

LoveReading Reader reviews of A Seaside Affair by Fern Britton

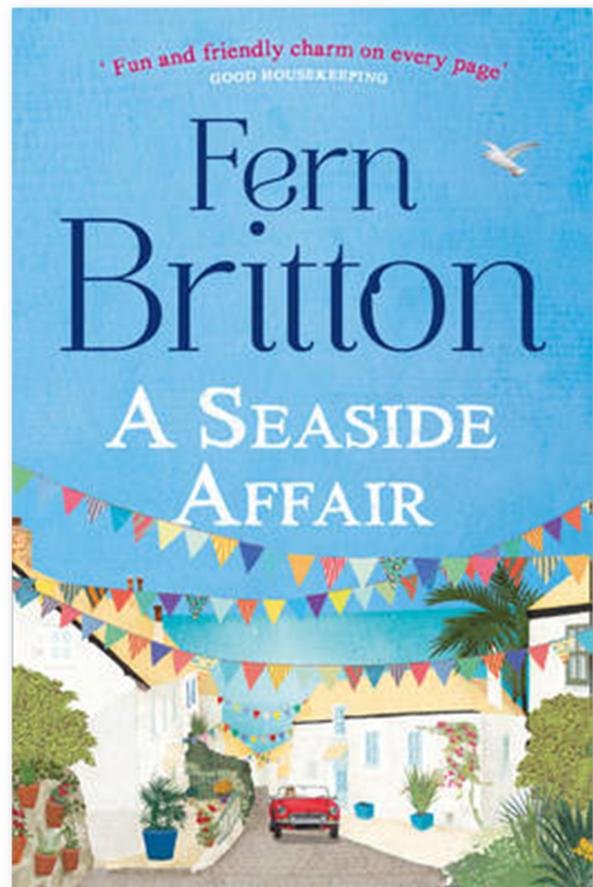
Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Lisa Hall

A fabulous story, set in a Cornish seaside town, with some brilliant characters. I loved it!

I LOVED this book. A gorgeous, warm-hearted tale of a Cornish seaside town battling to save their theatre before it is taken over by a corporate giant, it is a proper feel-good story. Fern creates a real sense of community within the town, and the glitzy addition of celebs coming to do their bit to help save The Pavilions is reminiscent of a good Jilly Cooper (Rupert Campbell-Black) novel (but without the sauce!). I adored the characters - from the good, kind hearted folk like Helen and Jess, right through to the ones who were not so desirable. A fabulous summer read, perfect for the beach!

<http://reading-room-with-a-view.blogspot.co.uk>



Angie Rhodes

In the lovely little Cornish town of Trevay there is trouble a foot! The quaint theatre is under threat of being turned into a cafe and the residents are up in arms.

Enter Penny Leighton, a hot top producer and her husband Vicar Simon, who decide to fight along with anyone who want the theatre to re-open.

Caught up in the fight and pulled along with the residents are up and coming actress Brooke Lynne, Red a big star and Ryan, an English actor who thinks more of himself than his girlfriends!

This fun and delightful novel, will have you longing for sea, sand and Cream Teas.

Shaun O'Keefe

If you are looking for a book with characters, a setting, and a story that you will just fall in love with, then look no further, you've found it with 'A Seaside Affair'.

A coffee chain is moving to the Cornish town of Trevay, their plan to take over the residents' much-loved theatre not going down well in the town. Penny Leighton, hotshot producer is tasked with coming up with a rescue plan. With help from a host of famous faces, not all of them fictional, actors soon start arriving in the town, keen to show their support and save the theatre.

You know when the setting of a book is everything? That. I finished this book and wanted to pack up my things and set up home in Trevay. Fern captures the setting beautifully and brilliantly, completely bringing it to life and allowing it to become a character in itself, along with the myriad of other characters that make up the story. I love reading stories where the author includes their own passions, and draws on their own knowledge when writing. Fern's love for Cornwall shines through, as does her experience and knowledge of theatre life.

The actual idea behind A Seaside Affair isn't entirely unique, the saving of a much-loved icon being done often in the past, but the way in which it is written, and the sheer number of characters that make up the story allow Fern to make it that little bit different from books similar to it in this genre and I loved the inclusion of celebrities, as said earlier, not all of them fictional! To list the characters that make up A Seaside Affair would fill a review in itself, yet it really is such a varied mix and I felt all the emotions whilst reading this book. A slow start builds up to a brilliant second half that will have every reader cheering the characters and story on.

www.bookaddictshaun.co.uk

Carol Peace

A great down to earth and fun book.

I have not previously read any of Fern Britton's books and started it with an open mind and was pleasantly surprised. The old Pavilion in Trevany is falling down but when the council decide it should be sold off and made into a coffee shop the residents are furious, The rescue plan is taken up by the vicar's wife and her longstanding friend. With the help of some actors they hope to put in a show that will convince everyone the Pavilion is needed. I was drawn into the story and could almost imagine being part of the committee to save it. The story follows some of the actors who help out and their 'big star' partners but the real mainstay is a resident 'Colonel Stick who was there on the opening night of the pavilion although he is being a bit secretive about the past. I really enjoyed being 'part' of the story and found myself getting agitated when the people just couldn't see what was in front of their face. It was a joy to read and quite a plot what with 'royals and big name rock stars all getting in on the act although not always in a good way.

A definite good read and I just couldn't put it down, I read it in two sittings.

https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/898682384?book_show_action=false

Nickey Hawryszczuk

A really light hearted, easy read which I would recommend to readers who enjoy Jill Mansell novels. Set in a picturesque seaside town in Cornwall, the story really draws you into it.

The local residents of a seaside town in Cornwall all pull together to try to stop their local theatre from closing down and being taken over by a coffee shop chain. Before they know it, the town is overrun with actors hoping to do their bit for saving the theatre. This was a really heart-warming, light hearted, easy read which I couldn't put down. I read this over two days and now wish to visit Cornwall! This is the perfect book for a summer holiday read and I highly recommend it.

Isobel Finbow

Sassy, endearing, witty and jolly good fun. Fern knows how to draw you in and take you with her in her bag to Cornwall.

This is the third book I have read of Fern's. All equally enjoyable. (I have inadvertently missed 'The Holiday Home' so must catch up on that one now too!) She spins a jolly good yarn and you can gobble this book up very quickly

which is what I did but equally I wanted it to last longer as I was very comfortable with the characters and being part of their lives for a short while apart from Ryan Hearst who really got on my wick as I am sure he was supposed to do. Fern is very clever at weaving the characters together and you can only guess the amount she can draw on from her experiences! I cannot wait for her next book. Readers of Katie Fforde etc would delve into Fern's books with relish. A light hearted, fun, feel good and utterly charming book that does not take itself too seriously.

Joanne Baird

Ideal summer holiday reading.

This is the first of Fern Britton's books I have read and it is as bubbly and cheerful as Fern herself. The small town of Trevay is exactly as most city dwellers would like to imagine Cornish small towns or villages to be. Trevay comes together as a community to stand up to the corporate baddies and save their theatre. By doing this, they not only hope to save the theatre but to strengthen the community spirit as well. Fern Britton has created a large cast of characters and between them they probably fit the stereotype of every type of villager you might expect. I don't mean that in a bad way though. It is quite comforting sometimes to have characters where you know how you expect them to behave and to have a good idea of how things will end. The fun is in getting to that end. There is the well-meaning vicar, the eccentric ex-military man, the domineering wife, the hen-pecked husband, the airhead aspiring actress, the rough but handsome Cornish man, the good-looking actor struggling to find his next job and the up-and-coming actress who we suspect is being cheated on by her successful actor boyfriend. The vicar's wife though is certainly not a conventional character! It was an entertaining story as we read about the villagers working together and finding out about the relationships between the characters. This is a light-hearted book and would be perfect for enjoying in your garden, by the pool or, even better, on a sunny Cornish beach!

<https://portobellobookblog.wordpress.com>

Carolyn Huckfield

A light hearted romp around the Cornish village we'd all love to live in. It is a story with a happy ending and there are celebrities thrown

in for good measure.

This is a light hearted romp around a Cornish village we'd all love to live in. We meet characters from Fern's previous stories and see how they are getting on but this also works as a standalone story and there are well known celebrities thrown in for good measure. There are couples who shouldn't be together and couples who are developing their lives together after the initial falling in love stage is over.

The local theatre is going to be turned into coffee chains' latest purchase. Locals and new residents alike have to use all their contacts to save the Pavilion Theatre. Salvation comes from an unexpected source –archives of the local colonel that provides an amazing story.

This is a light, happy read where everyone ends up with the right partners. Britton also provides us with a humorous swipe at rock stars and Hollywood wannabes. Real Hollywood royalty Richard Gere puts in an appearance and helps save the day by directing a film of the musical story Colonel Irvine has performed at the theatre. Best to read this when you feel like relaxing and enjoying a light hearted story.

Melanie Chadwick

A warm, humorous story of a desperate bid to save a seaside theatre from a take-over from corporate greed and corrupt politicians and the shifting relationships of those involved.

The theatre of a Cornish seaside town is being taken over by a global coffee chain, and the residents are determined to save it. At first the cause looks hopeless, but using all the contacts and skills they have, the rescue committee soon comes up with a plan. The surprisingly illustrious history of the theatre is brought to light and the story hits the headlines. A bunch of young actors, each with personal links to high profile names, is recruited to play the lead roles in the big fund-raising play and this helps raise the profile of the fight to another level. The developing relationships between the cast members and their unsuitable partners, and the way they support each other through bad times is all linked to the success of the project. We also get to love the local residents, such as the retired army veteran who used to run the theatre in its hey-day, the vicar and his producer wife, the gruff local historian and his partner; each plays a key role in the salvation of the theatre and in the lives of the others. I think this would make a great holiday read.

Suzanne

'A Seaside Affair' is a delightful read about wonderful, eccentric people who are trying to rescue a coastal town theatre.

'A Seaside Affair' is a delightful read about a theatre in a wonderful coastal town. I immediately loved the main characters. There are quite a lot of them and they all play their own vital part in the story. It was such a joy to read about the theatre and about the backstage and onstage events. I enjoyed all the drama and could totally picture the theatre and the eccentric people who are trying to rescue it. They are all fabulous, that even goes for their flaws.

I'm a big fan of theatres which is why I immediately loved the theme of the story. I like how Fern Britton gives the reader a detailed description how things work behind the scenes. The sense of community and a common goal provided such a great theme. I had a big smile on my face while reading this story. It's highly entertaining and it felt like I could see the play while I was reading about it, I loved that. I think Fern Britton has written a perfect summer novel.

www.librarianlavender.com

Christine Harris

A simple story and an easy read. It centres around the relationships and love lives of the actors, actresses and a rock star called Red. There are a few surprises including a love triangle.

A fire at the theatre and the on off relationships of the characters seemed to be the main theme, against the back drop of producing a play and saving the theatre.

I felt that the characters lacked depth, and I found it difficult to care about them. At times reading it became a chore although it would probably be ideal as a relaxing read whilst on holiday.

Edel Waugh

*This is the story about the residents of a small town in Cornwall when their historic pavilion is threatened with being torn down to be replaced by a modern coffee shop. This small town gathers together to fight against this , bringing all manner of celebrity to the area in the hope of keeping this historic place , with its rich past , that means so much to the people in the area. **This was a perfect***

cosy read full of celebrities and their outrageous lives, couples having relationship ups and downs and a community coming together to fight for a good cause. A heartwarming read!

<http://www.edelwagh.blogspot.com>

Ruth

In Trevay, Cornwall, a group of colourful locals plan to get a revival of an original show to save their local theatre. An uplifting, fun novel with a contemporary setting.

This is an uplifting, fun novel. The start of the book is a little confusing as it jumps from setting to setting, only introducing one main character in each chapter, the scene set ending with the chapters. It was clear that these characters would meet at some point and after getting over initial frustration of the disjointed beginning, it made me read on to find out how and where they would interact.

The main storyline is set in the village of Trevay, Cornwall where the local council plan to sell the dilapidated but much loved theatre, the Pavilion. It is about a group of colourful locals who group together to plan a revival of the first ever show that played at the Pavilion, inviting all sorts of famous names. It is very contemporary referring to several celebrities and events specific to the current decade.

The characters are very likable and I certainly hoped each would get their happy endings. The “older” characters, not the young actors and their friends, are not as central to the plot as expected when reading at the start but their stories do find an end as they wind up all the other loose ends and I now find myself wondering is there more to come from Trevay and its inhabitants from Fern in the future?

Zarina de Ruiter

If you're looking for a real holiday read this summer, 'A Seaside Affair' ticks all the right boxes.

I do love Cornwall and Fern Britton describes her lovely fictional village in such a way that it sounds like the perfect holiday destination. I wish it was real so I could go there on my next trip! It is no surprise that the townspeople feel passionate about the place and I really enjoyed reading that feeling of solidarity

that was created by the mutual goal of saving the theatre and fighting their Goliath; the coffee chain.

Unfortunately I did think that there were too many characters the novel tried to focus on, which meant that none of them really received the page time they deserved or needed for me to be able to truly care for any of them. There was a lot of focus on the actors' various spouses which didn't really serve the story at all, only added unnecessary dramatics that actually made the characters get on my nerves after a while.

*And that is a shame, because there is a lot to enjoy within *A Seaside Affair* too. I particularly loved the core plot of saving the theatre and would've liked to have read more about that rather than whose love life was now messing up the rehearsal schedules. I still felt invested in Treway and the villagers' passion for their town, but some of the drama got on my nerves after a while.*

*If you're looking for a real holiday read this summer, *A Seaside Affair* ticks all the right boxes. Don't expect amazing character developments or a highly imaginative plot, but if you love romantics novels with a heavy dose of drama, then this is just the book for you.*

www.pagetostagereviews.com