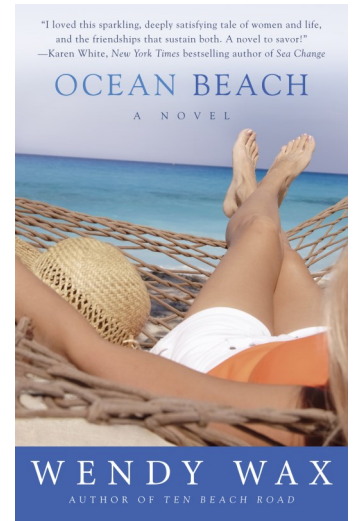


Wendy Wax's *Ocean Beach*

Discussion Questions

- During Madeline and Steve's twenty- six- year wedding anniversary celebration, Madeline recalls how the past year and a half had been difficult and that "it had reframed an entire lifetime of memories." Do you think that difficult moments in life can completely change how you remember the past? Are the difficulties something you work to forget or are they something that affects your future as well?
- What do you think about Max and Millie's relationship? How did the emotional prologue set the tone of the novel?
- When Avery, Nicole, Kyra, and Deirdre arrive at Bella Flora to tape *Do Over*, they find themselves as part of a reality show instead of a show about a renovation. What are your opinions about reality shows? Do you think they have value in our society? Should those featured have the right to have "off- limits" areas?
- Do you think Nicole made the right decision when she turned her brother in to Special Agent Joe Giraldi? Could you have done that? Do you think it was a conflict of interest that Joe romantically pursued Nicole after her brother went to jail?
- How did you feel when Daniel Deranian was introduced? Do you feel like his feelings were genuine regarding Dustin and Kyra? Do you sympathize with Tonja at all?
- Why did Deirdre ask Madeline to teach her how to be a real mother? Can someone be taught how to be a parent? How can one better prepare to become a parent?
- Is there a correlation between renovating The Millicent and the characters' personal lives? What role does Max's character play in regard to their development?
- Describe the changes in Avery and Deirdre's relationship throughout the novel. Was the shooting the turning point or were there signs of change before that incident?
- Prior to reading this novel, what did you know about cold case investigations? How long would you continue to search for someone you loved?
- How did Aaron's disappearance shape Max and Millie's lives? How would their lives have been different if he had never disappeared?
- Were you surprised when Steve said he wasn't going to see his family after the shooting? What do you think his actual motivations were for not doing this? Was it because he never wanted Madeline to do the show to begin with?
- When Aaron's true identity was revealed, what was your reaction?
- Imagine the lives of the characters after the novel. How do they unfold? Do Madeline and Steve stay married? Will Daniel come back into Kyra's life? Do Avery and Deirdre continue to stay close? What happens with Nicole's business?



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