

MICHAEL THOMAS FORD



"He effectively draws his readers into the wild world of Provincetown... plenty of page turning drama... a winner."  
—Entertainment Weekly

LAST SUMMER



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## **Last Summer** Michael Thomas Ford

Michael Thomas Ford delivers a triumphant first novel about a group of gay men looking for love, losing the past, and finding themselves in the bars and on the beaches of Provincetown.

Josh Felling has always been a romantic--up until the moment his lover Doug announced that he'd had an affair with a guy from their gym. Now, with his life playing out like a very bad movie of the week, Josh impulsively heads to the Cape for a few days--long enough to figure out where his relationship--what's left of it--might be going. But the summer has other plans for Josh, and his trip to P-town will bring bigger changes than he ever imagined.

With its windswept dunes, lazy summer days, and starry nights filled with possibilities, Provincetown holds special appeal for those who call it home. . .and for those who come seeking its open welcome. People like Reilly Brennan, son of an old P-town family, whose days are caught up in wedding plans, even as his nights are increasingly taken over by heated fantasies about other men. . .Wide-eyed, blond-haired, All-American Toby Evans, an escapee from the Midwest ready to spend the summer in the equivalent of gay boot camp for anyone who will tutor him. . .Elegant Emmeline, age unknown, a southern belle straight out of Faulkner, with a mean drag act and almost enough money for her permanent gender transformation. . .Ty Rusk, one of Hollywood's hottest new stars hiding an ages-old secrets about to explode.

Weaving in and out of these and other lives like the concierge of a Grand Hotel, Josh is in for the summer of his life, a time of turning points and bridges burned, of second chances and new beginnings, of renewal and hope that will bring him closer to becoming the man he needs to be.

"This is a cut above more mainstream gay fiction offerings, thanks to Ford's crisp prose and snappy, contemporary dialogue. . .the sandy, barefoot-friendly setting morphs all the melodrama into a satisfying beach book--and a pleasant fiction debut for Ford."--Publishers Weekly

## **Last Summer Details**

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Author : Michael Thomas Ford

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## From Reader Review *Last Summer* for online ebook

### Merith says

I really enjoyed this book, which reads like a collection of interwoven short stories. The characters were as diverse as the stories they starred in; each story special in its own way.

You feel the anger and betrayal of Josh, even if it seems it's long overdue. You experience the doubt and yearning long suppressed by Reilly. Toby and his innocence makes you want to cry for him.

The lives and loves and antics of all written in *Last Summer* leave a reader satisfied and longing for such a summer.

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### LARRY says

As posted in [<http://www.amazon.com>]:

"Last Summer" is one of the best gay novels I've read even though the plots are fairly simple. But, hey, sometimes simple is best, right?

I enjoyed this book because it is diversified with characters that are gay, lesbian, transgendered and questioning. Josh escapes to P-Town from Boston after learning that his lover, Doug, has cheated on him. Toby escapes P-Town from his conservative and close-minded family after coming out to them. Ty and Reid, a Hollywood star and producer, escapes there as well, away from the public eye, so that they can just be themselves.

Meanwhile, Jackie, a native of P-Town, is thinking about having a baby after her lover has left her. However, she just needs to decide whom to ask for the "donation". Emmeline dreams of being a full woman, yet cannot afford that final surgery and adjusts to dealing with her ailing mother, whom she hasn't seen nor spoken in years.

Little by little, over the summer, each of these characters cross paths as they deal with their own and each other's issues. Love. Lust. Infidelity. Betrayal. Coming out. Acceptance. Blackmail. Family. Friendship. They're all in the book.

Like I said, it's a good book which you'll enjoy. I enjoyed it so much that I'm already reading another book of his.

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### Ije the Devourer of Books says

A beautiful story with an engaging cast of characters. *Last Summer* is an excellent read especially for the summer. The story follows the lives of a group of people who are visiting or living in Province Town during

the summer months. For each person this summer is a time of change, self realisation and growth. The story has an excellent way of weaving around events in the life of each of the main characters, and it is well paced and deeply engrossing. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

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### **Paul says**

This is an author that I have really come to enjoy reading. I started reading his work several years ago in an anthology I believe and picked up some of his other books. This book is not only on my virtual bookshelf but one that I have kept on my physical bookshelf.

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### **Mike says**

Currently my 2nd favorite by Mr Ford, right after Full Circle.

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### **Don Bradshaw says**

Life, love and hot sex are woven into a summer in Provencetown. This is Ford's first try at a serious look at gay life and the human spirit. A good read but a familiar one as stories go.

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### **Bill says**

Though it's been nearly 30 years since I was last in P-Town, prior to that I had spent parts of ten summers there. I wasn't expecting much more than a light bit of fluff from the book, and now that I'm done I'm wondering why I should give it less than five stars and can't think of a reason. I know most of the characters. I know the daily routine of brunch, beach, tea dance, dinner and nightlife. The book wasn't at all a cliché for me, more an old feeling of total comfort and freedom. I'll be reading Ford's other books for sure.

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### **Jon says**

Really enjoyed this novel; this first I've read of Michael Thomas Ford. Excellent beach reading - soap opera saga!

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### **KatieMc says**

Not my favorite Michael Thomas Ford, but still made for a fun end of summer listen.

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### **Oscar E says**

The prose and the narrative is not as strong as other novels from MTF; but that doesn't make it less enjoyable. You'll fall in love with the idea of extended families.

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### **Patrick says**

Loved this book, as I love all of Michael Thomas Ford's books.

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### **Robert says**

When handed this book and told it was a gay romance novel I admittedly thought great just what I dont want. Though being that I had nothing to do for several hours and my friend had kindly brought this book to me I figured what the hell.

I am so glad that I did. So far from what I would call a romance novel. It is more a book that dives into the lives of multiple characters as the struggle with things very real to them. From the unfaithful partner and deciding to forgive or walk away, to a man transitioning into womanhood, two a boy who is outcast by his religious family when he comes out, to closeted characters being brought out and to one deciding if she should allow herself to have the baby that she so wants.

This book is packed full of things that really make you think. What would anyone of us do in these situations? How awesome to find a book written of the gay life style that makes me proud to be gay. That reminds us that not all of us fit into the mold that society puts us under. We are real people with real issues struggling like everyone else to find our place and purpose in this world.

I would recommend this book to anyone. I am looking forward to reading his other books.

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### **Lena♥Ribka says**

*Audible*

**4,5 stars!**

It was like reading many books at once, having being introduced to so many different fates and so many

different people in one place.

It's why reading *Lust Summer* was like watching a soap opera, but I don't mean it negatively, not at all!

The story takes place in Provincetown in Massachusetts, during summer time.

You'll find many wonderful (and also not) characters: openly living gays and lesbians, gays in the closet, normal people and celebrities, as well as a transgender drag queen(who saves money for the last step), a seventeen year old teen who run away from his parent house after coming out.

You'll see long-life lasted relationships and cheating-dramas, people who are on holiday and people who live in this small town, people with relationship problems and people with a mid-life crisis, losses and self-discovery, touching moments and a satisfied HEA for all participants.

An enjoyable summer tale.

I think, I've just read my second favorite novel by Michael Thomas Ford. I really very much enjoyed this book (audible) as well as a wonderful narrating by Blake Somerset.

**Highly recommended!**

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### **Dolphe says**

To be honest, gay fiction has not been at the top of my "to read" list. The few efforts I have read have been pretty dismal. This book is certainly an exception. It's not great literature perhaps, but it is indeed a fine effort. Sure, there are problems -- straight people here are almost non existent or closet gays. Then again, this is fiction. I'll be reading more of this author.

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### **Aaron says**

This is the first novel written by a humor essayist that I have been reading lately. It brings the reader to Provincetown on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Known to be a queer-haven and vacation getaway, P-town welcomes a series of characters destined to become intertwined as they search for some summer fun and a chance to get away from their troubles, perhaps redefining themselves in the process.

Bostonian Josh Felling is on the run from his 8-year relationship after learning that his partner Doug has recently cheated on him with a guy from the gym. Josh's friend Bryan connects him with some friends in P-town who own a B&B and are willing to let him use the cabin in the back to get his life back in order.

It is there that Josh (and the reader) meet local handyman Reilly Brennan, who is on the verge of marrying his fiancée Donna. It is a merger that seemed fated as their families have been looking to be tied in wedded bliss for generations. The problem is that Reilly may not be as ready to get married as everyone, including himself, thinks.

America's next big film star Ty Rusk plans to make the most of his newest filming project set in New York to take the opportunity to visit his producer and lover, Reid Truman, who will be vacationing on the Cape. The question is whether they can keep their relationship (and Ty's sexuality) a secret, particularly when a local girl with dreams of making it big sees their secret as an opportunity to escape her small-town life and make it big.

A local transgendered singer named Emmeline is looking to take the final step into womanhood if she can just save up enough money, but things turn particularly interesting with the arrival of Toby Evans, who has been kicked out of his home in the Midwest when his parents learned that he is gay. She becomes a mother to him just as her own mother is forced to move in after a stroke. The parallels between her relationship with her mother and Toby's with his parents are interesting.

Emmeline works at Jackie's, one of the town's prime night spots. Jackie, a 40-year-old African American lesbian, is coming to terms with her recent breakup and finds herself considering motherhood, particularly if she can find the right guy to take on the role of father.

Then there is Marly, whose husband and daughter have gone off to Paris on business. She manages the local arts center, and is also in charge of a summer arts camp that brings in famous writers and artists from across the country for week-long workshops. It is through this that she meets Garth, a well-known music photographer that would give Annie Liebowitz a run for her money. She slowly finds herself drawn to him, but she can't help but wonder if it is love or loneliness. Will she act on it?

As with the gay community, it quickly becomes clear that families are not only defined by blood and DNA. While the story is complex with the large number of plots and characters, each is well-drawn and carefully developed in a way that makes the reader feel like he is really in a community full of people. Each confronts his or her challenges realistically and grows, though not always in the way that he or the reader would want. That just adds to the realism.

A quick warning to the reader is that the book does get intense when it comes to romance. Readers are taken along as characters get intimate, but it is not done lasciviously. Each time, it adds to the development of the characters involved and adds to the plot.

I am looking forward to Ford's next novel. I have always been a big fan of William J. Mann, and this is right up with that level of writing.

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