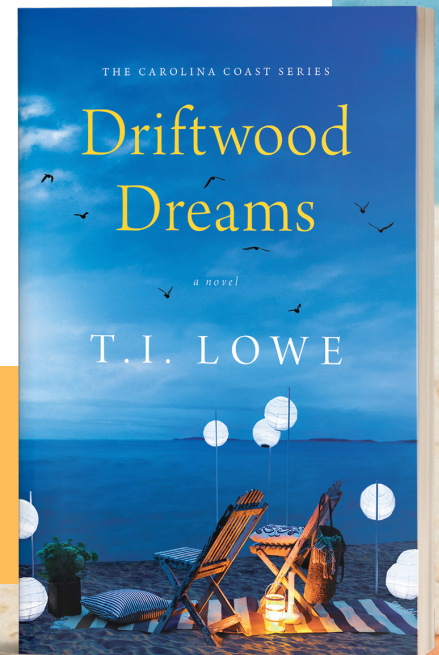


# Driftwood Dreams

Book Club Kit

"It's never too *anything* to pursue what you love."

— *Driftwood Dreams*



# A Note from T.I. Lowe

I am a lot like Josie Slater in many ways—just not the tall, skinny part. I have had dreams from an early age, and just as Josie did, I allowed life circumstances to stand in the way of achieving them. Through her journey and also my own, I hope you will see that dreams are attainable as long as you're brave enough to go after them. The journey wasn't easy. It took a lot of work and dedication to pursue my passion for writing, but I eventually stepped out in faith and stopped allowing excuses to hold me back. Now, I don't advise you to wait until reaching close to age forty as I did, but even if you're forty or beyond, I say go for it!

I'm thankful for each "Opal," "Sophia," and "August" in my life who have encouraged me to go after my dreams. I bet you have those special people in your life as well. Listen to them and allow them to be a part of your journey. And don't forget to be a part of the cheering squad for others.

I like to write lighthearted books that address deeper topics. I chose to highlight depression in this story because I want readers to be aware of its relevance. Depression is something I've struggled with over the years. At one point in my teens, I attended counseling, and in my young-adult years I used antidepressants for a while to help combat depression and anxiety attacks.

If you're struggling, be brave and ask for help. No one is immune from bouts of depression, small- or large-scale. And I also want to encourage you to be a Miss Dalma and take a closer look at those around you. You never know what someone is struggling with internally. We need to be more aware and compassionate. I'm thankful for those who were looking close enough at me to realize I needed help and then encouraged me to get it.

I pray the same will be true for anyone struggling through their own life storms.



# Discussion Questions

1. *Driftwood Dreams* is not only the book's title, but also the name of Josie's beach house. How does the book's name relate to the main characters, Josie and August? For instance, how is Josie like driftwood? What are Josie's and August's approaches to fulfilling their dreams?

2. Dreams and achieving life goals are a common theme throughout *Driftwood Dreams*—August grasping his dreams and going after them with abandon, Josie allowing her dreams to die along with her mother. What obstacles do they have to overcome in order to allow their dreams freedom?



3. Other characters in the book deal with dreams in different ways too: Carter and Dominica, Lincoln and Opal, Sophia and Ty. Each couple has to revise the dreams they had for their lives. Discuss the revisions and roadblocks presented to each of them.

4. The author enjoys infusing comic relief into her stories. Does any particular scene from this book come to mind?

5. Even though the sun can be brightly shining, a darker struggle can be hidden just below the surface. What effect does Josie's private struggle with depression have on her "passive" personality? How does her struggle with depression help open her eyes to others around her?

*"She might not have gone to college or traveled abroad to study international art, but she was well-versed in that world. It was another clue that she'd not completely abandoned her dreams."*

— *Driftwood Dreams*

# Discussion Questions

6. At first glance, August is a free-spirited artist who is known to be easygoing. What are some instances that come to mind where he lets that slip away enough to reveal another side of him?

7. August finally gets Josie on board to paint a vivid life with him. The two artists have a few romantic, artistic scenes. Which ones stand out to you?

8. The next book in the series is *Sea Glass Castle*. It centers around Sophia Prescott and her attempt to rebuild a life for herself and her son in the aftermath of a turbulent marriage that ends in divorce. Dr. Weston Sawyer moves to Sunset Cove to take over Doc Nelson's pediatric practice. His life is in shambles as well. From what you've learned about Sophia in the first two books, where do you see her story heading? What do you look forward to discovering in the next book?

## My Book Club Questions

Jot down some questions about the novel you want to discuss in your book club:

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# *Driftwood Dreams* Playlist

"One of Us" by New Politics  
"Rhythm & Blues" by the Head and the Heart  
"Oh, Carolina" by NEEDTOBREATHE  
"Suit and Jacket" by Judah & the Lion  
"It's Not Over Yet" by for King & Country  
"Limitless" by Colton Dixon  
"I Want to Live" by Skillet  
"Fearless" by Jasmine Murray  
"She's a Rainbow" by the Rolling Stones

*"As one song drew to a close and another began, Josie decided she was tired of allowing fear to hold her captive."*

— *Driftwood Dreams*



# Recipe

**Note to readers:** Inspired to make some southern favorites after reading *Driftwood Dreams*? Turn the page for a biscuits and gravy 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: Driftwood Diner Biscuits and Gravy

(T. I.'s simpler version)

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## Ingredients:

8 Pillsbury Grands! Southern Homestyle frozen biscuits  
4 strips bacon, chopped  
1 lb. extra-large shrimp, peeled and chopped  
¼ cup flour  
2½ cups whole milk  
1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 tablespoons chopped chives

## Directions:

Bake biscuits according to package directions. In a large skillet, cook bacon, then add shrimp once the bacon has browned and sauté together. Sprinkle with flour. Gradually add milk and bring to boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to medium and let simmer until thickened. Add Old Bay seasoning, salt, and pepper, and sprinkle with chopped chives. Pour gravy over split biscuits and enjoy.

*"[Driftwood Diner's] breakfast fare was legendary, and it usually took just one taste of the biscuits and gravy to have a newbie hooked for life."*

— *Drifwood Dreams*

# My Book Club Notes

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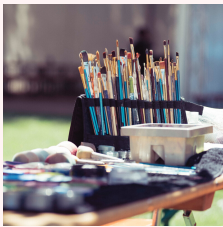
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