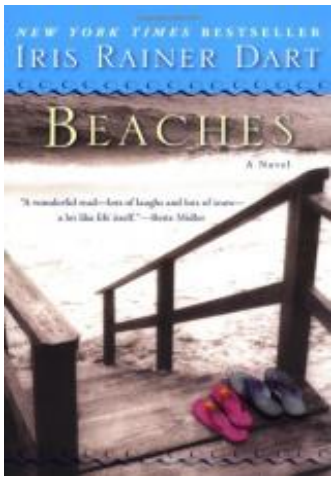
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# Beaches: A Novel

by Iris R. Dart




## About the Book

Loudmouthed, redheaded Cee Cee Bloom has her sights set on Hollywood. Bertie White, quiet and conservative, dreams of getting married and having children. In 1951, their childhood worlds collide in Atlantic City. Keeping in touch as pen pals, they reunite over the years ... always near the ocean.

Powerful and moving, this novel follows Cee Cee and Bertie's extraordinary friendship over the course of thirty years as they transform from adolescents into adults. A bestselling novel that became a hugely successful film, **Beaches** is funny, heartbreaking, and a tale that should be a part of every woman's library.

## Discussion Guide

1. **Beaches** opens with Cee Cee Bloom in the middle of a rehearsal in Los Angeles in 1983, and then it shifts back in time to Bertie White lost in Atlantic City in 1951. How did the shifts in time and from one character to another enhance your reading of this novel? Did any flashbacks in particular give you insight into the nature of Cee Cee and Bertie's friendship?

2. Is Bertie and Cee Cee's friendship a classic case of "opposites attract?" What does each have to offer to the other?

3. How would you describe Cee Cee's home life? What role does Leona play in her development as a celebrity? How does it compare to Bertie's upbringing?

4. Throughout **Beaches**, a great deal of the friendship between Bertie and Cee Cee is conveyed through the letters they exchange. How important are these letters to their friendship? What role do they play in the course of the novel?

5. When Cee Cee and Bertie wind up in Beach Haven working for the same theatrical troupe, how does each explore her

developing sexuality? Were you surprised by the jealousy the friends experienced during this period?

**6.** How do John Perry and Michael Barron impact the women's friendship? Discuss the developments that took place when both couples travelled to Hawaii together.

**7.** Were you surprised by the sacrifices each friend was willing to make for the other?

**8.**What role does Rosie White's illness play in bringing Cee Cee and Bertie back together? What does Cee Cee's behavior at Rosie's bedside suggest about her character?

**9.** Were you surprised by Bertie's decision to keep Michael's baby? What did you think of Cee Cee's role in Bertie's pregnancy?

**10.** What message about friendship did you take away from the conclusion of **Beaches**?

## Author Bio

Iris Rainer Dart is the author of eight novels, including the much-beloved *New York Times* bestseller **Beaches**. The mother of two children, she lives in California with her husband.

## Critical Praise

"Dart created a character who is hard to resist."

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