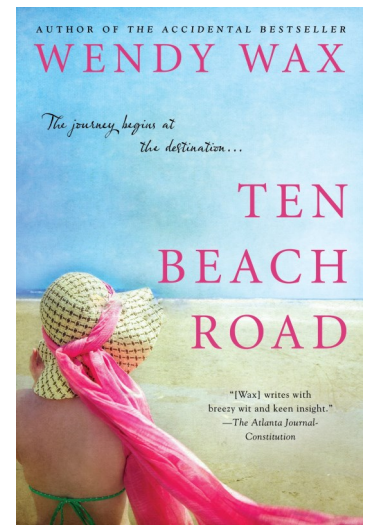


Wendy Wax's *Ten Beach Road*

Discussion Questions

- At the very start of the novel, Madeline's world is crashing down around her—an empty nest, the shocking news of her mother-in-law's accident and move, Steve's unemployment, and her daughter's pregnancy. How does this set the stage for the rest of what Madeline undergoes in the book? Do these challenges force her to become more adaptive, stronger? Do you think she did the right thing by leaving her husband and Edna behind during a complicated and emotionally volatile situation?
- Could you relate to Madeline's frustration at the slow economy—or Steve's reluctance to act and crushing depression? What would you have done in Maddie's position? How does Maddie resist the temptation to let everything fall to pieces?
- How does Malcolm Dyer's Ponzi scheme frame the events of the book? How does this crisis tie the characters together?
- Which woman's struggles—Madeline's, Avery's, or Nicole's—did you identify with the most? What does Bella Flora mean to each of them, and how does this change over the course of the novel?
- Do you think Nicole had an ethical obligation to share her information on Malcolm with the authorities? Even after he destroyed her livelihood and wiped out her life savings, why does she hesitate? What changes in Nicole's heart about helping bring her brother to justice? What influences her decision, or trumps her protective sibling nature?
- How would you describe Avery and Deirdre's relationship? How is it similar to that of Kyra and Maddie's? How do these mother-daughter relationships evolve over the course of their stay at Bella Flora? What are the catalyst events?
- Each woman finds herself at a breakthrough point as the renovation comes to a close, where she finds she is able to speak her deepest feelings and act more boldly. What are these moments for each, and what are the ramifications?
- Were you shocked by Deirdre's ulterior motives and her role as the publicity leak? Did you hope that she would have a change of heart and work to reconcile with her daughter?
- Do you think the women were right to be outraged and to exile Nicole after learning the truth about her relationship to Malcolm and her lack of disclosure? How would you have reacted? When do you think an appropriate time would have been to share this information—and how do you think it would have affected the bond the women felt?
- Were you surprised by Daniel Deranian's sudden appearance? Do you think Kyra made the right choice? What led to her decision? How does Maddie's attitude influence this?
- What motivated Steve's appearance at Bella Flora, his reformed behavior, and pledge to wellness? Could you have forgiven such bad behavior in a time of family crisis?
- How do you think the second set of renovations will go at Bella Flora? How will the lessons learned over the summer set the team up?



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