

Review of “The Beach”

The novel “The Beach” by Alex Garland (1996) is about a young English man called Richard who actually wants to travel calmly as a backpacker in Thailand. But then he meets a French couple named Étienne and Françoise there, becomes friends with them and has an adventure with those two. Together they travel to another island and find, with the help of a map, their destination: a marvelous and mostly unknown beach with a little settlement.

At this point of time, they don't know that their lives will completely change.

In my opinion, the book was really gripping because there was detailed but not unnecessary or boring information. In addition to that the events (chiefly at the end) were very emotional, and the plot was also comprehensible and quick to read.

In my case, I could identify well with most characters, especially with Richard. Surely that's so because he is the protagonist and you get better informed about him and his feelings in contrast to the others.

I can recommend the novel with a clear conscience to everyone from 14 to 16 years of age (or pupils in year 9 and 10) who likes books with round and developing characters and kind of cliffhangers between chapters.

I give the book 3.5 - 4 out of 5 stars.