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A Hundred Summers



Synopsis

As the 1938 hurricane approaches Rhode Island, another storm brews in this New York Times bestseller from the author of *The Secret Life of Violet Grant* and *Along the Infinite Sea*. Lily Dane has returned to Seaview, Rhode Island, where her family has summered for generations. It's an escape not only from New York's social scene but from a heartbreak that still haunts her. Here, among the seaside community that has embraced her since childhood, she finds comfort in the familiar rituals of summer. But this summer is different. Budgie and Nick Greenwald, Lily's former best friend and former fiancé, have arrived, too, and Seaview's elite are abuzz. Under Budgie's glamorous influence, Lily is seduced into a complicated web of renewed friendship and dangerous longing. As a cataclysmic hurricane churns north through the Atlantic, and uneasy secrets slowly reveal themselves, Lily and Nick must confront an emotional storm that will change their worlds forever...READERS GUIDE INCLUDED

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Customer Reviews

This book caught my interest right from the start and held it until the end. There were several twists and the ending was a surprise. I gave it three stars instead of four because there were so many references to people smoking, During every conversation someone was lighting up or crushing a cigarette and it didn't seem to have any connection to the plot. When the main character was stressed she wanted to smoke a whole pack. After a while it was just annoying. I was puzzled why the writer would choose to make copious references to smoking except during that time period many people were smokers, but it was really over the top.

It's always annoying when the main character can't figure out a plot twist - revealed with shock at the end of the book! - that the reader can easily discern less than a quarter of the way through. You have to wonder at the protagonist's intelligence. The constant flashbacks to round out endless details of a relationship breakup were increasingly irritating as the book progressed; they halted any momentum in the story while the end result is already known to the reader. A final plot twist involves risking the main characters' lives in a hurricane in order to rescue the lying manipulating character who has caused seven years worth of suffering. Uh-huh, yeah, that seems likely.

There is not much more to saythan this is a great story, well written, a perfect summer read....and a perfect novel to read that is set in the early 1930's on the east coast of NYC. Morals, love and a pending time of war make this an interesting time period novel. Enjoyed every page

This was yet another fantastic book from Beatriz Williams! I literally inhaled this book. I only have one book of her's left to read and I'll have read everything she's got. The way she writes just pulls you into the story. Before you know it, you've been reading for 2 hours and never noticed the time passing. I love the time period of this book. The 1930's, very nice....This story wrenched at my heart and I was so distraught for the characters, wanting everything to come out ok. There is a happy ending, not quite what I expected but happy nevertheless. If you enjoy historical fiction and dual time line stories, I highly recommend this!

A HUNDRED SUMMERS tells the story of two friends, Budgie and Lily. They have grown up spending their summers together on Seaview, a oceanfront community in Rhode Island. The book begins in 1931 while the two are in college and meet two dashing football players, Nick and Graham. What happens between the four of them that year and the years ahead is what is the premise of the story. There are secrets, betrayals, and long-held beliefs that will change Lily and

Budgie's friendship forever. The book begins with Budgie and Lily attending a football game. Budgie is there to see Graham Pendleton and is hoping to introduce sweet, quiet Lily to the quarterback, Nick Greenwald, who just happens to be Jewish. Lily is smitten and their weekend together has them both head over heels in love. Then we suddenly jump to 1938, with Lily, her 6 year old sister, Kiki, their mother, and Aunt Julie settling into their beach house for the summer. At a gathering, Lily finds out that Budgie and her husband, Nick Greenwald are coming for the summer to restore her family beach home. So, at this point, the reader is obviously shocked because you are wondering how did Nick and Budgie end up marrying each other when Nick and Lily were so in love. You also find out that Lily and Budgie haven't spoken in the last 7 years. As Budgie works her way back into Lily's life, she also brings back an old friend, Graham Pendleton, to stir up their summer. As each chapter tells the story, you flip back and forth between 1931 and 1938. The author is wise in her telling, revealing just enough from each timeline to keep you guessing and turning the pages. You will have suspicions, predictions, and absolute angry moments as the story is revealed to you. Lily is well loved by all and you find out she has been alone all these years with a deep pain in her heart, blaming herself for the past. As you read, the truth of the past is revealed to you right along with Lily and you feel her anger, shock, pain and heartache. As if there wasn't enough drama in the book, the final chapters end with a hurricane that slams into Seaview, similar to the New England hurricane that hit in 1938. The author took great care in the details of these events and shared similar (yet fictional) accounts of the true details of the hurricane and it's devastating aftermath. This is a book easily read in a weekend. The chapters flow quickly and once the story begins you won't want to put it down. Even though this is a perfect "beach read" since the setting is in an ocean community, it would also be the perfect read to warm you up as the winter storms are raging outside. I bought this book as a birthday gift for my cousin and also purchased it for myself so we could read it together. This would make for a great gift book for birthdays or holidays for someone you know who loves to read. A HUNDRED SUMMERS would also make for a great book club selection as there are many topics to discuss. Budgie's actions in the book will cause many frustrating moments as you read and will give you plenty to talk about. The time frame, location, and decisions made by each of the characters could be questioned and talked over for hours. Don't let the idea of this book being a "beach read" fool you. This book is full of rich detail, characters full of personality, and consuming drama and suspense. Lily is a character you will want to root for and even though not everything works out as it should, you hope everything works out for Lily in the end. You will just have to read it to find out!

Another fantastic book by Beatriz Williams-----keeps you on your toes, wanting to read, read, read---and not put this book down!! Very interesting and different, the plot is. Set in Rhode island and New York City. Beatriz Williams is one of my top 5 favorite authors---I cannot wait to start reading a book by this talented writer. I loved this book, well-developed characters, an usual plot, and descriptive settings. I am from New England; I grew up on Cape Cod and spent some of my college summers in Rhode island, also, so was drawn in when I saw one setting of this story is Rhode island.

I hesitate calling this a "beach read" because anyone would enjoy it at anytime! Although, it did make a wonderful companion while I was on the beach - sooo engaging, I had to force myself to take breaks. It is primarily a story about the relationships shared between Lily, Budgie and Nick between 1931 and 1938 in the midst of prejudices, betrayals, and secrets. A love story that takes a while to unfold, and keeps you guessing along the way.

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