

## THE BEACH HOUSE: COMING HOME

William Morrow

By Georgia Bockoven  
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### Introduction

Fourteen years ago, Melinda Campbell was fifteen and a half, pregnant and terrified. Desperate to protect her baby from a malicious grandfather and needed at home to take care of her own critically ill father, Melinda makes the most generous, heart-wrenching choice of all: adoption. Now she's living the successful life her father struggled to give her, but missing her daughter with a longing that shadows every joy.

Jeremy Richmond knows the beach house the way a painter knows his canvas, intimately and focused on detail. His life revolves around his adopted daughter, Shiloh, the girl who's owned his heart from the moment he first held her as an infant. They were a picture-perfect family until Shiloh was diagnosed with pediatric lupus and Jeremy's wife walked away.

When Shiloh tells her father she's tired of fighting her illness and wants to meet her biological mother before it's too late, Jeremy agrees to find a woman he has no desire to meet.

From the moment Melinda and Jeremy come face-to-face, they realize their worlds will never be the same. Will the beach house that has harbored troubled hearts for decades prove to be the balm they need to heal...?

### Questions for Discussion

1. In *The Beach House: Coming Home*, Georgia Bockoven has once again flung open the door to this lovely home by the ocean—a place where the characters often feel they have 'come home.' Describe a place or house in your life where you feel truly at peace. Do you think home is always a place, or can it something else as well?
2. Melinda Campbell wasn't even 16 when she gave her daughter up for adoption. Do you think she made the right decision? Why or why not?
3. How do you think Melinda's teenage romance would have turned out if Daniel hadn't died?

4. Why do you think Jeremy has such a difficult time accepting that Melinda isn't self-centered and callous for giving Shiloh up for adoption? Do you find Jeremy sympathetic at first? Why or why not?
  5. Do you feel a teenager like Shiloh has the right or maturity to make the decision she's made about wanting to meet her birth mother?
  6. Tess walked away from her husband and her marriage, and she said it was because she couldn't deal with a chronically ill child. Are there people in this world who can't handle it when the going gets tough? We never see Tess's perspective, but is it possible Shiloh was truly better off without her? Do you think it would have been better or worse for Shiloh if Tess had stayed? Why?
  7. Now, Tess is trying to return to her daughter's life. Jeremy is convinced that her motivation is money, but does she have a right to see her daughter no matter what? If you were Jeremy and there was a legal way to prevent Tess from seeing Shiloh would you do it?
  8. Cheryl has been a positive influence in Shiloh's life, even though she's not related to her in any way. Growing up, did you have adults in your life who were a positive force and perhaps gave you support your parents didn't or couldn't?
  9. We learn that Jeremy never knew his own father, that his mother was a free-spirited hippie in her younger days. How do you think that influences his feelings about family and motherhood in particular?
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