moyes or your money back well I would ask for my money back. Having said that I really enjoyed this book. Daisy is dying and decides to find a replacement wife for her husband. This is not just chick lit. It has a lot to say about the stages of acceptance of being given just a short time to live. Daisy and Jack are well rounded characters. Maybe we could have had a little more from Jacks perspective as he comes to terms with Daisy's diagnosis. Highly recommended.

Kath Martin

I picked up this book with trepidation. Claiming to be as good as Jojo Moyes and tackling the really difficult subject of terminal illness - it didn't sound like a fun read. Daisy, the main character, is instantly likeable and her poignant story is never mawkish or self-indulgent. Sometimes it's funny, but not in a 'belly-laugh sort of way, just a light touch of humour which makes it all the more 'real'. The lives of the main characters are separate but entwined in a way

*that I found absorbing. The attention to detail at times can be quite fascinating, and the contrasts of beauty, loyalty, fanaticism, cruelty and love at times left me breathless. In fact, I actually found myself actually holding my breath at one point". I would like to read more from this author perhaps on a different subject. **It made me smile. It made me cry. It is a book which will stay with me for a long time.** Yes, it is as good as JoJo.*

Kate Thacker

*What a fantastic read. I know you should never judge a book by its cover but from the first moment of viewing this one I willed the book to be good after I fell in love with the cover! **It's a very heartfelt book, the subject is close to many people**, the illness effects many so the authors ability to add lighter emotion here was pretty. Wonderful. You are willing the main character to be ok and get great affection for the task she's taken on. The questions it brings up about illness, time left and what happens without us to our loved ones is extremely upsetting but again this is sensitively done.*

Can't wait for more from this author.

Judith Waring

When I first read the synopsis of this book I really wanted to read it and what a thought-provoking book it turned out to be. Colleen Oakley gets the Big C storyline across with ease.

It took a while before I felt I had a definite grasp of the characters' personalities or had developed an emotional connection to Daisy and Jack but thankfully as Daisy's situation deepened and the book picked up momentum I was pulled into the storyline and didn't want to put it down and by the time I had got to the final chapter I had tears prickling the backs of my eyelids.

We've all known someone who's had cancer or been touched by it one way or another and reading this book is a wake-up call not to sit there wasting your life and just 'existing' when thousands are battling such a horrible disease every day. We will all die of course, someday, but as Daisy says at one stage in the novel "Today is not that day".

I really enjoyed reading such a well written and touching book that tackles such a serious issue in such a lovely way.

Edel Waugh - www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com

This is the story about a woman called Daisy who is dying of cancer, and she does not have that much time to set all her plans in order before she dies.

*Daisy does not want her husband to be alone after she is gone so between her endless list making and home repairs she tries to find him a mate for after she's gone. **Don't even attempt to read this book without a packet of tissues , the story is tender and touching with some laugh out moments mostly caused by her friend Kayleigh, put this on your must read list!***

Wendy Stubbs

Where do I start? What a great read, very plausible and well written. Cancer, what a sensitive subject. Daisy with a death sentence for herself and her marriage, whose happiness will she put first?

Daisy who has been in remission from cancer for 3 years is thrown into turmoil when she is told the cancer has, not only returned, but is incurable.

She fears more for her husband Jack's ability to cope alone, than for her own declining health.

Time is short and there are many pressing issues, none more important than ensuring her husband is not left alone.

The book deals with love, hate, trust, sympathy and much more but is such a heart wrenching story. You feel like you are living the plot yourself.

A must read, accompanied by a box of tissues.

Sarah Harper

A totally absorbing and very moving story which is funny, sad, touching and thought provoking. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

A totally absorbing and very moving story. 'Before I Go' follows the final months of Daisy, a young woman who has just received a diagnosis of terminal cancer. Daisy had battled cancer successfully in the past but now it's back, she knows she's not going to survive and all she can hope for is enough time to put her life in order. She has one wish, to find a suitable wife for Jack, her loveable, disorganised husband. She needs a woman to step into her shoes to love and

support him after she's gone but Daisy's secret search becomes all consuming while her behaviour pushes Jack further away. Will Daisy have time to find what she's looking for? Should she be spending her final, precious days in this selfless act or, in doing so, is she actually depriving Jack of what he needs most – to be with his wife while he still can?

An exceptionally well written debut novel. It's obviously a very sad subject but the fact that Daisy continues to feel relatively well throughout the book helps it to avoid becoming overly depressing, we are, after all, reading for pleasure here. Not unlike Jojo Moyes' 'Me Before You', this is also funny, sad, touching and thought provoking. Highly recommended to fans of Jojo Moyes and anyone who enjoys a book with 'heart'. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Margaret Madden - www.bleachhouselibrary.blogspot.ie/ Twitter: @margaretbmadden

A poignant and emotional story of letting go of your love, your dreams and your life. Ideal for lovers of Weepy movies, comfy slippers and chats with BFFs...

Daisy has been cancer free for almost three years and is wondering if her husband, Jack will remember to book somewhere nice for her 'Cancerversary'? He's not great with the everyday chores and she finds herself almost 'mothering' him on a daily basis. She doesn't like picking up his socks, sorting out his drawers or reminding him to eat. But she loves him to bits. Complete opposites, they nevertheless work well together. He's the scatty scientist type, while she leans towards OCD with her need to organise everything and make never-ending lists of things to be done.

When the cancer returns, the couple struggle to cope with the diagnosis and can't seem to find a mutual way to enjoy the time they have left together. Jack is heartbroken but he doesn't know how to verbalise it. Daisy is in quasi-denial and refuses to let herself relax on old habits. She worries that Jack will not cope when she dies and she hatches a plan to find him a new wife. What starts off as a plan for her husband's future, turns into a gut wrenching experience for Daisy. How can you find your own replacement when you don't want to leave?

A poignant story of hope, fear and love. Three interchangeable emotions that can divert direction at any time. An emotional read with slivers of humour, ideal for fans of Diane Chamberlain, JoJo Moyes and weepy movie lovers.

