

18 year old Claude is about to graduate High school, she has her Summer all planned out and then she will be at college, far away from home but then her life and plans are unexpectedly turned upside down and she ends up spending the Summer on a remote island, staying in the home of a distant family member. The Island has very limited cell phone reception and internet access.

Cut off from her life, her closest relationships fracturing Claude discovers nature, a family history she never knew and starts to make real connections with her fellow humans.

This novel was a raw roller coaster of emotions and it often made me uncomfortable. Claude is kind of a mess which made the story feel all the more realistic, I frequently wanted to yell at her. I didn't really relate to Claude's personality or her behaviour but I did also go through a huge upheaval just as I was finishing High school though not for the same reason as Claude. Sadly I didn't get a trip to an Island but I did end up in a fairly isolated situation with most of my closest relatives in different countries to me which was a rather abrupt entry into adulthood without a support network so I connected with the themes of this novel.

- Jennifer (@jenthebookishbaker)