



The Boy I Loved Before: A Novel

By Jenny Colgan

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While attending her best friend Sashy's wedding, Flora Scurrison realizes that this monotonous, nine-to-five, cookie-cutter life is exactly what's in store for her. While it might be okay for Sashy, it's certainly not what she envisioned for herself when she was sixteen. So when her boyfriend proposes to her during the reception, Flora makes a wish to go back and do it all over again. The next morning she wakes up to find that she has been given the ultimate second chance--she's sixteen again. As Flora navigates school, first loves--new and old--and discovers what it really means to make adult choices, will she stay in her new body or try and find her way home?--in Jenny Colgan's *The Boy I Loved Before*.

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The Boy I Loved Before: A Novel By Jenny Colgan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The joys of being 16 are amply explored in this back-to-the-present comedy of second chances. At the start of Colgan's funny, fast-moving fifth novel, 32-year-old London accountant Flora Scurrison realizes that she can't bear the monotony of her job and her dependable boyfriend, Oliver. So when she sees her high school love, Clelland, for the first time in 16 years at her best friend Tashy's wedding, she can't help wondering what her life would be like with this globe-trotting hunk rather than with steady, unexciting Oliver. As Tashy cuts the wedding cake, Flora wishes herself 16 again and gets a chance to make new choices about love, career and risk. She can keep her father from cheating on her mother and be the coolest kid in high school—not to mention ogle her svelte self in the mirrors at Top Shop. Strangely enough, though Flora is 16 again, only her parents have been transformed with her, and it's still the year 2003. Flora's interactions with a new Britney Spears generation of teenagers as well as with the grown-up friends who recognize her in her adolescent incarnation give the familiar plot a fresh twist. Cleverly constructed and often hilarious, this is an enjoyable addition to the annals of body-switching.

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From [Booklist](#)

Thirty-two-year-old Flora Scurrison has a good job and a boyfriend, but somehow her life feels off track. As she attends the wedding of her best friend, Tashy, Flora realizes that she hates her job as an accountant and that this--the white dress, the vows, the cake--are not what she wants with her boyfriend, Olly. As Tashy and her new husband cut into the wedding cake, Flora thinks back to the dreams they had as teenagers and wishes she could do it all over again. The next morning, Flora wakes up with a literal second chance: she is 16 again, and it is one month before Tashy's wedding. Flora has one month to decide if she should remain a teenager or go back to her old life. The time-travel plot seems gimmicky at first--and a bit stale, given the latest remake of *Freaky Friday*--but Colgan rises to the challenge, emphasizing the choice rather than the switch itself. The result is a tender and affecting story about growing up, love, disappointment, and regret.

Beth Leistensnider

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Review

"*The Boy I Loved Before* is a triumph. It's witty and hilarious and so clever, with a compulsive story that kept me flicking the pages over madly, right to the end. I loved it." ?Sophie Kinsella, author of *Can You Keep a Secret* and *Confessions of a Shopaholic*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Thompson:

Is it you who having spare time then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Boy I Loved Before: A Novel* can be the response, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

Kristine Toomey:

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