

Book Review: Summer's Never Over
By Darby Bozeman

Thanks to NetGalley and the Berkley Publishing Group for this advance reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. "Summer's Never Over" is scheduled for release on June 9, 2026.

When I hear a book title like "Summer's Never Over" I conjure images of teenage summer romances that continue to bloom beyond Labor Day. And there is some romance, or a return to romance, in this novel.

But there's also murder, family secrets, and – unfortunately – some not-so-great writing.

As the story opens, Greer is returning to her family's summer camp, Dread's Cove, located in the mountains of Georgia. She left the family's legacy five years earlier vowing she would never return. A fire that pretty much destroyed the camp and the death of Steph, her friend and counselor, drove her away. But now, following her mother's death on the eve of the rebuilt camp's reopening, Greer returns.

So do a familiar (to Greer, at least) cast of characters, including Chelsea, the childhood friend who grew up with Greer at the camp; two former boyfriends; and another former counselor, Margo, with whom Greer has had a lukewarm relationship. As the memories of that tumultuous last summer bubble to the surface, Greer must navigate around suddenly revealed family secrets while guarding her own.

Written from Greer's perspective across two timelines, the storyline has promise. But the characters are flat. They're not likeable. And the dialogue between them seems more suited to people still in their teens rather than adults in their mid- to late-twenties. That, for me, was a problem. Because in a story with relationships at its core, I want the dialogue between them to add to, not subtract from, the narrative.

I certainly didn't *dislike* "Summer's Never Over." The untangling of the mystery is interesting, though the Epilogue is totally predictable. With a little more depth to the characters and some punchier, non-cliché dialogue, it would be more easily recommendable.

Three stars.