

The background features a network diagram with white nodes and lines on a purple-to-pink gradient. The nodes are connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web. Some nodes are larger than others, and the overall structure is somewhat irregular and organic. The gradient transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom.

# Summer of '69

Written by Elin Hilderbrand

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Published by kctv7

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Summer of '69

# Summer of '69

By Elin Hilderbrand

## Summer Of '69 Book

Follow New York Times bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand back in time and join a Nantucket family as they experience the drama, intrigue, and upheaval of a 1960s summer.

## Summer Of '69 Lyrics

Welcome to the most tumultuous summer of the twentieth century! It's 1969, and for the Levin family, the times they are a-changing. Every year the children have looked forward to spending the summer at their grandmother's historic home in downtown Nantucket: but this year Blair, the oldest sister, is marooned in Boston, pregnant with twins and unable to travel. Middle sister Kirby, a nursing student, is caught up in the thrilling vortex of civil rights protests, a passion which takes her to Martha's Vineyard with her best friend, Mary Jo Kopechne. Only son Tiger is an infantry soldier, recently deployed to Vietnam. Thirteen-year-old Jessie suddenly feels like an only child, marooned in the house with her out-of-touch grandmother who is hiding some secrets of her own. As the summer heats up, Teddy Kennedy sinks a car in Chappaquiddick, a man flies to the moon, and Jessie experiences some sinking and flying herself, as she grows into her own body and mind.

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Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 By Elin Hilderbrand

In her first "historical novel," rich with the details of an era that shaped both a country and an island thirty miles out to sea, Elin Hilderbrand once again proves her title as queen of the summer novel.

Me: I don't feel like reading

Elin Hilderbrand: writes a book about the 1960s

Me: whips out credit card

â™ª Standin' on your mama's porch  
You told me that it'd last forever  
Oh, and when you held my hand  
I knew that it was now or never  
Those were the best days of my life â™ª

I'm kinda disappointed because I went in expecting it to be a flashback story about Bryan Adams and his summer crush.

Rest assured it is not.

I've always been fascinated by the '60. The free love era has given us Woodstock, quirky fashi Me: I don't feel like reading

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Summer of '69

Rest assured it is not.

I've always been fascinated by the '60. The free love era has given us Woodstock, quirky fashion, lava lamps, short skirts, the Kennedy family, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Doors, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Neil Armstrong on the surface of the Moon (which may or may not be true)

Pretty good stuff amirite?

Summer of '69 is a terrific summer read. Historical fiction is not my preferred genre, never has been, but I'm glad I've made an exception for Elin Hilderbrand. The novel takes place in Massachusetts and follows the story of Jessie, the youngest of four siblings. Jessie is vacationing in Nantucket, her family's ancestral home. Drama and good times ensue. What happens in Nantucket stays in Nantucket. Or does it? The novel is flooded with chill summer vibes : three sisters in the midst of family drama, politics, social upheavals and rocky relationships.

Quite engrossing. It made me feel things.

For all the '60s enthusiasts - need help to pass the time while waiting for Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time In Hollywood* to be released? Add this to your bookshelf immediately.

\*ARC provided by the publisher\* ...more

## Summer Of '69 Meaning

It's not officially summer for me until I've read an Elin Hilderbrand book by the pool or sitting on the beach so luckily for me, I was able to read this one Memorial Day weekend, poolside, with a fruity beverage in hand. Hilderbrand's first historical novel was everything that I've come to expect from the queen of the summer novel and more.Â

In classic Hilderbrand style, Summer of '69 revolves around the lives of several members of the Foley-Levin family and of course, Nantucket is the main sett It's not officially summer for me until I've read an Elin Hilderbrand book by the pool or sitting on the beach so luckily for me, I was able to read this one Memorial Day weekend, poolside, with a fruity beverage in hand. Hilderbrand's first historical novel was everything that I've come to expect from the queen of the summer novel and more.Â

In classic Hilderbrand style, Summer of '69 revolves around the lives of several members of the Foley-Levin family and of course, Nantucket is the main setting although Martha's Vineyard gets some love in this book too. This is a summer of dramatic changes for the family as Tiger, 19, has just been drafted for Vietnam. His mother Kate is obviously overcome with worry and grief.

Kate's daughters, Blair, 24, Kirby, 20, and Jesse, who just turned 13 (and is the daughter of her second husband David) also face their own considerable life changes this summer as each of their stories intertwine in some way. It's through these sister's voices, Kate's, and letters exchanged by Tiger and Jesse this story is told. Every characterÂ is so real, wholly persuasive, and each of their issues becomes ones I cared about no matter how big or small.Â

Blair is pregnant with twins and miserable as she smokes cigarettes and drinks to get rid of morning sickness (really how are any of us '70s babies alive?). Her husband Angus is a brilliant astrophysicist workingÂ 24/7 on the Apollo 11 moon landing, leaving her lonely and alone.Â

Kirby, the family rebel known for her political protesting, forgoes the summer stay on Nantucket for a job at a hotel on Martha's Vineyard where she meets the rich and famous, people like Teddy Kennedy, who crashes his car off Chappaquiddick Island that fateful summer. Then her romantic troubles keep causing her difficulties.Â

Jesse is closest to Tiger and besides wanting to grow up faster, she most looks forward to his letters from Vietnam. He's the one she shares her secrets with as she finds first love over the summer. Yet, she's not completely happy, thanks to Exalta, her tough as nails grandmother who casts a judgemental gaze on everything and everyone.Â Â

Kate is the voice I most identified with: the mother, the one worried her son wouldn't come back from war while also worried about her other kids. She's a compelling character who showed the realism of being a momâ€•strength and weakness but always love for her children.

Summer of '69

Hilderbrand has woven together the historical moments from that summer using her trademark style that has never let me down as a reader (make sure you read the author's notes about the inspiration for the story!), and it's just a perfect read.Â

Summer of '69 is nostalgic, poignant, retrospective, and packed with details that made the novel feel vivid and alive for me, a time I've heard, watched movies, and read about but was almost a decade before I was born! I laughed and oh, did I cry while reading this.Â It's out on 6/18th and if you haven't already pre-ordered it, then you need to. It's the definitive summer of 2019 read!

\*\*Thank you Little, Brown, and Company for the gifted copy. All opinions are my own.\*\* ...more

To say Iâ€™ve been ecstatic to read Elin Hilderbrandâ€™s first historical fiction book is an understatement. Last summer, she wrote her first murder mystery, and this summer she brings us Summer of â€™69. â•• â•• â•• â••

Expect the stories the Nantucket stories weâ€™ve known and loved from our beloved EH, but this time, with a historic backdrop.

The Levin family spends its summers on Nantucket, and everyone looks forward to it. They stay at their grandmotherâ€™s stately, historic home. But this year, things ar To say Iâ€™ve been ecstatic to read Elin Hilderbrandâ€™s first historical fiction book is an understatement. Last summer, she wrote her first murder mystery, and this summer she brings us Summer of â€™69. â•• ï• â•• ï• â•• ï• â•• ï•

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The Levin family spends its summers on Nantucket, and everyone looks forward to it. They stay at their grandmotherâ€™s stately, historic home. But this year, things are different for the Levins.

Blair is pregnant and unable to travel. Kirby is devoted to civil rights protests. Tiger has been deployed to Vietnam. Jessie, the youngest at thirteen years old, is staying with her grandmother who is behind-the-times, but carrying secrets.

The summer is filled with those historic events weâ€™ve all heard about: the lunar landing, Chappaquiddick, and all the while, Jessie is growing up, too.

Yeah, I gobbled this up! What a summer story with plenty of depth and insight, as I would expect from Hilderbrand. This particular summer was rife with events and drama in the world, and so it was for the Levins, too. I was both engrossed and enchanted with this story. I can only imagine what EH will dream up for us next summer?! And in the interim, I have her new winter series to keep me company late this fall! Always and forever a fan!



Summer of '69

I received a complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: [www.jennifertarheelreader.com](http://www.jennifertarheelreader.com) ...more

Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 Chords

Why I love it

Siobhan Jones

We pick the books a few months in advance here at BOTM, so all the reading for June occurs sometime in mid-March. Maybe that was why I warmed to Summer of '69 so readily—this beachy, feel-good story with ample family drama and purple haze-era feels had me practically smelling the sunscreen. Then again, maybe I just liked this book so much because it was another satisfying winner from an author who always delivers the goods.

Elin Hilderbrand's first historical novel plops Why I love it

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Elin Hilderbrand's first historical novel plops us right into the flower power milieu of the '60s with a Vietnam draft notice. From then on, as we are introduced to the different members of the Levin family—the smart and stubborn Blair; the irascible Kirby; only-son Tiger; and the youngest, the quietly observant Jessie—these cultural easter eggs abound. Civil rights protests animate the news cycle while the Space Race captures the country's imagination. Yet even as our protagonists navigate this rapidly changing world, their own trials and tribulations—finding young love, questioning authority, and even investigating long-buried family secrets—remain at the forefront of this completely charming read set over the course of one summer in Nantucket.

Anyone familiar with Hilderbrand's books (BOTM has featured *The Identicals* and *Winter in Paradise*) is aware of her effortless ability to craft nuanced, heartfelt stories set in cozy, aspirational places, and this new one is just that: a light read set in a beach town that you'll devour in one poolside sitting. Readers looking for a breezy escape need look no further—make Summer of '69 your June pick!

Read more at: <https://bookofthemonth.com/summer-of-...> ...more

4.5 • • • • •

In pure Elin Hilderbrand style, Summer of '69 brings a historical twist on your favorite Nantucket summer beach read. In her first venture in the historical fiction genre, Hilderbrand takes us back in time

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Summer of '69

to the summer of the moon launch, the Chappaquiddick incident and Woodstock. The fashion, the food, the culture, the music, it's all there. Using song titles from '69 as each chapter title, we are transported to a time when pregnant mommies smoked cigarettes and drank scotch to wa

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The characters in the novel are rich and the plot is delicious in its unfurling. If you're wondering about Hilderbrand's Nantucket in the sixties, you won't be disappointed. Everything we love about Nantucket and its culture are ever present throughout the book which is peppered with references to the ways of 1969. Born of Hilderbrand's own personal birth story (read the author's note at the end!) and nurtured with interesting characters and an engrossing storyline, Summer of '69 needs a place in your summer beach tote for sure! ...more

## Summer Of '69 Hilderbrand

This new summer beach read by Elin Hilderbrand has the usual setting but with a historical backdrop. I enjoyed the titles of the chapters being songs from the era. The characters were fully developed with the problems and conflicts that depicted the era. The ending could have been a little longer to tie things up a little more but it was an enjoyable read. It is sure to be on the bestseller list. #netgalley #summerofâ€™69

I must note Little Brown and Company has recently auto approved me @NetGalley and I'm beyond ecstatic to read these wonderfully talented authors such as the one and only Elin Hilderbrand. I'm a huge fan who enjoys her work for the obvious reasons as they never disappoint. The Summer of '69 is no exception as it's chock full of characters, vivid action, the locations center upon Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard (both places rich in history and steeped in traditions) as well as the historical aspect I must note Little Brown and Company has recently auto approved me @NetGalley and I'm beyond ecstatic to read these wonderfully talented authors such as the one and only Elin Hilderbrand.

I'm a huge fan who enjoys her work for the obvious reasons as they never disappoint. The Summer of '69 is no exception as it's chock full of characters, vivid action, the locations center upon Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard (both places rich in history and steeped in traditions) as well as the historical aspect that surrounded the era of the wild and crazy 60's with the Levin Family. Every year the Levin Family offspring looked forward to visiting Nanny in downtown Nantucket until this year when Blair became pregnant, Kirby was immersed in civil rights protests with Tiger her only son being sent off to Vietnam, while 13yo Jessie was left behind with a whole hosts of grandma's secrets. The 'Queen of Summer Novels' has proven her stake and claim to the title by once again showcasing her talents in dramatic fashion.

"People are People" and more importantly I'd add to this quote people are human, flawed, and ultimately wish to love and be loved.

How this all comes to play out is equally as exciting as the historical times surrounding and encasing it all.

The ending author notes added to it as she always was asked to do a historical novel one in which her family could relate and play a part and she truly has captured the essence of the 60's not in a historically accurate version of time but in one that related directly to her framing of this novel and her own personal situation.

This story is not just for the faint of heart looking for a light airy read as it's a heavy hitter touching down upon subjects including infidelity, philanders a plenty, racial tensions, pregnancy and abortions, political and social un-rest and upheaval, civil rights, and interracial relationships to name a few.

Each character brings to the table a sense of drama, intrigue, compassion, and empathy in their own way.

Each character is fighting for a right, a cause, a virtue.

Each one has something to say and a right to be heard.

So thank you to Elin Hildebrand, Little Brown and Company for this auto approval, NetGalley, and

Summer of '69

Amazon Kindle for this ARC in exchange for this honest review.  
I hope you get a chance to read this must read for 2019! ...more

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Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 Elin

Great summer read

Takes you back!!!

Family story with a very eventful summer as the backdrop

Highly recommended

When Elin comes out with a new book, it's a must. Like a don't-even-read-the-synopsis no-brainer. Just as she delivered a multi-dimensional page turner with *The Perfect Summer*, *Summer of '69* is just as much a treat- but with historical fiction at its core, which is a genre Elin hasn't presented before.

The story lines of several members of the Foley/Levin families intertwine as their lives during the summer of 1969 unfurl (or in some cases, unravel). There's 13-year-old Jessie, her mother Kate, When Elin comes out with a new book, it's a must. Like a don't-even-read-the-synopsis no-brainer. Just as she delivered a multi-dimensional page turner with *The Perfect Summer*, *Summer of '69* is just as much a treat- but with historical fiction at its core, which is a genre Elin hasn't presented before.

The story lines of several members of the Foley/Levin families intertwine as their lives during the summer of 1969 unfurl (or in some cases, unravel). There's 13-year-old Jessie, her mother Kate, and Kate's other three children, Tiger, a soldier serving in Vietnam, Kirby- a flower child with a rebellious streak and a past she's trying to run from, and Blair, who is about to give birth to twins and just made the biggest mistake of her life. At the top of the family tree is the matriarch, grandmother Exalta, who floats through the rooms of the family's sprawling Nantucket compound with a disapproving gaze and whose judgement bears down on everyone.

Kate is the mother in all of us- constantly worrying about all of her children, while also balancing her own demons. At the center of her seemingly broken heart is not knowing if her son will make it home from Vietnam. And somewhere in the cloud of sadness that surrounds her, is a secret she can't run away from. It's her individual relationships with each of her children that make her such a dynamic character. I loved her weakness and her strength, I loved her vulnerability and her determination as well.

For Elin to write a novel that is historical fiction and her classic style is such a treat - this book will be a favorite that bridges so many genres. I love this book because it's one book and one family, but it holds many, many different stories.

It's amazing how a story of just one summer can weave such a colorful movie-like vision in your mind as you read. Each character experiences monumental life changes and events that we can all relate to, all with the beautiful and fascinating backdrop of the 60s on Nantucket. So not only do you have the wonderful life story of Jessie and her siblings, you have the heart-racing pulse of political intrigue, the

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Summer of '69

Kennedy's, the drama of Vietnam and even Woodstock. One sister experiences her first kiss, her first love and her first betrayal. Another betrays someone else in the most important time of her life and is suddenly abandoned by her husband and her little sister is off the island, running away from a terrible relationship that left her alone and ashamed. They are all facing their own struggles and keeping secrets from each other but their love for family, for their brother who is fighting for their country and their commitment to their island home and the memories it holds for them all keeps them together and without even trying, they all help each other find their paths and mend their hearts.

I feel like I am rambling, so I'll just cut this short and say, yes! I recommend! Thank you Little Brown and Co for my review copy! ...more

## Summer Of '69 Tab

As usual I loved this new novel by Elin Hildebrand. The only reason I did not give it 5 stars was I felt the ending needed more. I felt like it came to a sudden halt. But other than that I loved it. Thank you to Little Brown and Netgalley for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

The year ~Nineteen hundred sixty-nine,™ 1969, was a busy year for the United States of America; and as such, was no different for the combined families of Nichols, Foley, Levin and Whalen, all under the matriarchal umbrella of Exalta Nichols. Since Exalta was such a stickler for tradition the family prepares to pack up and move out to Nantucket for the summer, regardless that the 3rd Monday of June is Jessie™s 13th birthday, or that Kate is sick with worry about Tiger, her 19 year old son who wa

The year ~Nineteen hundred sixty-nine,™ 1969, was a busy year for the United States of America; and as such, was no different for the combined families of Nichols, Foley, Levin and Whalen, all under the matriarchal umbrella of Exalta Nichols. Since Exalta was such a stickler for tradition the family prepares to pack up and move out to Nantucket for the summer, regardless that the 3rd Monday of June is Jessie™s 13th birthday, or that Kate is sick with worry about Tiger, her 19 year old son who was drafted to fight in Vietnam just this past April, and Blair her 24 year old daughter is pregnant in Boston and virtually alone since her astrophysicist husband practically works 24/7 on the upcoming Apollo 11 moon mission. Then, don't even get Kate started on her 20-year-old daughter, Kirby who's decided to assert her independence and work at a hotel on Martha™s Vineyard this summer as a chambermaid! Sure, Martha™s Vineyard is technically 11 miles from Nantucket, as the crow flies, but for a human to get there it would take more than 24 hours. Lastly her husband David can only come out on weekends because he has a law office to run.

When they finally arrive at Exalta's house on Fair St. named All's Fair (yes, houses in town are named) with the smaller annex called Little Fair, everything is bright and fresh thanks to Long time caretaker Bill Crimmins. He takes Exalta's hand as she exits the car and welcomes her home to Nantucket. Observant Jessie doesn't miss anything. As others unload the car, she runs through the house and out the side kitchen door, across the courtyard and up the stairs in Little Fair to where she'll be staying this year for the first time. This used to be the purvey of her three older siblings, but now it's her turn. As Jessie climbs the stairs, she hears whistling in the little kitchen. As she walks in, she sees a young teenage boy with blonde hair, tan, cute, and making a sandwich. ~Whoa, who are you?~ she says. ~Oh hi, you must be Jessie, he says with calm assurance. My name is Pick and my grandfather Bill and I are staying here this summer; wanna sandwich?~

This is Jessie's introduction to Bill Crimmins grandson and his daughter Lorraine's (now lavender) 16-year-old son. Lots more about her later. Jessie does know that Lorraine used to help her mother Kate baby sit her older siblings when they were very young before their biological father, Wilder Foley died. She also knows that Lorraine ran away to California when she was about 19 years old and never came back. Interesting. She'd be more upset about Pick and Mr. Crimmins living in Little Fair if Pick wasn't so



cute. Jessie really wishes her older siblings we're here now.

The summer takes on much drama as Jessie placates her grandmother Exalta by taking tennis lessons at her staunch conservative Country Club the Field and Oar. The Nichols family have been members since the 1920s, so tennis whites and tradition are de rigueur.

Kate has grown up with her mother Exalta's strict social rules and although she may not agree with all of them, she knows how to work around Exalta so as not to upset nor embarrass her. She succeeds on small battles like convincing her mother they need a TV in All's Fair so Kate can watch Walter Cronkite's evening report and keep up on the Vietnam news. This both comforts and distresses Kate simultaneously which leads to her drinking more than she should. The last time she and David went to dinner she drank way too much and could barely walk out of the restaurant. So, when she took David to the ferry on Sunday, he was calm and polite but told her firmly she needs to cut back. She went home and cried about that and her son Tiger still in Vietnam. She's a mother, damn it!

Meanwhile back in Boston, Blair continues to miss her husband who's constantly working. While she's barely able to move around the apartment since her belly and breast have grown so large. Angus is supposed to go with her to her next appointment with the obstetrician since it's possible she's having twins.

Kirby has gone off to Martha's Vineyard not telling her parents that she doesn't have the job at the Shiretown Inn in Edgartown. She just read the ad for the job and is going to apply when she gets there. Luckily, she does have a place to stay, thank goodness. When she does finally get to the Inn, she finds out all the chambermaid jobs are taken mostly by the Irish girls that came to Martha's Vineyard in May. Kirby tells the woman interviewing her that she wanted to come early but she was finishing her exams at Simmons College to complete her sophomore year. Fortunately, the word college and Kirby's demeanor impress Mrs. Bennie enough to offer her the front desk job, but the hours are 11:00 PM to 7 AM. Kirby doesn't hesitate, "I'll take it."

So, all parts of the combined family are off on one of the most historic years America has known, 1969. Just in that summer alone, man walks on the moon, the largest, outdoor, rock & roll concert takes place: Woodstock; and a Senator from Massachusetts walks away from an accident on a small island called Chappaquiddick near Martha's Vineyard. The Vietnam War continues.

For those of us who lived through these events, young or old, they'll never be forgotten.

Events will change in the characters' lives in small and large ways mostly for good for they are the fortunate ones. Tiger is still in Vietnam as the book closes.

Thank you NetGalley, Little, Brown and Co., and Elin Hilderbrand

Note: Please be sure to read the Author's Notes and Acknowledgements. Elin mentions Ken Burns' documentary on the Vietnam War; if you don't have much knowledge about this war, as many Americans might not, I encourage you to watch it. It won't be easy, but it's our history.

Summer of '69

Thank you.  
...more

## Summer Of '69 Todd Strasser

I was pretty unsure about what I would think about Elin Hilderbrand venturing into historical fiction but overall, it was pretty enjoyable. I do think it felt a bit like she tried to fit in too many mentions of 60s issues and current events and pop culture so that no one could possibly miss what era she was writing about but whatever, at least it was an immersive experience. Not all the characters are likable, they are definitely flawed and some of their decisions annoyed me. Still, another fun I was pretty unsure about what I would think about Elin Hilderbrand venturing into historical fiction but overall, it was pretty enjoyable. I do think it felt a bit like she tried to fit in too many mentions of 60s issues and current events and pop culture so that no one could possibly miss what era she was writing about but whatever, at least it was an immersive experience. Not all the characters are likable, they are definitely flawed and some of their decisions annoyed me. Still, another fun summer book. ...more

» Quintessential Elin Hilderbrand summer book with a touch of a classic Judy Blume.

Not the main point, but one of my favorite parts of Hilderbrand's novels are when she describes what the characters are eating, and the retro 1969 beach picnic descriptions were some of my favorite fun details ~<

It's not the most poignant novel written about this time period, nor is it the best book in the author's prolific collection, but if you enjoy escaping to Elin Hilderbrand's Nantucket you'll like her » Quintessential Elin Hilderbrand summer book with a touch of a classic Judy Blume.

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It's not the most poignant novel written about this time period, nor is it the best book in the author's prolific collection, but if you enjoy escaping to Elin Hilderbrand's Nantucket you'll like her latest story. She herself had a groovy connection to the summer of ~69 that inspired the book. ...more