



SEPTEMBER GIRLS

by BENNETT MADISON

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Sam finds himself in a beach town for the summer, it doesn't take long for him to realize this place has secrets beneath its surface. Everywhere he looks there are beautiful blond girls. Girls who seem inexplicably drawn to him.

Then Sam meets DeeDee, one of the Girls. Just as he starts to fall for her, she pulls away—and if he's going to get her back, he'll have to uncover the Girls' secret.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did the mermaids of *September Girls* differ from others you've seen? Why do you think the author presented them this way?
2. The Girls refer to beauty as their "knife" (p. 84). Why do the Girls look the way they do? Does their definition of beauty apply to all types of beauty?
3. Why do you think Sam's mother returns? Does Sam's relationship with her shed any light on the Girls' relationship with their absent mother, the Deepness—or vice versa?
4. Why does Kristle decide to go back to the ocean instead of trying to break the curse with Sam? How did you interpret what happens to her when she does?
5. After Kristle leaves, Sam thinks, "The one thing I knew was that I loved Kristle. It was unexpected. . . . But there are a lot of different kinds of love, right?" (p. 303). How would you characterize the kind of love Sam feels for Kristle?
6. DeeDee says of the girls, "We choose our own names. They're not our names. They're just a pose," and that she chose DeeDee because it "just sounded pretty" (p. 321). Do you think there is any significance to DeeDee's name? What about the other Girls?
7. Only the last two italicized chapters are told from a specific first-person point of view (Kristle's and DeeDee's, respectively). Who do you think is speaking in the others? Why did that change?
8. Why can Sam no longer swim by the end of the book?
9. Sam's father admits that this beach is where he, too, "forgot how to swim" one summer (p. 336). Why do you think he wanted to bring Sam there?
10. After breaking the curse, DeeDee explains, "It took me a while to figure out that this was the reason I was following you. I thought you could lead me to myself" (p. 340). Do you think getting to know Sam helped DeeDee discover her own identity? How did knowing DeeDee change Sam?

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