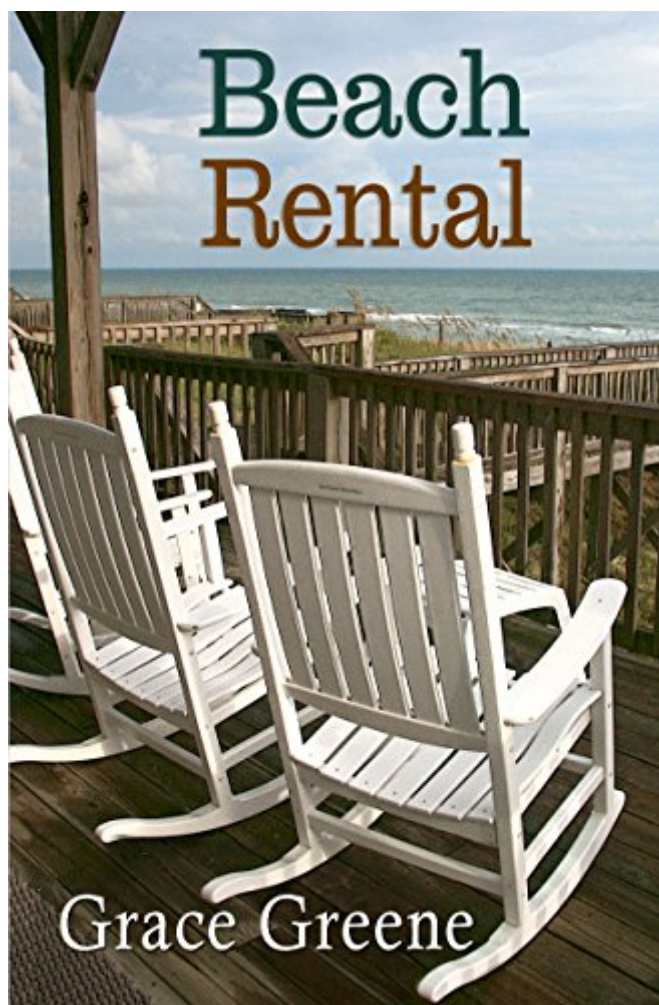


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Beach Rental: An Emerald Isle, NC Novel (#1)



Synopsis

On the Crystal Coast of North Carolina, in the small town of Emerald Isle, Juli Cooke, hard-working and getting nowhere fast, marries a dying man, Ben Bradshaw, for a financial settlement, not expecting he will set her on a journey of hope and love. The journey brings her to Luke Winters, a local art dealer, but Luke resents the woman who married his sick friend and warns her not to hurt Ben—and he's watching to make sure she doesn't. Until Ben dies and the stakes change. Framed by the timelessness of the Atlantic Ocean and the brilliant blue of the beach sky, Juli struggles against her past, the opposition of Ben's and Luke's families, and even the living reminder of her marriage to build a future with hope and perhaps to find the love of her life if she can survive the danger from her past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Juli Cooke works hard at two dead-end jobs, yet she's getting nowhere. Then, a chance meeting with a dying man opens an opportunity to change that. Can she afford the risk? Juli spent her life

shuttling from one foster home to another, so she has low expectations, but when she meets Ben Bradshaw at a fancy party where she works as a server for the caterer, things change. Ben is ill and asks her to drive him home, then offers to pay for a cab to take her to her apartment. The following day she's at her day job, checking at a grocery store, when Ben invites her to lunch and has a proposition: marry him, and he'll settle a sum of money to help her financially when he's gone. Ben, the co-owner of a couple of art galleries with his cousin Luke, has terminal pancreatic cancer. He wants companionship with someone who won't grieve for him while he's still alive and who won't be emotionally invested in him when he dies. He considers himself a good judge of character, and he likes what he sees in Juli. Wary, Juli considers the offer, and finally decides that Ben is a kind man and she can make both their lives better by accepting his generous offer. What she doesn't count on is the love that follows. She's not in love with Ben, but she grows to love the wonderful person that he is, even though Ben's family consider her a gold digger. Especially Luke Winters, his cousin, who warns her off hurting his best friend. When Ben dies, everything changes. Can Juli cope with her new-found status, with the resentment of Luke and Ben's family, and with her past? I loved *Beach Rental*. Long after I finished this superbly written story, the characters remained in my mind. Ms. Greene's debut novel is stunning in both depth of content and characterization.

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