



# Summer of '69

Written by Elin Hilderbrand

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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 setting. 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 character 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 working 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 mom's 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://bookofthefirst.com/summer-of-...> ...more

Summer of '69 by Elin Hilderbrand is a historical fiction novel that follows the Levin family during the summer of 1969. Of course with the book focusing on the various family members in this family the point of view does change between them.

Summer of '69

For years the Levin family has spent summers in Nantucket visiting their grandmother's historic home. This year however the family is being pulled apart in their own directions. Tiger, the only son, has been drafted into the military and will be sent to the Summer of '69 by Elin Hilderbrand is a historical fiction novel that follows the Levin family during the summer of 1969. Of course with the book focusing on the various family members in this family the point of view does change between them.

For years the Levin family has spent summers in Nantucket visiting their grandmother's historic home. This year however the family is being pulled apart in their own directions. Tiger, the only son, has been drafted into the military and will be sent to the war in Vietnam and this has affected each of the rest in various ways.

Blair, the oldest Levin has gotten married to a man who works with NASA and is spending her summer home alone as he works on putting a man on the moon. Kirby is the middle daughter who is a young free spirit known to protest the latest cause. Instead of heading to Nantucket Kirby has found a summer job in Martha's Vineyard. And Jessie, the youngest and a half sibling to the older children, is turning thirteen and not looking forward to a summer alone with her mother and grandmother.

Looking back at the history books 1969 was really a very busy year and somewhat a turning point on a lot of issues. Elin Hilderbrand did a wonderful job centering this fictional family right in the middle of so many events that it brought the era to life wonderfully. It was also nice to see the differences in personalities and how they handled what was going on at any given time. Definitely a great read I am rating at 4 1/2 stars.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/> ...more

## Summer Of '69 Hilderbrand

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 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

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

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Summer of '69

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.

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Summer of '69

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. Thank you.

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Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 Elin

Relevant, vivid, and absorbing!

Summer of '69 is a nostalgic, domestic tale that takes us back to the idyllic island of Nantucket during a year when Vietnam was still raging, and Apollo 11 was finally going to put men on the moon, and into the lives of the blended Foley-Levin family as they navigate a summer of revelations, change, and new additions.

The writing is expressive and polished. The characters are genuine, troubled, and sympathetic. And the spirited plot is a delightful mix of summer fun Relevant, vivid, and absorbing!

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The writing is expressive and polished. The characters are genuine, troubled, and sympathetic. And the spirited plot is a delightful mix of summer fun, heartbreak, coming-of-age, secrets, wartime worries, adultery, racial segregation, women's rights, and fresh starts.

Overall, Summer of '69 is once again a beguiling, heartfelt, must-read summer tale by Hilderbrand that highlights the power of family and reminds us that even though we've come so far, in some respects we still have a long way to go.

Thank you to Little, Brown and Company for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.  
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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  
#summerof'69

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Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 Tab

Great summer read

Takes you back!!!

Family story with a very eventful summer as the backdrop

Highly recommended

It's officially summer now that I've read the new EH book! Seriously, it truly doesn't feel like summertime for me until I get my hands on her latest book and I did consider waiting to read this until my actual summer vacation, but who am I kidding, I have no willpower when it comes to her books. I'm so glad I didn't make myself wait either because this was exactly the right book to get me into a summer vacation state of mind.

I was just a tiny bit apprehensive when I read the blurb of this and saw it was set back in 1969, I don't mind historical fiction but I did wonder if this would have the same magic as her usual summer books. I trust the queen of the beach read though and figured she knew what she was doing and she does. Obviously she does, this was book twenty something after all, and I was just as into this one as all of her previous books. It was really cool to see a simpler kind of life actually, no cell phones, Instagram, etc that so dominates our daily lives now, but there was no shortage of drama back then either. So many of the rampant issues back then are still sadly relevant today too, racism, women's rights issues, etc. that despite being set fifty years ago it still felt surprisingly relevant.

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No one features an ensemble cast better than EH, she manages to create casts of characters that you feel invested in and also relate to on some level. There's a little something for everyone here, mom Kate trying to cope with her only son Tiger, being shipped off to Vietnam, daughters Kirby, Blair and Jessie who range from early twenties to just turned teenager and so many supporting characters that give the whole thing vibrancy and life. A must read for summer, make sure you read the authors note for the inspiration behind the story, it was super cool!

Summer of 69 in three words: Breezy, Spirited and Delightful ...more

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Summer of '69

## Summer Of '69 Todd Strasser

Summer reading at its best!! I enjoy reading her novels and this little historic charmer, her first, was absolutely amazing! [â• ¢ Summer reading at its best!! I enjoy reading her novels and this little historic charmer, her first, was absolutely amazing! â• ¢ ...more](#)

My first by Elin Hilderbrand and it definitely wonâ€™t be my last!! I loved this so muchâ• ¢ [My first by Elin Hilderbrand and it definitely wonâ€™t be my last!! I loved this so muchâ• ¢ ...more](#)