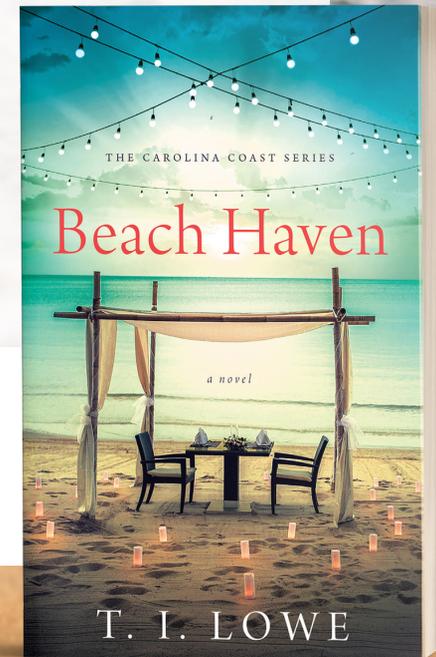


Beach Haven

Book Club Kit

"This is a superb inspirational romance."

- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review



A Note from the Author

I have a collection of accessories, as most of you probably do. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, scarves . . . I love the collection and the options I have to complement various outfits. But I have a few pieces that complement anything, and I rarely take them off: my wedding ring and a pair of small diamond stud earrings. Both are expressions of my husband's love for me.

I view relationships in a similar light. Friends should complement your life and never take away from it. I worry that so many women don't understand this nowadays and have dressed their lives with toxic relationships. For this reason, I created the Sand Queens and the Knitting Club for the Carolina Coast series.

The Knitting Club is the older group of ladies. I had such a blast writing these zany characters, but they have a serious purpose. From six to twelve members, depending on what day of the week it is and who is available to attend their gatherings, I view this group as your wider accessory collection. Not every piece will pair well with every "outfit"—every moment in life—but when they do, watch out! Perfection! I have a similar group of friends who are always there at the right moment, no matter how much time passes between visits. We have busy lives that lead us in different directions, but when we do meet up, it's always a gift.

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Then there are the Sand Queens. This tight-knit group is there through thick and thin, complementing any and every moment you find yourself in. They are my wedding band and diamond earrings, always present and highly valuable in love and loyalty. This friendship consists of only a few women who are closer than sisters. In this series, you will see how Opal, Josie, and Sophia each bring a unique quality to their friendship that complements the others.

Opal brings liveliness and provides you with courage to step out of your comfort zone. She's the one pushing you to take a chance and there to cheer you on all the way.

Josie is the shy yet tenderhearted one. Ready to hold your hand and cry with you. She is a quiet force behind the scenes.

Sophia is the voice of reason. She will talk you off the ledge and then give you a much-needed straightening out after it's all said and done. She is fiercely loyal and ready to go to bat for you.

I'm blessed with a Knitting Club and a Sand Queens group of friends, both important in their own way. I encourage you to identify your groups, seeking healthy relationships to complement your life.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know the groups in *Beach Haven*. I can't wait to share more of them with you in the next books!

T.I. Lowe



Discussion Questions

1. *Beach Haven* is not only the book's title but also the name of Opal's beach house. What haven do Lincoln and Opal find during the course of the story?
2. Hurricane Lacy wreaks havoc on the town of Sunset Cove. What role does the storm and the rebuilding in the aftermath play in the plot?
3. Opal uses her quirkiness and eccentricity as a shield from what? In what ways can you relate to this?
4. The Carolina Coast series is centered around the loyal friendships among the Sand Queens and, to a lesser extent, the Knitting Club. Compare and contrast these two groups. Do you have a close group of friends such as this?

5. The author enjoys infusing comic relief into her stories. Does any particular scene from this book come to mind?
6. Brokenness is a common theme throughout *Beach Haven*: Lincoln's injury, which left him unable to fulfill his duties as a soldier; Opal's occupation of repairing and repurposing damaged furniture; the destruction and rebuilding of Opal's store. How do these fit together to form a new purpose for Lincoln's and Opal's lives?
7. Opal openly presents Lincoln with seashells and prayers ("wishes") on his behalf. In contrast, she presents her faith to him in more subtle ways. How can using subtlety sometimes have a bigger impact on someone than being more obvious?

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Beach Haven Playlist

“Bless the Broken Road” by Rascal Flatts
“Leave the Night On” by Sam Hunt
“Sway” by Danielle Bradbery
“The Long Way” by Brett Eldredge
“Hard Love” by NEEDTOBREATHE
“In Case You Didn’t Know” by Brett Young
“Prodigal” by Sidewalk Prophets
“Country Boys Can Survive” by Hank Williams Jr.
“Boy” by Lee Brice
“Simple Man” by Lynyrd Skynyrd
“Stars” by Skillet
“Small Town Boy” by Dustin Lynch

"As the night moved slowly along with the lazy drawl of country music filling the quiet, Opal eased off the road and parked on the edge of a field that seemed to hold the entire moon and stars in its grasp. "

— *Beach Haven*

Recipe

Note to readers: Inspired to make some southern favorites after reading *Beach Haven*? Turn the page for a crab cake recipe that just might hit the spot. Be sure to exercise caution when making the recipe! Remember you're trying it out for the first time and consuming the ingredients at your own risk. Happy cooking!

Recipe: Not Opal's Crab Biscuits

Ingredients:

2 cups Bisquick
¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter
⅔ cup milk
¼ cup shredded cheese
16 ounces lump crabmeat

Topping:

¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter, melted
½ teaspoon garlic salt
¼ teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
½ teaspoon parsley

Preheat oven to 450°. Combine Bisquick and butter, using a knife or pastry cutter. Mix in milk and cheese, then fold in crabmeat. Drop by heaping spoonfuls onto a baking sheet. Bake 10–12 minutes until golden brown. Meanwhile, mix topping ingredients. Spoon mixture over freshly baked biscuits and enjoy!

Makes 12.

These babies are pretty tasty on their own, but they are even better when served with a rémoulade made by combining the following ingredients:

½ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
¼ cup spicy relish or a relish of your choice
1 teaspoon garlic puree
2 tablespoons chopped chives
Salt and pepper to taste

My recipe notes:

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