



# Sunshine Beach

Wendy Wax

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**Sunshine Beach** Wendy Wax

**In this brand-new summer read by the *USA Today* bestselling author of *The House on Mermaid Point*, three women join forces to bring a historic seaside hotel back to life...**

*There's nothing that a fresh coat of paint and a few glasses of wine can't fix...*

After losing their life savings in a Ponzi scheme, Maddie, Avery, and Nikki have banded together to make the most of what they have left, using their determination, ingenuity, guts, and a large dose of elbow grease. It's Maddie's daughter Kyra who stumbles across a once glorious beachfront hotel that has fallen into disrepair. The opportunity to renovate this seaside jewel is too good to pass up—especially when they come up with the idea of shooting their own independent television show about the restoration. What could possibly go wrong?

Everything. With the cameras rolling, Maddie's second-chance romance with her all-too-famous new boyfriend gets complicated, Avery struggles with grief over the loss of her mother, and Nikki's reluctance to commit to the man who loves her could leave her to face the biggest challenge of her life. Even the hotel seems to be against them, when their renovation uncovers a decades-old unsolved murder which just might bring their lives tumbling down all over again...

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## Sunshine Beach Details

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## **From Reader Review Sunshine Beach for online ebook**

### **Laurel-Rain says**

As our old friends gather once again to plan another renovation, I was all set to curl up and enjoy the adventures in Sunshine Beach. The characters have tentatively landed a renovation of an old mid-century beach hotel.

I loved reviving old friendships with the characters while they planned the new project. They settle in at Bella Flora, the home Kyra, Maddie's daughter, now owns, thanks to her son's father. As usual, Avery is all set with her construction crew; Kyra is ready to film, and eager to do the project independently after the disaster of the Do Over show. A wrinkle in the production had morphed that experience into a reality show.

Nikki has some issues with her boyfriend, FBI agent Joe Giraldi, while her brother Malcolm, the one responsible for all of their financial worries, has reached out to her.

Maddie is still feeling bliss about her new romance with the rock star William Hightower...but insecurities threaten that bliss.

When Maddie's ex, Steve, shows up and seems ready to make himself at home, they all feel the irritation born from his laziness and his inability to effectively help them.

What will happen to threaten the project? How will a mystery from WWII add conflict? How will they rise above the threats of their former bosses? Can they move beyond the challenges and find gratification once again? A very satisfying new chapter in the life of the characters, and enjoyable to this reader. 4.5 stars.

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### **Linda Zagon says**

First of all, I would like to thank First to Read and Penquin for providing an advance copy of this book to read.

Before reading "Sunshine Beach" by Wendy Wax, I thought the novel would be an easy summer read with friendship and some adventure in restoring "a historic seaside hotel back to life"(as indicated in the description.) I didn't realize that there are several books in a series with the same characters. These characters have "history" and previous events that seem to predate the current read. I found it confusing for the first 100 pages, and I finally caught up!! What made the book interesting was a history of a murder and scenic beachlike description. Wendy Wax uses the scenic background, which is a plus. The friendships seemed weak in some cases. There was some touches of romance. In addition there were many details involved in restoring the property. I do not want to give any spoilers away. I will say I was disappointed with the ending. I would give the book a 3.5 rating out of 5. For those readers that have been involved in Wendy Wax's other book/books in this series, I hope that you enjoy this.

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## **Laura Rash says**

As always with any Wendy Wax book, you feel like you're revisiting old friends. I enjoy this series & its characters.

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## **Susan Wyno says**

I've read the first three of the Ten Beach Road series and was eagerly awaiting the next book in this series. It did not disappoint. I was torn between wanting to binge read the entire book, and forcing myself to slow down to make it last longer. I think its best if you read them in order, otherwise you won't know the history these 4 women have built and the other characters that come back into their lives again in this book. My only negative is that now I have to wait for the next book in the series to find out what happens next.

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## **Jencey/ says**

It is time to catch up with the ladies of Ten Beach Road. This series started with book one Ten Beach Road. Four ladies found one another: Avery, Nicki, Maddie, and Kyra in a Ponzi scheme. Their story continues in this next book four Sunshine Beach by Wendy Wax.

Synopsis:

Kyra and Dustin have a home at the Ten Beach Road house. Stephanie is finally starting over since the divorce with Will the rocker. Avery is still grieving over the loss of her mother Deirdre the interior designer. Nicki and FBI agent Joe are progressing in their relationship. What will their next renovation project be? Kyra and Dustin stumble onto this hotel on the beach. This would be their biggest renovation project yet. Maddie's ex-husband Steve appears for a visit with thoughts of reclaiming his wife. Will he be successful? Who will be Deirdre's replacement?

My Thoughts:

I loved this novel! It was great to catch up with the characters that I have gotten to know so well, in the previous book. Readers can pick this up series with this book or start at the beginning with Ten Beach Road. Sunshine Beach can stand alone. There is not much mentioned in it about the renovation of the hotel. In other words because of the story the physical work was not as documented as usual. I loved the twist in the plot with bringing back Steve the ex-husband.

A mystery is also associated with the story. This mystery surrounds the hotel and its past, and the family that owns it. The two sisters that own it are not sure they want to renovate. It adds a nice flavor to the story. One readers will find very interesting.

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## **Kathryn says**

I enjoyed #4 in the series, although this was less about renovation and more about the ongoing relationships that everyone has. And an old unsolved mystery of a murder. I would have liked a little bit more resolution at the end, but that's just me!

Narration of the book was excellent.

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### **Marca says**

Grown women acting like teens. Kinda fun as chick lit, but several of the women were idiots. Editor needs to do a word-count check on "skitter."

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### **Emma Clement says**

I got a free e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I wouldn't have picked up this book otherwise, because it isn't my type of book. Based on the cover and title, I assumed it was a frilly summer romance book, all happy and sunshine. I mean, come on, it's called Sunshine Beach. And in the first few paragraphs, you're introduced to a group of young women, most of which have some form of boyfriend or significant other. I assumed it would be a romancey book without a lot of substance. While there was a lot of drama and love spats and romance and the like, there was also an interesting mystery regarding a cold case murder and Nazi Germany. That surprised me, for sure. My brain had a hard time corroborating this historical fiction mystery with the lighthearted drama from all these women who were all ex-reality-show-stars. It didn't seem to go together for me. But because of the mystery this story had, I kept reading, instead of being bored like I probably would have with a typical summer romance drama. So the mystery is what saved it for me.

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### **Vickie says**

I am thoroughly enjoying this series. Sunshine Beach is #4 in the series and it is a little different from the previous books. While there is a renovation project happening, sort of, this is more about the women's growing personal relationships. I am cheering wildly for Maddie and just want to shake some sense into Nicole, but that's just the 50+ woman and mother in me. This was a good read and I look forward to the next book.

Go Cards! L1C4!!

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### **Stephanie says**

SUNSHINE BEACH No Idyll for the Idle  
<http://fangswandsandfairydust.com/201...>

Audiofile provided by publisher for review. No remuneration was exchanged and all opinions presented herein are my own except as noted.

This is light fiction — perfect for vacations or stay-cations — with several stories running through it and, I suspect, story-line continuations from the first three books. I didn't even realize this was a series at first; it's

pretty complete on its own, but there are a few things I felt were glibly handled — like how one creates a TV show — that were probably addressed in earlier books.

One aspect of the story that doesn't resolve is one woman's on again, off again relationship with a married, movie star. His involvement in her life is kind of permanent because they share a child but his constant wanting a relationship with her seems less than sweet, and she doesn't want to cheat on his wife any more than they have. He keeps pushing and I couldn't tell if the character had given in. Because of a weird living situation her parents are also there and after an initial unpleasant encounter with her father and the guy the parents don't ask or do anything.

Other issues left up in the air also involve whether someone is cheating because he can, and whether a man is really committed to a woman from whom he has been wanting a commitment. There are a couple of other ends left untied.

Except for one man, the characters in this story are, like most people, very busy. The "slacker" situation is a thorn in the side of the busy people. But his eventual good intentions are not helpful. He would have been better off working on his tan, somewhere else. But, he learns the hard way that you cannot go home again.

I loved the story of the old hotel and the mystery there. It's a unique and interesting premise and an exciting mystery.

The recording was okay, but Ms. Rubinate presents a "descendant of a roofer brought [from Italy] by Addison Minzer to help complete the transformation of Palm Beach (p 119 at Amazon "Look Inside") as having an accent (apparently genetic) and let me tell you, it is not an Italian accent.

This male character sounds more like Chekov than Fabio.

Plus, Addison Minzer died in 1933. So this Italian American should have no more accent than I or my mother would. Seriously, the last time I saw the "classic Italian gesture" Wendy Wax ascribes to him was in a TV Ad in the 1970s (Anna Maria Alberghetti selling salad dressing).

Of course the family is also described as a large Italian family that spread across Florida so it's possible she was confused about his nationality, but still it is a terrible accent and a distraction.

There is one scene near the end of the book that is really lovely and is a good description of how ideas in a collaboration can form. In all the story is a nice look at the lives of these women and their families, and how they work together to achieve the improbable. I think books placed on a beach are great vacation reads.

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## **Chris C - A Midlife Wife says**

*Sunshine Beach* is the fourth book in the series. We get to meet up with the ladies as they plan the next steps in the next do over in their home renovation TV show. With hearts and family on the line, we get an intimate look at all of the behind the scenes issues with the renovation as well as an unsolved murder that keeps the intrigue high.

With deep insight into the ladies lives, we are once again entertained by the good friends and co workers as they work on their life issues and business too.

Because this is part of a series, you should definitely read one of the other books first, just to get to know the

characters. This book starts off immediately assuming that you know who they are so you could feel lost. It took me a few pages to remember who is who myself.

Wendy Wax knows how to entertain us with her fun summer beach reads series. Perfect for those lazy days and hot evenings. Beautifully written with imaginative descriptions that transports us to the Florida beaches, you will enjoy this read.

full review - <http://amidlifewife.com/sunshine-beac...> copy rec'd for review purposes

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### **Gretchen says**

Sunshine Beach by Wendy Wax is an entertaining continuation of a beach series revolving around a group of very talented women who restore derelict properties. Sunshine Beach hotel suffered from a major disaster, murder/disappearing suspect, in the mid-twentieth century. Fortunately our gifted group has the expertise and willing to put in the elbow grease to bring the lovely Florida gulf coast property back to life. And, to solve the mystery! I'm a big fan of Ms. Wax characters: Maddie, Kyra, Avery, and Nikki with their attendant companions. I look forward to reading her next novel.

I was lucky to receive Sunshine Beach through goodreads.

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### **Mary says**

If you can't get to the beach this summer you'll feel like you're there when reading Sunshine Beach. Maddie, Avery, Nikki and Kyra are back together looking for a new renovation project. While on a morning walk Kyra comes across a small, partially hidden, falling-down but perfectly situated hotel and just knows it has potential. When the other women agree they assume their roles and get the wheels of renovation turning.

Wendy Wax's novel hit all the marks I've come to appreciate in this series: women's friendship, perseverance when life gets tough, and the ability to get along even when they didn't always agree. There's a mystery to solve along the way and the return appearances of all love interests from the previous novels. I enjoyed it all and recommend it to fans of the series and women's fiction.

This book can stand alone but I recommend reading the series in order because you'll get a deeper understanding of the growth in each character. Also, I'm the type of person who can get sucked into a HGTV marathon so I loved reading about the project at the center of each novel.

\*I received a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Dottie Legatos says**

This was a Goodreads giveaway win, and #4 in a series. Although it was ok to follow all of the characters, it would have helped with the often mentioned back stories to have read this series from the beginning. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed this tale of strong independent women trying to keep their home rehab business/reality TV show afloat after disasters from the past books. I especially enjoy books that take place in beachy locales such as this in St. Pete Beach. I'll definitely have to go back to the beginning of this series to see where it all started.

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## Judy Collins says

Top 50 Books of 2016!

Talented Southern storyteller, *Wendy Wax* returns with my favorite gals and summer series, following the last wild renovation adventure, *The House on Mermaid Point* (2014) with her fourth installment of the Ten Beach Road series: **SUNSHINE BEACH**.

**This time around**, the gals, are on to the next exciting boutique hotel renovation project while stumbling upon a mysterious past.

*A quaint 1952 Gulf Coast historic seaside*, Old Florida family owned hotel with plenty of dark mysterious secrets and an unsolved old murder case.

**From wit, romance, cocktails**, summer fun, and redos— plus plenty of their own personal and professional drama, and action! They all need a *Do Over* to pour themselves into, after being let down at the network. There was no reward without risk, and certainly not without hard work. The gals are ready for the fight!

**From living together** in one house, a business; taking on challenges, of restoring historic Florida seaside properties, a *Do Over* TV Show—while all the while developing bonds of strong friendship, and reinventing themselves even better the second time around. (some romance involved, as well).

**The book opens** with a brief opening, July 1952 at the Sunshine Hotel and Beach Club at Pass-a-Grille, on the Gulf coast of Florida.

A young five-year-old girl, wanting to show off for her parents with her superb swimming skills. The place was almost empty during the summer season and the winter folks had left the small family owned hotel and cottages. She liked to stay under water and surprise everyone. However, she only found her *know-it-all sister watching*.

**Flash forward to the present** - catching up with gals from the Florida Keys with their last project from Mermaid Point in Islamorada, Florida.

**Madeline Singer** (51 yrs old, mother of two, and grandmother of one) former divorced suburban housewife, now officially dating live rock star William Hightower (age 62). They are at *Lorelei Restaurant and Cabana Bar* (one of my favorites when I lived there), and all the women are flocking over the older star, the musician who is making a comeback with his new song, "*Free Fall*".

**The crew formerly**, was to turn Hightower's private island into a high-end bed and breakfast, which ultimately turned into a sober living facility. They were there celebrating his first song he had written in more than a decade without the benefits of drugs or alcohol. He only has eyes for Maddie; however, does not stop women from throwing themselves on him, making her feel some insecurities.

**Maddie and William** are heading up to the famous Bella Flora, (Historic, Pass-A-Grille, the southernmost end of St. Pete Beach), to their first renovation; the house, she Nichole and Avery had nursed back to life which had now become their new home on the West Coast of Florida. They would have to figure out what to

do about the show they had created, lost control of, and then quit publicly—a *wreckage*.

**Kyra** (Maddie's daughter) and grandson, Dustin (2 ½ yrs. old) live in the Bella Flora house after her ex-boyfriend and her son's father, Daniel (movie star) bought the house for them (worth millions). They put their heart and soul into the house and are looking forward to coming together once again.

**Maddie, Nikki, Avery, and Kyra** had become close friends and all the gals still love to hold their nightly happy hour with cheese doodles and cocktails, in between hiding out from the cameras, media, and paparazzi.

**Daniel still comes** to visit in an array of disguises from Hollywood. The cameras are always rolling. Now they have another star, William to link to, plus the media always wants to get a glimpse of Dustin- and get the scoop on what the gals have planned, next. (and catch them at their worst). Not a lot of privacy. . .

**The gals had lost** everything due to Malcolm Dyer's Ponzi scheme and now two years later than had managed to stay afloat with their renovation projects—from filming, seeking sponsors, and a lot of down and dirty hard work for their show *Do Over*.

**They have also lost** one of their team, beloved Deirdre (Avery's mom) a top designer on *Do Over*, and now things will be sad when they all return to Bella Flora. She had been full of life one minute, and dead the next. She and daughter had only just found their way back to one another. *Who could replace her?*

**Malcom, Nichole's (Nikki)** brother put her in a bad place, from earlier books. She is still dating the Joe—the hunky FBI, she met during the investigation, out of Miami. He wants to take their relationship to the next level. However, she is not so sure, since their careers are up in the air, plus she feels like she failed with her brother Malcolm.

**The gals have to decide** where to go from here since they worked too hard to lose it all now. They need money coming in. They want to find a project, get sponsors and start filming. Hopefully, they could pitch to other networks since they have a track record and possibly HGTV would be a good fit.

**Their old network** which handled their renovation show turned it into a mean-spirited reality TV show. They want to produce something of their own if they can make it work. Their relationship with the current network is under review. They need to find a new renovation project close by in order to stay in Bella Flora house, rent free.

**While they are looking** at all their options, they stumble upon an older small family owned hotel, *Sunshine Hotel*, not too far from Don CeSar Hotel (I love). The property was run-down and closed, but no For Sale sign. It would have plenty of history and they are intrigued. After research, they find a man had died there under mysterious circumstances in the early fifties. The main suspect disappeared the same day and was never found.

**They meet with Franklin Realty** and John's wife, Renee (who had helped them with the gardens and restoration at Bella Flora). They laid out their plan, after doing research—and let them know their interest in renovating the Sunshine Hotel. It originally opened in 1942 and was owned by a man named Ezra Handelman. He died there in the early fifties. His wife disappeared the same night. *The police named her as the main suspect.*

**The gals are shocked** to learn the hotel belongs to two sisters. They are not interested in a renovation

project. One sister says tear it down and bulldoze the hotel, and the other wants to keep it alive- hoping they will reopen the case of the unsolved mystery.

**A sore subject** since everyone thought their mother killed their dad. They had not heard of her since, being raised by their grandparents, having inherited the old hotel. It was sitting there, untouched in all these years, sitting on prime real estate. They were only young girls, ages five and eight years old at the time.

**The gals want** this project desperately for their show. Obstacles and tension are mounting, while they use every trick in the book to change the minds of the owners. This would be the perfect project to get them back on track!

**They can see a retro look** with a nice beach casual vibe (less showy than South Beach or Ft. Lauderdale). They have to be careful so as not to exploit the women, the way they were done. It has more than sixty years ago, and the tragedy was still a reminder of their parent's death. They get the police and FBI involved to reopen the case.

They want to bring back the property to its heyday. Quaint and laid back. (You have to love those old 1920-1950's Old Florida style motel/hotels— family owned). With cottages, pool, and a perfect prime location to relive a scene from *Happy Days*. A prime example of mid- twentieth-century architecture which is hot, or a remake of *Psycho* after they fumigated. They are up for the task. *This is not their first rodeo!*

**The family lived here** after the war while Renee's father was helping to run the hotel. The girls were young and lived on the property with their parents. They have never gotten over the tragedy. They had no closure. The sister does not think her mother did it. She thinks an intruder killed their father and abducted their mother, even though there was no evidence. Renee wants it torn down.

While the team continues working on a compromise, trying to attain the *Sunshine Hotel* for their *Do Over project*, they have the job of replacing Deidre. (This part was hilarious, with the interviews and look-a-likes). Love Ray! (hope we see more of him).

**Between all the mystery** around the project and its past, the renovation, Maddie's ex-husband Steve shows up, since he lost his money in the same scheme, and does not like his ex-wife dating a rock star. He is being a freeloader and not pulling his weight. Maddie and William are trying to see each when they can. Daniel is trying to wear down Kyra (filmmaker), Nichole is having issues with Joe since he wants a family and marriage. Avery is still dating Chase, who shares her love of historically interesting structures, he and his father and sons are dropping in and she is missing her mom, especially when they see the last show.

Plus, there is still money missing and unaccounted for-- and her brother is in prison and wants to see her. Does he have money hidden somewhere and probably expects her to find it? How can she see him after what he did to Avery's father, Maddie and her family, and Nikki herself?

**From challenges, and obstacles**---full of life, wit, design, history, renovations, romance, chick-lit, summer beach fun, ex's, concerts, with a cast of characters I have adored since Book #1! This time, they get a new added twist from forensics, crime scene, mystery, suspense, and an old murder when they find more than they expected when they begin their renovation. They may become a part of solving a mystery, and help this family move on—and hopefully, a hotel brought back to life. And possibly a new show for next series? Can't wait.

I loved catching up with Bitsy Baynard from my neck of the woods (Palm Beach), Enrico, the roofer, and

love Maddie and William's romance, Nikki and Joe, Avery and Chase, Dustin and Kyra, and as always lots of charm. Plus in this edition, someone has some news at the end, which hopefully we will learn more with the next installment.

**One of my favorite summer covers!** So nice to catch up with the gals, their lives, and the new exciting Florida renovation project. **Sunshine Beach** has non-stop action and adventure. It makes you want to join them for their nightly cocktails overlooking the sunset.

**Wax's passion** is reflected throughout the pages with her vivid Florida settings, as characters come alive. (great job with construction, renovation, and design). I love the west Gulf Coast area as much as the east coast (actually beaches are prettier). My Gulf Coast favorite hidden spot.

**Please do not let this series end!** *Where Memories are made!* Each can be read as a standalone, (but why limit yourself)? Highly recommend reading ALL the books. My favorite summer beach series. *Fun, fun, fun!*

Ten Beach Road #1

Ocean Beach #2

Christmas at the Beach #2.5

The House on Mermaid Point #3

Look for One Good Thing Coming April 25, 2017, as we continue the journey with this incredible women! When friendship is made for times like these, to keep each other—and their dreams—from crumbling.

Wendy, I share your love of Florida on the East Coast!

JDCMustReadBooks

*A special thank you to Penguin and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

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