



The Heart of the Beats

**behind the howls and off the road
history left our words untold
our voices struggled beneath their feet
we were, we are the women of the beat**

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Four aging poets — Eleanor, Joyce, Katie, and Audrey — reunite in a weathered seaside house to honor their late friend, Carol Duncan, a once-brilliant but forgotten poet of the Beat Generation. Once part of a movement that celebrated freedom and rebellion, the women now face the quieter reckoning of age, loss, and the erasure of their own voices from literary history.

As they gather in Carol's old home, laughter and nostalgia soon give way to unearthed resentment. Each woman carries the weight of choices made in a time when their male counterparts — Kerouac, Ginsberg, and others — were canonized, while women like them were relegated to the margins as muses, lovers, or footnotes. Their reunion becomes both a memorial and a confrontation with the past — a chance to reclaim the stories that history left untold.

The weekend takes an unexpected turn with the arrival of Tomeka Harris, a young journalist who once studied under Eleanor at NYU. Tomeka's curiosity about the women and their time in the Beat scene draws mixed reactions, but her questions peel back old layers of secrecy. When she ultimately reveals that she is Carol's daughter, the emotional stakes deepen. Her search for identity mirrors their struggle for recognition, forcing them to face the ways they've each hidden from the truth.

Through the storm that follows — both literal and emotional — the women rediscover their collective strength. They share untold memories, reconcile with what they lost, and realize that their legacy was never dependent on fame but on the bond that carried them through a lifetime of silence.

The Heart of the Beats is a story of women overshadowed but unbroken — a meditation on art, friendship, and the power to write oneself back into history.