

Anne Wingfield, a successful writer, at the urging of her editor, Harry Crabbe Castledine III, goes to one of his houses to write a screen play in solitude. When she arrives at the *House on the Beach*, she finds that her editor's son, John, and two lady friends are still en residence. John and the two lady friends are embroiled in a classic love triangle struggle. Anne makes plans to leave the house on the beach nearly immediately because the people and the emotions are too distracting for her to successfully work on her screenplay.

Anne's plans to depart are stymied by a threatening hurricane. And one of the ladies is suddenly missing. In an imitation of a TV detective, Anne tries to solve the mystery of the disappearance of Holly Parker.

The hurricane arrives, Holly Parker is still missing and Anne suspects foul play. Every one seems to have a motive for killing the tiny blonde woman and the only thing Anne knows for a certainty is that she didn't do it. Worse, Anne is trapped in the house on the beach with a murderer where escape is impossible because of the storm outside that rivals the storm inside the *House on the Beach*. Even more than that, Anne has finally met the one man she can love for the rest of her life and he is her prime murder suspect.