



## **California Holiday: Or, How the World's Worst Summer Job Gave Me a Great New Life**

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Dear Mel,

Okay, it's not a dream job. The kid is alright, but her mom treats me like a personal slave/shopper/chef. And she's vile to the pet iguana who is now my only friend -- sad or what? Maybe I'll run off to San Francisco -- maybe my next postcard will be from there! Wish me luck!

xoxo,  
Rowan

## California Holiday: Or, How the World's Worst Summer Job Gave Me a Great New Life Details

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Author : Kate Cann

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# From Reader Review California Holiday: Or, How the World's Worst Summer Job Gave Me a Great New Life for online ebook

## The Fat Girl says

Originally posted on [www.thefatgirl.co.uk](http://www.thefatgirl.co.uk)

Kate Cann was one of my favourite Young Adult Fiction authors and I read quite a few of her books in my mid to late teenage years, so when I spotted *Escape* as one I had missed I was very excited to pick it up.

*Escape* by Kate Cann

Rowan thinks spending her gap year in the USA will be the best thing she's ever done. Her family's driving her mad, and she desperately needs to get away from the relentless what-are-you-going-to-do-with-the-rest-of-your-life? parental pressure.

America, land of the free here I come...

But after starting to work for psychotic Sha and her hot-housed kid in Seattle, Rowan feels more trapped than ever. Enough is enough. Taking Iggy the unloved iguana with her - he deserves some freedom, too - she hits the road. Suddenly, with only a rescued lizard for company and California in her sights, she's sure escaping to America was the best thing to do after all... (Goodreads)

As usual Cann's writing style is easily accessible and instantly engaging. *Escape* is pure escapism - sorry I had to say it - bringing you into Rowan's world and whilst this isn't as fun when stuck in the cramped Nanny room, once you get to the lake it's pure heaven. Cann has you drooling over scents, landscapes, food and \*ahem\* men in this story the way only a good story-teller can. So whether you are snuggling under a duvet in December or sunning it on a sandy white beach in August, this is the perfect book to warm you up.

You warm to Rowan easily, which is handy as a main character, you feel her frustration, excitement, trepidation and go through her romance woes right along side her. Although at times you feel like screaming at her it's part of the pull of the story, you have to see if she gets through it.

I loved the addition of Iggy the iguana, he gives another dimension, another pull to the story and although used mainly as a catalyst I love his cheeky character.

One thing that stood out to me about Cann's books when I first started to read them was the sex scenes, at the age I started reading them this was a new addition as my previous young adult fiction had skirted round the edges of an age group not quite ready for this. Cann focusses on the 18-21 character age group, so sex is starting to be a key point of their life and she uses this in her writing to explore and understand the characters further. In *Escape*, these scenes are written well with no awkwardness and add to the story well - not to mention a very enjoyable bit of escapist sizzle...

Overall, this is a great easy read book that is well written and provides a great opportunity for escapism. As a fan of Kate Cann's writing this book was as expected and I thoroughly enjoyed it, looking forward to many more from this author (including the ones I've already ordered and got stashed in the corner).

British Book Challenge 2017

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### **Ana-Claudia Magana says**

This book is so disjointed, and the girl's an idiot and I wish she displayed more power to herself in the end. The ending also sucks and seems to trail off and not make sense. Cann 's other books are way better than this one.

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### **Danielle Andrews says**

I read this book when i was around twelve and it is a bit of a sexual book but it also taught me that if you want something, to go and get it instead of wait for it to happen. I think this is an amazing book that has a lot of lessons that you can learn from it.

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### **Sharkie says**

I see giving this one star not as it being the lowest I can possibly give, but for the time and effort this person put into writing this. Because it may be awful, but someone did write this, and that deserves credit given.

The plot was the worst bit. The plot was so thin, so boring, and just... god, it was awful. I almost gave up reading because I just couldn't pull myself through, but I've never not finished a book and that wasn't going to happen just because of a shitty plot.

Let's talk about that beginning. She hit her brother in the head with a 2 by 4 and he didn't even pass out and ended up with only a scratch. No. That's not what happens. You get hit in the head by the wussiest person on the earth and you either pass out or get dinged up more than this dude.

Then we have Langdon. I don't like him. He could be the hottest twat in the world and I still wouldn't like him. Or Rowan, for that matter, but we're talking about Langdon. He was with a girl who made him sad, fine, that happens. But Rowan - jesus girl, you never were a seductress earlier in the book and now you're all out deathly.

Okay, that was a mess, but I didn't like any of the characters other than Latroya. She's a good human. And Maria. She's also wonderful. But Rowan and Langdon can go make out somewhere not in my life.

One last thing - the spelling/grammar mistakes were awful. There were so many, and it barely looked like an editor had touched the novel. Don't get your book published if you don't have someone (whether professional or your friend who can grammar) look it over. It doesn't look good.

Anyway, I'm done with this book, I'm done with writing about this book, and I just don't understand how people enjoy this book.

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## **Geli says**

I am a big fan Kate Cann. Last summer she did not disappoint when I read her Spanish Holiday and Grecian Holiday. So naturally I was excited to learn she had another holiday in the works. And she definitely did not disappoint me! I absolutely LOVE this one. I completely identified with Rowan. It makes me just want to get out and go out on self finding adventure of my own.

This holiday is about a young girl in college (as usual) who isn't doing so well at home with her family so she decides to escape away to America as a nanny. Only to find things for her there aren't any better. So she escapes away to California and finds a Hot guy along the way. Which is always a plus! In California her hottie helps her get work and it's a never ending 'they going to get together' game.

I really enjoyed reading this one. If you loved Kate's other Holiday books and are just a hopeless romantic then you are a shoe-in for this book. Trust me it will shock you, make you cry and laugh all before the 2nd chapter. This book is completely 10 Stars!

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## **Maya says**

Book Report Guidelines – Good Reads

Name of book: California Holiday

Author: Kate Cann

Pages: 400

Genre: Young Adult

Reading Level of book: ?

Exposition (4-6 sentences) Rowan has been living in London, England all her life. After finishing school she has trouble figuring out what to do with herself. She talks to her brother sometimes to get advice from him. With his help she decides to become a nanny. Her mom does not like the idea of her going off to America, but she still lets her go there.

Conflict : (4-6 sentences) Even though the child she needs to look after is fine her parents seem to be the problem for Rowan. Sha Bielicka, the mom, is very strict with Rowan. She gives her many tasks, criticizes her sometimes when she gives Flossy the care she needs that Sha can't give her, and ignores her when she is not needed. Flossy's dad, Taylor Bielicka, is very "friendly" with Rowan. It seems that the only members of that family that like her is the iguana and Flossy. Then Flossy's grandma comes along. Sha treats Rowan worse ever since the grandma came. When Sha couldn't take it anymore she decided that the iguana should be killed. That is how she tries to get rid of her anger. She didn't want the lizard to die, so she decides to take a bus to San Francisco. On her way to the bus stop she meets a guy. He tells her all about a hotel he works at, and he convinces her to go with him. Rowan gets a job at a Kidde Heaven, and things go well

Climax: (4-6 sentences) Thinking that she and Landon have a relationship she is heart broken when he stands her up on their first date. When she gets back to the Hotel she finds out that he got back together with his ex-girlfriend. She decides to leave the hotel. Her co-worker, Maria Reyes, tells her that she can set Iggy (the nick name she gave the iguana) free in Chichen Itza. She packs up her bags and buys her ticket to leave.

Resolution: (4-6 sentences) She doesn't tell Landon she is leaving. Rowan doesn't feel like she can ever face

him again. When Landon finds out that Rowan had left Landon chases down Rowan. He tells her that he broke up with Coco. He tells her that they can free the lizard together. Rowan gives him a second chance and they end up living in Cancun working at the Sheraton Hotel.

Choose a theme in your book and compare to any piece of literature we have read in class. What is similar? What is different? What have you learned about the human experience? (7-10 sentences) Escaping your problems is something that Patrick and Rowan have in common. When things get hard they both seem to shut down and try to avoid anything related to the problem. Instead of trying to fix the problem they make it worse by not addressing it. A thing they do differently is the way they try to escape. Rowan travels to escape the people who are causing her problems. She tries to come up with a different identity of herself to not get into the same situation again. Patrick uses denial to escape his problems. He always lies to himself to get through a night alone.

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### **Ruth says**

Reading books by British authors is definitely fun, and I liked the first third of this book where the main character flies to America to nanny for a little girl with a really strange family (was this book written before or after the nanny diaries? because they have a heck of a lot in common). From there, it all goes downhill. After a stupid, crazed, obsession that she has over this guy who is as shallow as a kiddie pool and treats her like dirt all summer.....she ends up with him. Wow, way to preach power to your fellow woman! Independence! Self respect! Self worth! Or you could just go out with someone whose only reason for sticking around is that he has nothing better to do! Can I just say that this author made a horrible transition from stupid jerk guy to a guy that is totally in love with this girl that has been waiting around for him all summer? Not even an ounce of believability. I bet two seconds after the book ends he dumps her for some dumb blonde.

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### **Jessica says**

I can give California Holiday anywhere up to 2.5 stars, but that's about it. For the first part of the book, prior to leaving London, Rowan just seemed selfish, whiny and ungrateful for all she has. Once in Seattle, the parents of the little girl she nannies were such awful human beings. I hated the mother most, but nothing excuses the dad for always being drunk, absent and then hitting on Rowan. And finally, when she went to California, Landon was just all kinds of creep. I was sorely disappointed when she went back to him.

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### **Jesse says**

Rowan comes to the United States to be a nanny for a wealthy family only to find the mother a controlling pill, the father with issues of his own and the daughter suffering for it. Fortunately, a situation presents itself so that she can escape and the family can work on itself. Rowan finds herself living and working on a resort in California and gets caught in an interesting love triangle.

This is one of the better pieces of teen lit that I have found. If you're looking for an intellectual escape, the "Holiday" series is one of the better places to look. Like almost all teen lit, there is a girl getting involved

with a guy but it's interesting enough to not fade into the background with all the others out there.

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### **Nicole says**

This book was great, the beginning was funny and it started out on a high note. After Ro runs away from her 'nannying' job she meets a guy named Landon at the bus station. I didn't like Landon that much though. What person just invites someone off of the bus to come live with them??

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### **Brianna says**

Easy summer read but by the end I just wanted it to end! Part 4 even felt like the author wanted to end writing but continued anyway. I liked the first half of the book better, Rowan leaving and her time with Flossy. I didn't understand the Landon appeal and by the end of the book I felt like she was not exactly better off than when she left. She spent half a summer obsessed with a boring, rude bloke.

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### **Elaine D says**

I knew this book wasn't going to have that much substance, that's why I picked it up. I think I bought it to read on the beach a few years ago, but never got around to it. I wanted something fast & easy just for fun this week, so I grabbed it off my shelf.

Really, this book could have been 2 books-- the first & second half were so night & day. I was pretty into the plot at the beginning when she was nannying that little girl, then it completely derailed & she ended up pursuing a guy that treated her pretty crappy. (C'mon, girl!?! He's just not that into you!) The second half of the book all I could think about was if she was going to go back & rescue that poor little girl!

Basically, if this book were a food, it would be airplane peanuts: not really something you'd choose for yourself, but not the worst thing you've ever eaten to pass the time. haha

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### **Anna Wei says**

of all the books that i read, more than 75% of them have to be some sort of teenage drama, just so i dont go insane understanding language from some old dead guy that is WAY behnd my time.

here comes the first of my crazy obsessive book buying splurges.

like most of my favorite books, they always start off lonley, along the way they meet someone that easily lures their prey in with their charming smile and their sweet talking ways, dont worry, happens to everybody.

the boo focuses on our main character, Rowan who decides that she needs to get away, in a sense of self discovery, she tries to escape everyone she is around so she can get a new start. She later meets a guy that she feels some sort of attraction to but reaizes that he isnt the person that she would like, personality wise. although taling to him and interacting with him for this point of time allowed her to see that maybe she went

to sacramento( and other places, long storyyyy)for a good reason, and maybe it wasnt a bad choice at all.

i would also say, dont read this if youre not a fan of long stretchy romances that beat around the bush, as nerve wracking as they are, they're my favorite!

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### **Michelle Sallay says**

This was quite cute actually. It feels a little like two separate books, so I can see why it doesn't have the highest rating. I did enjoy it the entire book. If I want to read more of these I will have to buy them since this is the only one my library had, I can't decide if I want to buy any just yet...

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### **Fell says**

This was a really good summer read. It was an easy read and gave me that summery feeling (which I really needed because it's been raining and cold lately)

I thought the main character were very funny. It was interesting to see how Rowan evolved and kind of got to know herself a little bit better as she faced the different dilemmas.

The story went in a great speed, it wasn't too fast or too slow.

Although I was kind of annoyed of Rowan's love interest at times, but their love story didn't take up that much space in the book so I was okay.

Overall it was a really good read.

After this book I want to go on an adventure, without having any idea of where I'm going just that I'm going.

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