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A Hundred Summers



Synopsis

As the 1938 hurricane approaches Rhode Island, another storm brews in this novel from the author of *The Secret Life of Violet Grant*. Blends history, romance, and social commentary into...much more than a summer guilty pleasure • (Connecticut Post) Memorial Day, 1938 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 | A PEOPLE STYLEWATCH MUST-READ Includes a Reader's Guide From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Ever since I heard about the New England hurricane of 1938 I have been fascinated by it -- those of

us who live along the East Coast today are thankful that the National Weather Service, the Hurricane Center, and the Weather Channel can keep us updated almost to the minute as to when a hurricane will strike. In 1938, folks were not so lucky. And into the literal hurricane comes Hurricane Budgie back into the life of our heroine Lily Dane, bringing with her Lily's former love, Nick Greenwald, now Budgie's husband. The book alternates between 1931/2, when Budgie and Lily are great college friends, and Lily is in love with Nick, and 1938, when the September hurricane resolves many issues. There are secrets to be solved, and one of the biggest is why Nick left Lily, and how he ended up married to Budgie years later. We also need to resolve the issue of who is the mother of Kiki, five years old in May of 1938 -- is she Lily's sister or her daughter? Kiki is actually one of the weakest parts of this novel, as proof that the author, Beatriz Williams, cannot write realistic dialog for children. If you were not told that Kiki is not quite six years old in 1938, you would probably think she was an older teenager. At one point, Kiki says, speaking of herself: "Let the child have her fun," which is rather improbable dialog for a child not even in 1st grade. And it only gets worse later in the same chapter, when Kiki sees a man who is a stranger to her: "Well, hello. I haven't seen you around before." Anyone who is a parent or grandparent can recognize that most five year old children do not talk this way. And there is not really much to my mind that is terribly remarkable about Kiki that would make her sound that mature.

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