



Beach Boy

Ardashir Vakil

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Beach Boy

Ardashir Vakil

Beach Boy Ardashir Vakil

'I have been bunking off school to go to the movies. I have stolen money, I have sold things, I have double-crossed my friends and - I cannot bear to think of the thought - have been into the bathroom with my brother's friend, Darab.'

Eight-year old Cyrus Readmoney, son of wealthy parents, voluntarily lives like a vagabond, roaming the streets of Bombay and inviting himself into the homes and lives of the neighbours. Obsessed with the sensual delights of food, colourful Hindi films and his growing sexual awareness, precocious Cyrus lives day to day on the margins of the adult world - treating it as a playground for his boyish exuberance.

Beach Boy Details

Date : Published January 1st 1997 by Penguin Books

ISBN : 9780140264890

Author : Ardashir Vakil

Format : Paperback 211 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, India, Asian Literature, Indian Literature

 [Download Beach Boy ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Beach Boy ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Beach Boy Ardashir Vakil

From Reader Review Beach Boy for online ebook

Ronald Boy says

Really well written!! SO good!

Mayra says

Beach Boy is a intriguing story about a young boy living in india. the story focuses on the then=me of family. the boy lives with his parents and brothers yet he spends most of his time in the house of his neighbors.he is careless and free. he lives his life as any boy would yet changes effect the way he looks at life and family.

His mom cheats on his father with a guy and their home is shakend a bit. The boy relizes things aren't as good as he thought them to be. his family starts to create a gap siince the cheating incident happened.When his father gets sick his family is seperated and the boy is alone. He spends more time in his neighbors home. The boy's family is seperated and they have little communication. The boy starts to value the time they spend together more and value his family more too.the boy goes through some hard stuffbut learns that family is worth alot to a individual.

Abhishek Pathak says

Beach boy is Ardashir Vakil's first novel and was nominated for Whitbread Prize for first remarkable novel and went on to win the Betty Trask Award which is also given for first novel by authors who are under 35 years of age and residing in a current or former commonwealth country.

It's a bildungsroman or coming -of-age story of protagonist Cyrus Readymoney, who's an 8 year old Parsi boy from Bombay.

The Good old Bombay of 1970's,when the city's identity wasn't changed to the present day Mumbai, when the names of roads and streets were as old as city itself. Cyrus,the boy, grows all alone in his sea faced house on juhu beach as his parents are always on tours and business.He's a big movie buff and throngs to bombay's theaters to watch movies on his own,he talks about his love to watch movies in dark theaters amidst so many people all coming from several parts of the city,he describes the snacks and meals served in the theater.He's a big foodie and describes each and every dish that he has had with immaculate precision.

While reading one can feel mouth watering with the delicacies that he's having or describing in the story.

The novel goes on to focus on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from childhood to adulthood in which the character of Cyrus changes from being an 8 year old to a 10 yr old boy. He's belongs to rich elite class of Parsi family and while his parents are absent or on business tours,he stays with his friends ,eats and sleeps with them at their houses. He keeps himself busy by visiting his neighbours,the Krishnans,the Vermas and the Maharani are some of his closest buddies.

He values his family time a lot,whenever he gets to share it with his parents and 4 other siblings named Behroz,Adi,Nasli and Shenaz.He tells us how he misses their company and how much the family vacations means to him.The neglect of his wealthy parents towards him and his childhood presents him with many opportunities to discover his life with his neighbours and friends and essentially it gives the story many colorful characters who are as wonderful and as diverse as the cosmopolitan populace of Bombay itself. At

the start of the novel we have Mrs. Verma and her sons watching movie with Cyrus in a theater, Mrs. Verma in the story is known for her make-up and fake smiles, then there are The Krishnan's who have some sort of enmity towards Mr. and Mrs. Vermas and Mr. Krishnan himself is a very proud man and his family is very strict, disciplined and athletic, Then there is Bhagwan and Barua both are servants in their house, then we have an affluent Maharani and her seductive daughter with whom Cyrus does manage to have some sexual play, and lastly his brusque Aunt Zenobia, who's a very religious and strict person.

After a while we come to know that his parents have temporarily separated and her mother shifts to a different place in the city where his father sometimes comes to visit them (his wife and his 5 children). Here, Cyrus develops some kind of harshness in his attitude for his dad as he comes to know of his infidelity with his mom. Then, he goes to a vacation with Krishnan family and while vacationing comes to know about his Father's illness. He goes back to Bombay in the midst of his vacation and tries to remember the last time he had a talk with his dad or seen his face, his mind keeps repeating "that you won't be able to see your dad ever again"

He tries to keep away from such thoughts & premonitions but they keep coming back to him, haunting and teasing him away.

Then his dad passes away, and then he realizes that he's a different person now, everyone starts behaving differently towards him, but he wants things to remain the same as if nothing had happened, the novel comes to an end with funeral ceremonies and he concentrates hard during those few days to understand the meaning of life and death. After his dad's loss, young Cyrus is upset over not being able to roam freely, discover new things, roam here and there aimlessly as a vagabond, as he used to do earlier.

His aunt Zenobia keeps him under her strict control and tries to curb his impish spirit unknowingly.

In the end, Cyrus learns, what the death of his father means to him and his family through descriptions of his elder brother Behroz and his servant Bhagwan about his father who left something or the other for each and everyone in the family, he realizes the importance of life and is not the same individual as he was at the beginning of the story. His sobered adolescence comes from his father's death and his reflections on life and death while he was at the fire temple attending to his dad's funeral ceremonies. The emotions in him have changed and he now starts viewing himself as a responsible person, he starts experiencing the loss which earlier didn't bother him much, he now knows what it means to have a family and how much parents contribute to a child's development.

Ken says

I feel like I went to school with Cyrus Readymoney (in fact, I may have), which contributed in no small way to my enjoyment of this book. Vakil's portrait of St. Mary's is dead on, down to the kheema pao in the canteen, sadistic principal, and Tickly Father selling lunch coupons. Beyond that, he captures the varied flavors of life in Bombay with a sympathetic eye. Cyrus gives us a compelling, richly detailed account of his struggles with family, the interactions with his neighbors, and the frenzy of the city, speaking with a voice more advanced than his eight years of age. Above all, this is a novel about dealing with loss and grief in a society where emotions are supposed to be expressed openly and with attendant dramatic effect. Highly recommended reading for anyone who likes Indian fiction.

Tanvi says

i'm digging it so far . . it grabbed me in the first few pages . . though he does a thorough descriptive job which may or may not keep my attentions . . he definitely paints a detailed picture in my head

Preeti says

Gave me a glimpse of Bombay of a long time ago and graphic details of the lives of Parsi (and non-) from the time. We see life through the eyes of a precocious ten year old imp, and are privy to all that's running through his head. The story is funny, fast and yet easy going. Every character etched colorful and the book with so many moods, it reminded me of my trek through my early teens.

Kecia says

I'm not sure why but this book never clicked with me. I started reading it in mid September and didn't finish until the end of February! I could put it down and not think about it or care about it for weeks. That's not typical for me.

When I did pick it up I really enjoyed it. Vakil's storytelling was beautiful and quite tender. I liked all the untranslated Hindi...good practice!

Overall a good read.

Alyson says

Two stars looks really mean, but, I did think it was only "ok". I liked the descriptions of food, little details of life in a few different places in India, mainly Bombay, but, I just never engaged with the narrator, and found it hard to convince myself he was an eight year old boy. I also felt it lacked 'focus'. Maybe it was because I found the ending a bit flat, it just all sort of petered out.

Kartika says

The story of a young Parsee boy growing up in Mumbai amidst crazy parents, a divorce, culture clashes etc etc. It's an honest piece of work with some touching moments but the writing did not blow me away and the story verged on a little jaded.

Mark says

This was an interesting read but . . . it was a little difficult to get past the rather large numbers of untranslated non English words. It did add to the mood/setting in that I didn't understand what was going on, not understanding Hindi, Parsi and whatever else might have been used. . .online translators couldn't detect the

language. . . I felt like I was missing out. On the other hand the sensuality of the descriptions of the city, the beach, the trip to Kerala, and especially the food, was fascinating and evocative.

Nitu says

Entertaining enough, but not one of my favorites.

Redwan Orittro says

I read this book when I was in Grade 7. Couldn't make much sense of it then. Seemed like a complicated book with relationship ups and downs with small erotic accounting casually thrown here and there.

8years later when I read it-BLAM!!!!

Written with the backdrop of 60-70s India, the story unravels the tale of Cyrus, a boy growing up in post-independent modern India. Education, family, death and the pangs of adolescent love-the writer jumbles the events perfectly to provide the perfect balance.

123bex says

I enjoyed this. I haven't read a book set in India since A Fine Balance traumatised me (don't get me wrong, it's brilliant, but WOW) but this reminded me of Midnight's Children in its descriptions of Bombay. Nothing really happens and the story is so fluid that I didn't get emotionally attached to the characters, but the descriptions and the atmosphere are beautiful and truly evocative.

Cmorice says

Bombay, années soixante-dix. Cyrus Readymoney est un jeune Parsi, qui vit tout près de Juhu Beach, dans un enclos protégé, presque familial : il se laisse emmener au cinéma par Mme Verma, squatte les loisirs et les repas de la tribu Krishnan, est l'ami d'une maharani déçue, qui aime ses chiens plus que ses filles adoptives... Sa famille à lui, passablement excentrique - sa mère folle de sport, son père businessman volage -, il ne la voit guère, même s'il y a manifestement de l'amour entre eux. Car Cyrus, élève turbulent, menteur, chapardeur, est à un âge où il fait ses propres expériences de la vie (sexe, cigarettes et rock'n'roll), et sèche volontiers les cours de son collègue jésuite pour se réfugier dans les salles obscures : Cyrus est fan des films de Bollywood. Tout irait pour le mieux si le malheur, un triste jour, ne venait frapper à la porte des Readymoney. Et Cyrus va faire, malgré lui, son entrée dans l'âge adulte. Tout en conservant sa fraîcheur, son quant-à-soi. Beach Boy est un roman d'initiation bien peu conventionnel, sans doute en partie autobiographique, écrit avec humour et tendresse. Cyrus est un personnage des plus attachants, inoubliable. A travers son histoire, l'auteur évoque de manière drôle et vivante le Bombay de son enfance, dans un style enlevé, brillant, unique. Ce premier roman, salué entre autres par Salman Rushdie, est un coup de maître.

Ardashir Vakil, né à Bombay en 1962, vit avec sa famille à Londres. Il enseigne l'anglais à la Pimlico Comprehensive School.

«Un livre intense, vif et surprenant» Salman Rushdie

Maulik says

This book does the chaos of Bombay tremendous justice - it encapsulates the melodramatic and likely dubious quality of growing up surrounded by so many people with flair and humour. The book reminds us of some of the reasons behind the utter lack of comprehension surrounding privacy as a concept in Bombay, through the eyes of a carefree protagonist. We watch the protagonist come of age through this story, which sometimes feels choppy - another nod to the bewildering world in which he is surrounded by a diverse range of colourful characters. Particularly accurate for me was the splashes of erotic discovery found sporadically throughout the narrative. The author has done a splendid job of this tale as a first-time publication of a novel.
