

swimming for beginners nicola gill

Swimming for Beginners Nicola Gill: Your Ultimate Guide to Getting Started in the Water

Are you intrigued by the idea of swimming but feel overwhelmed by the thought of learning how to swim? You're not alone. Many beginners share the same concerns—fear of water, lack of confidence, or simply not knowing where to start. This comprehensive guide, inspired by insights from renowned swimming expert Nicola Gill, aims to help you embark on your swimming journey with confidence and ease. Whether you're aiming to stay fit, improve your technique, or simply enjoy the water, understanding the fundamentals is key to success.

In this article, we'll explore everything a beginner needs to know about swimming, from choosing the right gear to mastering basic techniques, safety tips, and building endurance. By the end, you'll be equipped with the knowledge and motivation to take your first confident strokes in the pool or open water.

Why Swimming is a Fantastic Exercise for Beginners

Swimming is often considered one of the best low-impact exercises suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Nicola Gill emphasizes that swimming offers numerous health benefits, making it an excellent choice for beginners looking to improve their overall well-being.

Benefits of Swimming for Beginners

- Full-body Workout: Engages multiple muscle groups simultaneously, promoting strength and flexibility.
- Low Impact: Gentle on joints, making it ideal for those with arthritis or joint issues.
- Cardiovascular Health: Improves heart and lung health through aerobic activity.
- Stress Relief: The calming effect of water can reduce stress and anxiety.
- Enhances Confidence: Learning to swim boosts self-esteem and independence.
- Accessibility: Can be done year-round in indoor pools or outdoors in warm climates.

Getting Started: Preparing for Your Swimming Journey

Embarking on your swimming adventure requires preparation. Nicola Gill recommends a combination of mindset, proper gear, and gradual progress to ensure a positive experience.

Overcoming Common Fears and Building Confidence

Many beginners are apprehensive about entering the water. Here are some tips to help overcome fears:

- Start Slowly: Begin with shallow water where you can stand comfortably.
- Learn About Water Safety: Understanding safety rules can reduce anxiety.
- Practice Breathing Techniques: Focused breathing exercises can calm nerves.
- Seek Support: Consider taking lessons from qualified instructors or joining beginner classes.

Essential Swimming Gear for Beginners

Having the right equipment can make your learning process smoother:

- Swimsuit: Comfortable and well-fitting.
- Swim Cap: Keeps hair out of your face and reduces drag.
- Goggles: Protects your eyes and improves underwater visibility.
- Flip-Flops or Pool Shoes: For walking around the pool area.
- Kickboard and Pull Buoy: Useful for practicing technique and building strength.
- Towel and Dry Clothes: For comfort before and after swimming.

Basic Swimming Techniques for Beginners

Mastering foundational techniques is crucial for building confidence and progressing safely. Nicola Gill emphasizes gradual learning and consistent practice.

Breathing Techniques

Proper breathing is the cornerstone of effective swimming. Beginners should focus on:

- Rhythmic Breathing: Inhale through the mouth as you turn your head to the side; exhale underwater.
- Practice with Drills: Use drills like side breathing with a snorkel or blowing bubbles in the water.

Floating and Relaxation

Being comfortable floating is essential:

- Back Float: Lie on your back, relax your body, and gently kick.
- Front Float: Face down, keep your body relaxed, and breathe steadily.
- Relaxation Tips: Keep your muscles loose; tension increases fatigue and fear.

Basic Strokes

Start with simple strokes:

- Gliding: Push off the wall and glide to get comfortable in the water.
- Front Crawl (Freestyle): Focus on arm movement, flutter kick, and rhythmic breathing.
- Backstroke: Practice on your back with alternating arm movements and flutter kicks.
- Breaststroke: Learn the glide, pull, and kick phases gradually.

Step-by-Step Guide to Learning to Swim

Nicola Gill recommends breaking down the learning process into manageable stages:

Step 1: Water Comfort and Breath Control

- Spend time getting used to the water.
- Practice blowing bubbles, submerging face, and holding breath.

Step 2: Floating and Kicking

- Practice floating on front and back.
- Work on flutter kicks using a kickboard.

Step 3: Arm Movements and Coordination

- Practice arm strokes separately.
- Combine arm movements with kicking in drills.

Step 4: Breathing and Strokes

- Incorporate rhythmic breathing into strokes.
- Practice each stroke slowly, focusing on technique.

Step 5: Endurance Building

- Swim short distances, gradually increasing as confidence grows.
- Incorporate rest intervals to prevent fatigue.

Safety Tips for Beginner Swimmers

Safety is paramount. Nicola Gill advises beginners to adhere to these safety guidelines:

- Never Swim Alone: Always have a buddy or instructor present.
- Stay in Shallow Water: Until confident, avoid deep water.
- Learn Water Safety Rules: Recognize signs of distress and know how to respond.
- Avoid Overexertion: Rest when needed to prevent fatigue.
- Be Aware of Your Limits: Don't push beyond comfort or skill level.

Developing Your Swimming Routine

Consistency is key to progress. Nicola Gill suggests creating a balanced routine:

- Frequency: Aim for 2-3 swims per week.
- Duration: Start with 20-30 minute sessions.
- Variety: Incorporate drills, technique practice, and endurance swims.
- Progress Tracking: Keep a swim log to monitor improvements.

Overcoming Common Challenges

Every beginner faces hurdles; here's how to address them:

- Fear of Water: Gradual exposure, relaxation techniques, and professional guidance can help.
- Lack of Confidence: Celebrate small successes and stay patient.
- Stalling Progress: Review technique, seek feedback, and vary your routine.
- Time Constraints: Short, frequent sessions are more effective than infrequent long workouts.

Additional Resources and Support

Nicola Gill recommends utilizing various resources:

- Swimming Lessons: Enroll in beginner classes for guided learning.
- Online Tutorials: Watch instructional videos focusing on technique.
- Swimming Apps: Use apps for tracking progress and setting goals.
- Local Pools and Clubs: Join community programs to stay motivated.

Conclusion: Embrace Your Swimming Journey

Starting your swimming journey might seem daunting initially, but with patience, practice, and the right guidance—like that from Nicola Gill—you'll soon discover the joys and benefits of swimming. Remember, every expert swimmer was once a beginner. Celebrate your progress along the way, stay safe, and enjoy the soothing and invigorating power of water.

Embark now on your path to becoming a confident swimmer. Dive in and make waves!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the essential tips for beginners learning to swim according to Nicola Gill?

Nicola Gill recommends starting with basic water comfort, practicing breathing techniques, and gradually building confidence in the water before progressing to more advanced strokes.

How does Nicola Gill suggest beginners overcome fear of water?

She advises beginners to take small steps, such as getting comfortable in shallow water, practicing breath control, and possibly taking lessons with a supportive instructor to build trust and reduce anxiety.

What are the common mistakes beginners make when learning to swim, as per Nicola Gill?

Common mistakes include holding their breath too long, not relaxing in the water, and attempting to learn too many techniques at once. Nicola emphasizes patience and focusing on fundamentals first.

How long does Nicola Gill recommend practicing swimming for beginners to see progress?

She suggests that consistent practice of about 2-3 times a week for several weeks can lead to noticeable improvements in confidence and technique.

What swimming techniques does Nicola Gill recommend for beginners?

Nicola recommends starting with basic freestyle, focusing on steady breathing, body position, and arm movement before moving on to backstroke or breaststroke.

Are there specific exercises Nicola Gill suggests for improving swimming skills for beginners?

Yes, she suggests drills like kicking with a board, breathing exercises, and floating practice to develop comfort and technique in the water.

What equipment does Nicola Gill advise beginners to use when starting to swim?

Nicola recommends using goggles for better visibility, a kickboard for practicing kicks, and comfortable swimwear to ensure ease of movement.

How does Nicola Gill emphasize safety for beginner swimmers?

She stresses always swimming in supervised areas, never swimming alone, and gradually increasing water exposure to build confidence safely.

What motivational advice does Nicola Gill give to beginners struggling with learning to swim?

Nicola encourages beginners to stay patient, celebrate small successes, and remember that persistence and consistency are key to becoming comfortable in the water.

Where can beginners find resources or lessons recommended by Nicola Gill?

She suggests looking for local swimming classes with qualified instructors and exploring online tutorials or workshops that focus on beginner techniques and water safety.

Additional Resources

Swimming for Beginners Nicola Gill: A Comprehensive Guide to Starting Your Aquatic Journey

Swimming for beginners Nicola Gill has become an increasingly popular topic as more individuals seek to embrace the physical and mental benefits of this low-impact, full-body exercise. Whether you're aiming to conquer a fear of water, improve your fitness, or simply learn a valuable life skill, Nicola Gill's approach offers practical guidance rooted in expertise and empathy. This article explores the fundamentals of swimming for beginners, drawing on Nicola Gill's insights to help newcomers navigate their early experiences with confidence and safety.

The Importance of Learning to Swim

Why Swimming Matters

Swimming is not only a recreational activity but also a vital life skill that can enhance safety around water. It offers numerous health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, increased muscular strength, and enhanced flexibility. Moreover, swimming is accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels, making it an inclusive form of exercise.

Overcoming Fears and Building Confidence

For many beginners, the journey starts with overcoming a fear of water. Nicola Gill emphasizes that patience and gradual exposure are key to building confidence. Understanding that fear is natural and that progress takes time can help learners stay motivated and resilient.

Preparing for Your Swimming Journey

Choosing the Right Swim Environment

Selecting an appropriate environment is crucial. Beginners should look for:

- Calm, shallow pools: These provide a safe space to practice without feeling overwhelmed.
- Clean and well-maintained facilities: To ensure safety and hygiene.
- Accessible locations: Close to home or work for regular practice.

Essential Equipment and Attire

While swimming is often thought of as a simple activity, having the right gear can make a significant difference:

- Swimsuit: Comfortable, well-fitting, and suitable for training.
- Goggles: Protect eyes from chlorine and improve underwater visibility.
- Swim cap: Keeps hair out of the face and reduces drag.
- Kickboard and pull buoy: Useful tools for developing technique.

Mental Preparation and Setting Goals

Setting realistic, achievable goals helps maintain motivation. Nicola Gill suggests starting with:

- Getting comfortable in the water.
- Learning to float and breathe properly.
- Performing basic strokes like front crawl or backstroke.

Fundamental Swimming Skills for Beginners

Water Comfort and Safety

Before learning strokes, beginners should focus on becoming comfortable in water:

- Breathing exercises: Practice inhaling and exhaling slowly while submerged.
- Submerging face: Gradually get used to putting your face in the water.
- Floating: Master both front and back floats to develop confidence.

Breathing Techniques

Proper breathing is essential:

- Rhythmic breathing: Inhale through the mouth, exhale through the nose or mouth underwater.
- Timing: Coordinate breaths with strokes to maintain rhythm and efficiency.

Basic Movements and Strokes

Start with simple techniques:

- Kicking: Use a kickboard to practice flutter kicks.
- Arm movements: Focus on controlled arm pulls, beginning with freestyle (front crawl).
- Body position: Keep a streamlined posture to reduce drag.

Developing Your Technique

The Role of Professional Instruction

While self-practice is valuable, Nicola Gill underscores the importance of qualified lessons. Professional instructors can:

- Correct technique errors.
- Provide personalized feedback.
- Ensure safety during practice.

Drills and Practice Routines

Effective practice includes:

- Floating drills: To build trust in water.
- Breath control exercises: To improve endurance.
- Stroke drills: To refine arm and leg movements.

Progressing at Your Own Pace

Avoid rushing; focus on mastering each step before moving forward. Consistency is more important than speed.

Safety Tips for Beginner Swimmers

Water Safety Rules

- Always swim in designated areas.
- Never swim alone; use the buddy system.
- Follow pool rules and lifeguard instructions.

Recognizing and Responding to Risks

- Be aware of fatigue signals.
- Know how to perform basic water rescues or seek help.
- Avoid risky behaviors, such as running on pool decks or diving into shallow water.

Building Emergency Skills

Learn how to:

- Float on your back if you become tired.

- Call for help if needed.
- Exit the water safely in case of emergencies.

Overcoming Challenges and Staying Motivated

Common Challenges for Beginners

- Anxiety about water.
- Frustration with slow progress.
- Physical fatigue.

Nicola Gill advises that patience and positive reinforcement are vital. Celebrate small victories, like floating unaided or completing a lap.

Maintaining Consistent Practice

- Schedule regular sessions.
- Track your progress.
- Join beginner classes or swimming groups for social motivation.

Resources and Support

Finding the Right Instructor or Class

Look for accredited swimming schools or certified instructors with experience working with beginners. Personal recommendations and reviews can guide your choice.

Online Tutorials and Community Support

Utilize online videos and forums to supplement lessons. Engaging with communities can provide encouragement and tips.

Additional Learning Materials

Books, articles, and workshops on swimming techniques can deepen your understanding and skills.

The Long-Term Benefits of Swimming

Improving Physical Health

Regular swimming can lead to:

- Increased stamina.
- Better joint mobility.
- Weight management.

Enhancing Mental Wellbeing

Swimming releases endorphins, reduces stress, and boosts mood. Nicola Gill highlights how mastering swimming can foster a sense of achievement and confidence.

Preparing for Advanced Skills

Once comfortable, swimmers can explore:

- Competitive swimming.
- Water sports like snorkelling or diving.
- Lifeguarding or rescue training.

Conclusion: Embarking on Your Swimming Journey

Swimming for beginners Nicola Gill emphasizes that the journey into water is personal and rewarding. With patience, proper guidance, and a focus on safety, anyone can develop competent swimming skills. Remember, every swimmer started exactly where you are now—on the edge of a new, exciting world beneath the water's surface. Embrace the process, celebrate your progress, and enjoy the many benefits that swimming offers.

Whether you're just dipping your toes into the water or preparing for your first swim session, understanding the basics and approaching learning with a positive mindset are crucial. By following Nicola Gill's insights and tips, you set yourself up for a safe, enjoyable, and lifelong relationship with swimming.

[Swimming For Beginners Nicola Gill](#)

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Swimming For Beginners Nicola Gill, 2023-09-14 'The perfect mix of funny, poignant and heartwarming.' - Good Housekeeping 'Warm, witty but also heart-wrenching read' - Red Magazine 'Touching and witty. I adored Loretta and her relationship with Phoebe' - Lisa Snowdon. 'This heart-warming and creative contemporary fiction is a story of unexpected self-discovery.' - Woman's Weekly 'Full of heart and depth.' - Nina Pottell Prima Book of the Month 'Funny, heart-warming read - it made me laugh and cry' — Nikki Smith, author of The Beach Party 'Eleanor Oliphant meets About a Boy' — Gillian Harvey 'An absolute joy' — Nancy Peach 'Brilliantly funny' — Louise Hare Swimming for Beginners will show you how a child can open your heart even if you aren't a mother. Loretta has her life under control. She's chasing a big promotion, she's marrying the perfect man and she has a flawless five-year plan. This plan does not include children. But when a complete stranger asks her to watch her six-year-old daughter in an airport and never returns, both their lives will be changed forever. A little human in fairy wings and sparkly cowgirl boots will turn Loretta's world upside down and maybe, just maybe, show her exactly what she's missing. Overflowing with humour and heartbreak, Nicola Gill takes us on a relatable journey of self-discovery through the power of a child's love. 'Brilliantly funny, incredibly touching and so relatable.' - Louise Hare, author of This Lovely City 'Please meet my new favourite book.' - Jessica

Ryn, author of *The Extraordinary Hope of Dawn Brightside* 'Heartbreaking and life-affirming, an absolute must read' - Tim Ewins, author of *We Are Animals*

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *Identity Crisis* Nicola Gill, 2025-09-25 'Engaging, devastating, humorous and believable. This book will tug at your heartstrings and tickle your funny bone all at once.' Gillian Harvey 'The queen of fresh, funny, uplifting fiction...made me laugh out loud and properly cry' Frances Quinn 'Uplifting and at times heart-breaking, but ultimately packed with joy, humanity and real depth'. Eleni Kyriacou Be yourself, people say. But the last person Clare Palmer wants to be is herself - she's lost everything she once had and now can barely get through a bus ride without wanting to thump someone. (People who don't wear headphones, sniffers, fried chicken guzzlers.) So when she discovers her resemblance to beloved reality TV presenter Jenna Cox, Clare jumps at the chance to become a lookalike, earn some cash and get her life back together. But it's all too easy to cross the line between celebrity lookalike and pretending to be the real Jenna - and becoming someone else is about to take Clare's life down a track that's even rockier than the one she's on... 'Identity Crisis is hilarious, heartbreaking and uncomfortably relatable. I loved it.' Nikki Smith

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *A Curtain Twitcher's Book of Murder* Gay Marris, 2024-06-20 London, 1968. A suburban London street. But this is no ordinary road. Ask anyone on Atbara Avenue how well they know their neighbours, and they'll answer 'well'. After all, they see each other across the vast distance afforded by close proximity, and that is probably for the best.... In number 17 live a bitter daughter and her mother, trapped with each other. Or are they? The twin brothers at number 3 think they're nothing like each other, but they may be proved wrong. Lesley disappeared from number 49 years ago. Then her body is found, and with it more secrets. Atbara Avenue is a street where, all too often, murder feels like the solution. With a delicious cast of characters, dazzling plotting, and a unique voice, Gay Marris' first book is the fresh and compelling new voice in the world of crime fiction you've been waiting for.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *The Little Clothes* Deborah Callaghan, 2024-07-04 Introducing Audrey Mendes, a clever thirty-eight-year-old lawyer caught in a web of toxic situations, whose past gets pulled out into the light. Audrey is tired of not being seen. Not seen by her mother, who always preferred her golden brother. By her sleazy boss, who works her to the bone, without reward or recognition. By her self-obsessed colleagues, who want her to help them fix their lives without any acknowledgement of her own. Her social life consists of late nights in the office, visits to her ageing parents, trivia nights with a group of relative strangers, and evenings at home with her pet rabbit Joni. One night, unable to get the attention of the bartender in her local, she walks out without paying for her wine. This small rebellion leads to another, and more. Liberated by her invisibility, Audrey wreaks havoc in the lives of her friends and workmates. Until a painful reminder from the past pushes her into a reckoning, and things really start to spiral out of control.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *The Which Way Tree* Elizabeth Crook, 2024-02-15 When a panther attacks a family of homesteaders in the remote hill country of Texas, it leaves a young girl traumatised and scarred, and her mother dead. Samantha is determined to find and kill the animal and avenge her mother, and her half-brother Benjamin, helpless to make her see sense, joins her quest. Dragged into the panther hunters' crusade by the force and purity of Samantha's desire for revenge are a charismatic outlaw, a haunted, compassionate preacher, and an aged but relentless tracker dog. As the members of this unlikely posse hunt the giant panther, they in turn are pursued by a hapless, sadistic soldier with a score to settle. And Benjamin can only try to protect his sister from her own obsession, and tell her story in his uniquely vivid voice. The breathtaking saga of a steadfast girl's revenge against an implacable and unknowable beast, *The Which Way Tree* is a timeless tale full of warmth and humour, testament to the power of adventure and enduring love.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *Cleaner* Jess Shannon, 2025-08-28 'She's an incredible talent' Julia Raeside, author of *Don't Make Me Laugh* 'A tremendous display of talent' Gonzalo Ceron Garcia, author of *We Are The End* A woman in her mid-twenties moves back home to live with her parents, where her listlessness fuels an obsession with cleaning, and sets in motion a series of

events that lead to her posing as a model in a nude gallery where she encounters a woman whose life will intertwine with her own. 'An utterly unflinching debut novel about becoming adrift: a rare and profound book about loneliness, self-expression and disillusionment, featuring sex, love, drugs – and cleaning' Ian Sansom

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Being With Cows Dave Mountjoy, 2024-05-23 'An unexpected sanctuary from grief... a tonic for the soul' Mary Costello An intensely transformational story of how grief became gratitude in the presence of a humble herd of cows. *Being With Cows* details the incredibly moving story behind the tragic death of one man's brother and how his personal quest for inner healing came to him unexpectedly on his organic farm in the French Pyrenees. A remarkably powerful yet heart-warming story, *Being With Cows* pays homage to Life's unending compassion and insistence that in the very centre of all things, lies pure and untainted simplicity. Through a deeply tangible sense of gratitude, it tells of how tragedy can be overcome through the healing power of nature. The book contains 12 original illustrations of cows by Sean Briggs©.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: I Died at Fallow Hall Bonnie Burke-Patel, 2024-08-29 'Beautifully written, told with empathy and a razor-sharp wit. I couldn't put it down'. Seth Insua, author of *Human, Animal* 'An effortless modern twist on the country house mystery genre'. Maxim Jakubowski Anna Deerin moves to a remote Cotswold cottage to become a gardener, trying to strip away everything she's spent all her life as a woman striving for, craving the anonymity and privacy her new off-grid life provides. But when she clears the last vegetable bed and digs up not twigs but bones, the outside world is readmitted. With it comes Detective Inspector Hitesh Mistry, who has his own reasons for a new start in the village of Upper Magna. Drawn in spite of herself to this unknown woman from another time, Anna is determined to uncover her identity and gain recognition for her, if not justice. As threats to Anna and her new life grow closer, she and DI Mistry will find that this murder is inextricably bound up with issues of gender, family, community, race and British identity itself – all as relevant in decades past as they are to Anna today.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Match Me If You Can Swati Hegde, 2025-02-27 Jane Austen's *Emma* meets bustling Mumbai society in Swati Hegde's debut friends to lovers romcom. Confident fashionista Jia Deshpande spends her days writing cliché-ridden listicles for *Mimosa*, Mumbai's top women's magazine. When she can, Jia dishes about the messy truth of real love on her anonymous blog, attends her family's weekly game nights, and ignores her true feelings for her childhood friend. If that wasn't enough, Jia needs to successfully set up a coworker with her perfect match to get the green light for her new column. Thankfully, organising meet-cutes has never been difficult for her. Local pub owner Jaiman Patil can't help but be enamoured with Jia and her meddling spirit. He's always been an honorary part of her family, even more so since his own moved to America. Life with the Deshpandes is chaotic and loud, but it's also more loving than anything he experienced growing up, and he wouldn't risk losing that for the world. It feels manageable – until his pub begins to struggle and his feelings for Jia grow deeper. When Jia's attempts at office matchmaking go haywire, risking new friendships and her relationship with Jaiman, she must reevaluate her own thoughts on love. For the first time, Jia realises that love may be a lot more complicated than she thought. Luckily, happily-ever-afters are never in short supply in Mumbai.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Beyond Happy Mark Fabian, 2025-04-10 'A brilliant read... a gamechanger' Paul Ross, *Talk Sport* 'Essential reading...Written with clarity, vivacity and depth' Manda Scott A comprehensive guide to cultivating wellbeing, combining cutting edge science and primordial folk wisdom. *Beyond Happy* explores how evolution has wired us to keep happiness just out of reach, leaving us perpetually stuck on a happiness treadmill. Instead of striving to escape it, the book argues, we should focus on making the treadmill a place we want to be. Finding this wellbeing begins with listening to our emotions, discovering intrinsic motivation and pursuing our authentic values. Fabian coaches you through this process of self-actualisation. Wellbeing, however, is not solely an individual pursuit – it is something we cultivate together. Most profoundly, *Beyond Happy* shows the way out of nihilism – the pervasive sense that life on the treadmill is purposeless

and incoherent. To escape this despair, we must develop a moral compass. To heal the toxicity of our acrimonious politics, we need to rediscover the joy of sharing and celebrating what we love. Delivered with an entertaining mix of academic precision, a podcaster's knack for storytelling, and the down-to-earth panache Australians are known for, *Beyond Happy* is a one-stop shop to everything you need to know about the good life.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *The Madstone* Elizabeth Crook, 2024-09-26 Texas hill country, 1868. As nineteen-year-old Benjamin Shreve tends to business in his workshop, he sees a stagecoach leave a passenger stranded. The man, a treasure hunter, persuades Benjamin to help track down the coach, drawing him into a drama he could never have imagined. On reaching the coach they discover that its passengers include Nell, a pregnant young woman, and her four-year-old son, Tot, who are fleeing Nell's brutal husband and his murderous brothers. Nell is in grave danger. If her husband catches her, he will kill her and take their son. Benjamin offers to deliver Nell and Tot to a distant port on the Gulf of Mexico, where they can board a ship to safety. He is joined in this chivalrous act by two companions: the treasure hunter whose stranding began this endeavour and a restless Black Seminole who has an escape plan of his own. Fraught with jeopardy from the outset, the trek across Texas becomes still more dangerous as buried secrets emerge. And even as Benjamin falls in love with Nell and begins to imagine a life as Tot's father, vengeful pursuers are never far behind.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *The In-Between Bookstore* Edward Underhill, 2025-05-22 'Underhill's tender, innovative debut is the smartest take on this trope I've ever read' Jodi Picoult, #1 Sunday Times bestselling author 'Underhill skilfully employs a clever set-up and a queer lens to explore the deep changes we all experience in growing up' Steven Rowley, New York Times bestselling author of *The Guncle* A whimsical and healing novel about a trans man in New York who - almost 30, laid off, broke - moves back to his small Illinois hometown, walks into the bookstore he worked at in high school... and slips through time to come face to face with his pre-transition, teenage self. If you had one chance to talk to your younger self... would you? What would you say? When Darby left Oak Falls for university in New York City, all he wanted was to get as far away as possible, find a community where he could start afresh -- and finally forget about his childhood best friend Michael, and just how painfully their friendship ended. Now, about to turn 30, Darby suddenly finds himself unemployed. With no better alternative, and questioning where he really belongs, he moves back to his hometown. But the changes in Oak Falls make him feel off balance. And Michael's still there, their relationship still distant and strained. One thing is familiar: *In Between Books*, Darby's refuge growing up and high school job. When he walks inside, Darby feels an eerie sense of déjà vu - everything is exactly the same. Even the newspapers are dated 2009. And behind the till is a teen who looks a lot like Darby did at sixteen... a teen who just might give him the opportunity to change his own present for the better - if he can figure out how before his connection to the past vanishes forever.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: *That's Just Perfect* Nicola Gill, 2024-09-12 'A gorgeous and funny story about family and acceptance' Nina Pottell (Prima) 'Laugh out loud funny yet poignant at heart' Frances Quinn, author of *That Bonesetter Woman* 'A real treat of a book' Eleni Kyriacou, author of *The Unspeakable Acts of Zina Pavlou* 'Another gem from Nicola Gill' Jessica Ryn, author of *The Imperfect Art of Caring* Twenty-nine-year-old teacher Emily needs her father to believe her life is a success. He may have walked out on the family when she was a child and let her down when she needed him most, but her life is perfect despite him. Or it was until last Friday, when her fiancé dumped her. Now she's facing a frighteningly empty future, and she's unravelling at work. And just when she thought things couldn't get worse, her father turns up on her doorstep. Ed knows he's got it wrong, and he wants to make amends, even if his motives aren't entirely selfless. What better way to do that than to show Emily how much he cares about her wedding? He'll even shell out for the dress if that's what it takes. Emily can't bear to tell her father that her life has fallen apart. So she doesn't. Before she knows it, they're planning - and booking - a wedding that's totally perfect. Except for one small fact...

swimming for beginners nicola gill: A Silent Tsunami Anthea Rowan, 2024-09-12 A Silent Tsunami is a unique combination of memoir and medicine – Rowan forensically examines the development of her mother's illness and explores dementia in a frank but illuminating, lyrical and moving way. Anthea Rowan writes about her mother's struggles of living with Dementia, while interpreting the science that surrounds this devastating illness. Grounded in personal observation, she casts an unflinching eye on the realities of living with a mother who has forgotten her daughter and a determination that her children will not face the same. There is hope here, too. As a portrayal of the relationships we share with our mothers, an examination of their influences on us, as well as asking questions about how illness impacts lives, A Silent Tsunami is a powerful story of family, life, love and loss.

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Park Avenue Renée Ahdieh, 2025-07-17 'I can't remember the last time I had so much fun reading a book!' Nicola Yoon, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Everything, Everything* 'It's giving Succession meets Crazy Rich Asians vibes, and I'm absolutely obsessed with it!' The Bookish Newsletter 'Succession meets K-drama.' Red Magazine As the daughter of Korean bodega owners, Jia Song promised herself that she would have every luxury when she grew up. Now she's made junior partner at her prestigious law firm, and it's all finally within reach. So when her boss asks her to sit in on the hush-hush family implosion of a client, she accepts without hesitation – only to find out that it is one of the most famous Korean families in the world. The Parks and their mega successful Korean beauty brand are worth a billion dollars. But the father is filing for divorce while his wife is dying, and the children can't stop fighting. With both the family fortune and their legacy under threat from the worst kind of scandal, it's up to Jia to set things right – and she only has a month to do it. As Jia chases the truth across the globe, she finds herself falling for this broken family, though it's clear they're hiding dark secrets. Can she find the truth in time to protect their fortune and secure her success at the firm? And can she hold on to what's most important, even if it means admitting that what she's always wanted isn't what she actually needs?

swimming for beginners nicola gill: Next of Kin Hannah Bonam-Young, 2024-02-15 FROM THE VIRAL TIK TOK AUTHOR OF OUT ON A LIMB AND NEXT TO YOU! Two bickering strangers trying to foster their younger siblings team up to create a stable home, but the undeniable chemistry between them threatens to ruin everything. Funny and huge-hearted and romantic and real.— New York Times bestselling author Talia Hibbert When she discovers her biological mother has had a new baby, Chloe doesn't hesitate to provide a home for her. Failing to meet social services' financial evaluation, she's forced into a new initiative: joining households with another prospective guardian. Surly garage mechanic Warren, who is trying to gain custody of his deaf teenage brother, does not make a great first impression. But as their lives intertwine, Chloe and Warren discover they have more in common than they thought. So much so that the chemistry between them threatens everything they've fought for...

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millions of euros? How do the layout of casinos keep you gambling? We are not nearly as rational as we'd like to think – every day we overestimate our ability to resist temptation. Effective advertising experts use this to nudge us, making the most of our natural behaviour to get the results they want. In order to process the millions of decisions we make each day, our brains take shortcuts. We are fooled by drugs that don't contain active ingredients, traffic light buttons that aren't connected, and the obsolete 'save' feature in MS Word – these are all examples of placebos that can be surprisingly reassuring. There are countless things that affect our behaviour: reward and punishment, beauty and attraction, and the human tendency to follow the crowd. THE HOUSE FLY EFFECT reveals how to recognize some of the things that affect our behaviour everyday and how we can use this knowledge to our advantage. It offers an accessible, fun and practical introduction to behavioural science and features insightful examples from the laboratory, advertising, and marketing - as well as from daily life. Sometimes the smallest things can have a surprisingly large effect on your behaviour. 'Tim & Eva have written a brilliant book. They explain to the reader the practical implications of behavioural science with light-hearted charm that will resonate with a broad range of readers'. Richard Shotton, author of the bestseller The Choice Factory

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