



## Neverending Beginnings

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This contemporary romance is Groundhog Day meets My Best Friend's Wedding. Readers who like women's fiction by Meg Cabot, Emily Giffin and Allison Winn Scotch will enjoy this romantic comedy.

Kate is alarmed to find out that her best friend Amy is getting married after dating for only six months. Her alarm turns to shock when she learns that the groom-to-be is Kate's old college ex. As the big day approaches, Kate's inability to hide her feelings is threatening to ruin her friendship with Amy.

Kate's last minute, vodka-fueled wedding toast has her wishing she could turn back the clock and make things right. Imagine her surprise when she wakes up the next day and finds out she can.

Forced to relive one of the most painful weeks of her life, Kate slowly works to repair the damage she has done. In the process, she learns a lot about herself and the cynically charming best man, Ben.

## Neverending Beginnings Details

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Author : Mary Chris Escobar

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## From Reader Review Neverending Beginnings for online ebook

### Mary says

The idea for my very first novel, *Neverending Beginnings*, came to me while I was painting. My husband and I had just renovated the first floor of a what used to be a parking garage. To save money we decided to do all the painting ourselves. It took forever, but somewhere around hour 500 of scooting along the floor painting baseboards the idea for a story about a woman whose best friend decided to marry her ex from college crept into my head. Shortly after that, in a writing workshop, I wrote the first and second chapters of the book that became the first version of this book titled, *The Year of Kate*.

An interesting fact about the book is that the *Groundhog Day* style repeating weeks were not added until the third revision. This (obviously) drastically changed the novel. Characters and entire plot lines were cut, stripping the story down to the most basic elements and really highlighting what I felt were the most important parts of Kate's journey. The reference to "neverending beginnings" was in the book before the re-write, but clearly became the most appropriate title for the novel in its new form.

My novella, *Delayed*, is linked to *Neverending Beginnings*. It picks up after the end of the novel and tells Kate's neighbor Carolyn's story, but readers get updates on Kate's life as well. To stay up to date on all my writing projects, stop by my website and sign up for my newsletter.

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### Jessica says

In An Oyster Shell- This was a surprisingly fun read. I recommend it.

The Pearls –

The description of the book had me sold. I wasn't too thrilled about the groundhogs day similarity, but My Best-Friend's Wedding. Is one of my all time favorite movies! So I had to give it a try and it was really good. It really wasn't too much like My Best-friend's wedding, but enough that I'll let them slide with the comparison.

I really fell in love with Kate and her dilemma It was fun to follow her through week after same week, and see her learn a little each time. I like that it almost had a mystery feel to it because she had to figure out what the problem was, to hopefully not repeat the week again. In the end it was a multi-faceted story with a lot of depth.

A full review is available at WritingPearls.com <http://bit.ly/1JwV8dR>

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### Alexis says

Neverending Beginnings by Mary Chris Escobar is a smart, witty novel filled with relatable characters and a very interesting situation. Our main character, Kate, is stuck living the week of her best friend's wedding over and over (*Groundhog Day* style). At first I was concerned I would become bored by seeing the same

events played out again and again, but I wasn't at all! Each repeated week was new and different as Kate learned from her mistakes and tried desperately to end the cycle.

Along the way Kate also happens to start falling for the best man, Ben, and it was thoroughly enjoyable to watch their romance blossom because Kate is so completely clueless in the beginning. Watching her realize her feelings over the course of the book while also getting to know Ben, who is both incredibly sweet and unmistakably manly, was one of my favorite parts.

Kate is smart and independent while also flawed without being angsty or dramatic. I think this is my favorite part of Neverending Beginnings: there was no false drama and it didn't make me crazy. It was a truly engaging and interesting story that made me sad to put it down but filled with excitement knowing I had something so enjoyable to pick back up.

One word of caution, while reading this book I was compelled to eat and drink the same food as the characters. I don't know what it was about Miss Escobar's writing style, but the little nuances of the characters got inside my head and made me want to be part of the story—including the food and craft beer!

I'm very happy Miss Escobar decided to follow up Neverending Beginnings with Delayed so I could get a glimpse of the characters down the road. I highly recommend Neverending Beginnings (and Delayed) to anyone!

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### **Lashell Collins says**

I loved, loved LOVED this little story! Groundhog Day meets My Best Friend's Wedding, really clever and smart and funny and sad. Ms. Escobar had me in tears in a couple of spots. Just a really sweet, tender tale that I truly enjoyed. I thought about only giving it 4 stars, simply because after I finished it I spent the next hour or so wondering and imagining what happened three months later - don't worry, I don't do spoilers so I won't tell you what I'm referring to - but I really wanted to know how things played out in December. But I couldn't stop at 4 stars because it was a truly lovable story with very real, relatable characters. You can feel Kate's frustration and angst at repeating the same week over and over again, her sadness at learning to deal with her mother's death, and her uncertainty as she falls in love with Ben again and again. Very well done Ms. Escobar!

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### **Kathy says**

This book is unlike others I have read. The book covers a one week time frame that repeats itself over and over again. Kate is the lead character. Her best friend Amy is marrying her ex-boyfriend Jack on the Saturday of that week. Kate has been roped into giving the wedding toast after Amy's sister backs out, because Amy wants a female toast along with the traditional one. Kate, who has drunk a lot during the reception, botches the toast, forgetting her notes, and is so embarrassed and sort of black out, waking up the next morning only to find herself back to the Sunday of the previous week, before the wedding occurred. The storyline is a bit creative, as I have not read anything quite like it before. In fact, I am not really a fan of time travel books. This one is intriguing, however, so I decided to try it. It was okay but I wondered whether it was worth my time when Kate ends up redoing this one week about the third or fourth time. I am not really sure what the author was trying to do, but, in my opinion, redoing a week again and again does not a great

storyline/plot make. I found there were differences in the way Kate lived each iteration of this week, but not that many so there was good continuity. During this week, Kate also is attracted to Jack's school friend Ben, who likewise is attracted to her, and a romance buds. However, after the third iteration of the same week, I began to wonder what the author's game plan was or whether this romance was going anywhere. There is good characterization, good chemistry between Ben and Kate, some great humorous episodes as well as some embarrassing ones, definite changes in what Kate does and how she behaves in each do-over. However, how many times does someone re-live the same week? And to what end? This was not very clear.

This is a fairly good book, except for this one thing. I enjoyed reading about Kate and her friends, even though the events, actions and words were sort of repeated again and again. Each time a little bit more about each was shown. It was interesting to see how the author took one week and changed just enough to make it different while keeping the week and all its activities about the same. I just could not wrap my head around why the week was repeated so many times.

This is a good book for anyone looking for a different sort of time travel book or a different sort of romance. The book reads easily, though drags a bit. The reader might be tempted to wonder what on earth the author is trying to show/prove, as not much in that way stands out. Still, it will probably be worth the effort for many. I received this from Library Thing to read and review.

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### **Kristy Gillespie says**

Mary Chris Escobar's comparison of her romantic comedy *Neverending Beginnings* to the movies *Groundhog Day* and *My Best Friend's Wedding* is spot on. *Groundhog Day* is one of my favorite movies of all time so I was excited to read this novel and it did not disappoint.

Imagine your best friend announces she's getting married after only dating her boyfriend for six months. Now imagine he's your ex-boyfriend. At the wedding, Kate has a few drinks too many at the bar before her bridesmaid speech. To make matters worse, she left her notes at the bar. Kate starts off by mentioning that Jack is her ex-boyfriend. She says a few other inappropriate things before she blacks out. When she wakes the next morning, she obviously regrets her actions. However, she soon realizes that the wedding isn't for another week...at least to everyone but her. She has the opportunity to make things right but first she has to relive the week before the wedding again, and again, and again...

"In a few days would I wake up hung-over from week one? Or did I drink so much that I died? Was this the afterlife? Was it hell? Like, literally, my own personal eternity of punishment?" (Kate, 53).

Kate's character is extremely relateable and she's someone that I think most people will root for. Jack's best man, Ben is as confused by the quickie wedding as Kate is, and they bond over that, among other things.

"The thing is part of me thinks this is all really fast and crazy but then there's this whole other side. Like when they started dating he was more excited than I think I have ever seen him," (Ben, 66).

"Really, isn't everything more exciting in the beginning?" (Kate, 66)

If you're a fan of romantic comedies, and if like me, you over-analyze situations and think "what if this had happened differently?" you'll love *Neverending Beginnings*.

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### **Beth says**

On the surface, this is the story of Kate reliving the same stressful week of her life culminating in the wedding of her ex-boyfriend and currently somewhat estranged best friend. The summary offers a little more detail for the set-up but there is much more to the story beyond that.

In films, it's easy to skip over the repetitiveness of reliving a day (or several days) through a quick montage of images. That sort of visual fast-forward isn't available in a novel but Escobar does a great job of skimming over the parts that don't matter and focusing on what has changed from the week before. Every pass is a little bit different than the one before. And, as is true in life, even when Kate thinks she's figured out the "solution" events rarely turn out as she'd planned.

Aside from the main story of Kate trying to figure out how to set things right, there are subtler threads being woven throughout. There's Amy and Jack, who seem stressed out by more than just the wedding. There's Ben, who is so charming it's impossible not to fall for him, even if the odds seem stacked against Kate having a relationship with him. And then there's Kate's mother, who has passed away prior to the novel's opening but whose presence is still very much felt throughout. This was probably one of my favorite elements of the novel because I simply wasn't expecting it. *Neverending Beginnings* is a fluffy romance on the surface, but watching Kate deal with the loss of her mother, on top of the frustration of being trapped in this one week of her life, made her feel even more real to me, which made me more invested in what happened to her.

Don't come to this book looking for an explanation of how the time loop is started or what perpetuates it. *Groundhog Day* didn't have to explain all those details to tell a great story and neither does this novel. Come for the characters that you'll love and cheer for and for a story that takes you through frustration and maybe a few tears before bringing you to a brighter, hopeful ending. (And for those who know and love Richmond, you'll be cheering for every awesome location highlighted in the book.)

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### **Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says**

Kate was supposed to do a wedding toast for her bestfriend Amy and her ex-boyfriend, Jack. Everything was supposed to go as planned, she even had her note card prepared for this particular wedding ceremony. But when she learned about things she weren't informed, she wondered if it was right to be at this wedding in the first place. When it was her turn to toast the newlyweds, she forgot her note card that contained her speech, and as drunk as she was, she made an impromptu message instead. And boy, what a disastrous toast it was!

The morning after, with a massive hangover and too little sleep, Kate woke up and realized she was taken back one week before everything happened, before the wedding, before the toast, before the embarrassment. Shocked, she couldn't believe she was given the chance to relive the week! So she did what she thought what should have happened and tried to correct whatever she did wrong.

And when the wedding toast happened again, she had to wake up and go back in time once more. And the next week, and the next, and the next.

Wow! This had been an amazing contemporary read! Imagine being able to go back in time all over again (and every week, at that!) and be able to change things for the better (or worst). I've read lots of time travel stories, but Neverending Beginnings is currently my favorite. Kate was a hoot! I love how she was able to make significant changes every week that she has to relive. I love how sensible she becomes every time she has to wake up on Sept 13th all over again. I love the whole story. Period.

This is my first Mary Chris Escobar book. And I liked her writing style. It has depth and feelings. Her stories make me forget. Her characters make me sigh and cry and grin and roll on the floor laughing out loud. She makes me believe that time travel is possible. She's a great author. 'nuff said!

P.S. I just learned that she also wrote a short story for Carolyn (Kate's next-door neighbor) and I'm sure this is going to be another great read!

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### **Spunky N Sassy says**

SNSBAH Rating: 4.66

~~~~~Amanda's ★★★★★ Review~~~~~

A great romantic comedy that will not disappoint. Kate is a bridesmaid at her best friend's wedding. The groom is Kate's ex-boyfriend from college. Ben is the best man. She lost her mother and hasn't been able to mourn her yet. The week before and leading up to the wedding is a disaster. One that Kate has to live over week after painful week. Her ex needs to talk to her. Ben wants her. Can she figure out why? Can she figure out what she needs to change? Will she be able to stop this? Will she finally mourn her mom? Will she give herself and Ben a chance?

This book will keep you laughing but will also bring tears to your eyes.

~~~~~Patricia's ★★★★★ Review~~~~~

This book is on repeat after repeat for Kate. She goes to her best friend's wedding and makes a fool of herself. When she wakes up the next day it takes her awhile but she soon finds out she has gone back in time to a week before. This happens to her over and over so she can fix some of the mistakes that she has made previously. She ends up finding herself falling for Ben her ex-best friend. Will she eventually get things set right in this universe of hers or will she keep making mistakes or will she finally see that she can change the way things have been happening and be a better person. Will Kate and Ben finally get the life that they deserve?

~~~~~Dee's ★★★★★ Review~~~~~

If you loved "Ground Hog Day", you'll love this book. It is certainly a unique take on romance. Kate has fallen down the rabbit hole and experiences reliving a week in her life over and over again. Each time, she learns something about herself and heals from buried emotions. Each replaying of that one week is slightly different and the reader is caught up in wondering how things will play out. Curiosity will keep one hooked on to the end.

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## **Julie Valerie says**

So okay, here's the thing: You should read this book to watch how the story unfolds inside an unconventional structure. And by unconventional structure, I mean it doesn't follow a linear path – it loops back on itself, repeating the same week over and over again, deepening a fateful set of circumstances surrounding a wedding.

How the story opens: Poor Kate Crenshaw. Not only does she flub-up a drunken toast at her best friend's September 19th wedding, her best friend is marrying her ex-boyfriend, Jack. Ugh. What's worse? Kate wakes up the next morning on September 13th – doomed to repeat a week of events.

"For a second, I let myself pretend that I didn't already know our ending. Pretend just once, for a few fleeting seconds, that our beginning never ended." (p. 68)

There are many characters to follow, great storylines, and quite a few surprises. In fact, I was pleasantly surprised by how suspenseful the story was – considering the fact we were all reliving the same week over and over again. You'd think we'd know it all the second and third go around, but we don't. With each repeat (there are many), the story deepens, characters' story arcs are developed and ultimately resolved, and the main character evolves on her journey toward a resolution that wouldn't have been possible – had she not had the chance to examine her life in this way. Very well done. Excellent, in fact. A story I'd read over and over again – about a week lived over and over again.

A truly creative way to tell a story. A premise that is high-concept and fresh, with prose so comfortable and easy to get lost in – time flies. And, I suppose, it loops back on itself, too. Over and over again. Five stars. I repeat: Five stars.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

For complete coverage - visit "Julie Valerie's Book Blog" at: <http://www.julievalerie.com/mary-chri...>

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## **Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says**

REVIEW: NEVERENDING BEGINNINGS by Mary Chris Escobar

A delightful chick-lit entry, NEVERENDING BEGINNINGS also takes on some serious issues. Protagonist Kate (although she won't admit it) has a becoming-serious alcohol issue. Another issue is her "need" to know what's best for everyone else, which actually masks a compulsion to control her reality. Accompanying this is her inability not to nag friends with what she thinks is best for them. She rubs a lot of folks wrong, so. there are a lot of edges (and others' avoidance) surrounding her. She really steps into trouble at best friend Amy's catered wedding to Kate's ex-boyfriend from college. Kate makes a toast, of course inappropriately. But she gets the opportunity to confront her own embarrassment and try again...and again...and again.. Hop on this try-over train and find out if Kate can finally evolve to become "the better person."

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### **Claudia Harbaugh says**

Most of us have those times in our lives when we wish we had a do over. You know what I mean. You did or said the wrong thing and wish you could take it back. Or you didn't do something you wish you had. In *Neverending Beginnings*, Kate Crenshaw is lucky enough to get a do over...or is she? Kate finds out that reliving one of the most difficult weeks of her life over and over can be exhausting, both physically and emotionally. Her biggest challenge is to figure out what she is supposed to do differently; what she is supposed to change in order to get out of this never ending loop. Will she ever get it right and see September 20?

I enjoyed this book very much. Though a lot of it was light and fun, there were some real issues that the author dealt with that made it multi-layered and interesting. I won't spoil it for you. I recommend you read it and find out for yourself.

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### **Renee says**

What a fun read! I've found myself drawn to time travel themed books a lot lately and chick lit is my go to genre, so I was excited to find a book with elements of both. This novel is written in a light, fun style but still has some depth. Romance and self discovery are the major themes. I loved the time travel twist that caused the main character to travel back in time one week, to learn more about herself and her friends. Exactly why this happened was never explained, so don't expect all the answers, just go with it - though I have come up with my own theories.

I found the characters likable and kept hoping for things to turn out better for them all. I think Kate was very sensible about the time loop situation. She had an appropriate reaction to the situation, but was very mature and realistic about how to handle it. I don't think I would have been quite that sensible. I think I would have spent a couple of weeks blowing off work, travelling and reading lots of books. Or maybe stirring up trouble just to see what happened, knowing there would be no long term consequences.

There is another novella about two of the side characters which is currently available free - *Delayed*. It's not a sequel, but does have some updates on the characters from *Neverending Beginnings*.

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Leanne Crabtree says**

I won a copy of this book a year or so ago and if I'm honest, contemporary romances are not really my thing anymore. That being said, I thought the story was well thought out and well written, with just the odd spelling mistake here and there.

I've never read anything like this--it most certainly is like *Groundhog Day*--and it was a refreshing change but at the same time if it had taken one more reliving to make it all perfect I might have given up on it.

I was cheering our girl on as she fell for Ben throughout the weeks and I hope that they make it as a couple.

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## **Kathleen says**

If you are looking for an entertaining romantic comedy that has a humorous Groundhog Day meets My Best Friend's Wedding theme, then Neverending Beginnings is the book for you!

Author Mary Chris Escobar weaves a fun tale that transports the reader into Kate Crenshaw's madcap reliving of the same week over and over again after waking up the day after flubbing her drunken toast at her best friend Amy's wedding to Kate's ex-college boyfriend Jack. Kate gets many chances at repairing the damage that she has done, and along the way finds an unexpected romance with the charming best man Ben!

Neverending Beginnings is a thoroughly entertaining romantic comedy that will simply keep the reader in stitches. With a great mixture of humor and sweet romance, the reader follows Kate as she relives the week from hell over and over again with many chances to make things right after causing drama and trouble because of her inability to hide her true feelings about everything (can you say "diarrhea mouth"?!?) lol And if trying to repair a rocky relationship with her best friend isn't enough, Kate gets an unexpected chance at romance with Ben, the best man, if only she would give in and take a chance! I really enjoyed following Kate as she tried to figure out how to fix her mistakes in order to end the rewinding cycle of the exhausting time warp that she finds herself in, and I couldn't help but cheer at her developing romance with Ben. Author Mary Chris Escobar cleverly weaves an enjoyable tale that leaves you wanting more!

If you are looking for a delightfully lighthearted romantic comedy to wile away a lazy summer day, then take a chance and read Neverending Beginnings, it will leave a smile on your face!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Chick Lit Plus Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

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