

## The Five Great Divides



**A**rlen gazed at the horizon beyond the sea. A large gray tanker was barely perceptible and dark clouds in the distance gave the impression of rain. Arlen thought the distant sea seemed lifeless compared to the white-capped water near the shore. Light colored sand ran for miles along the shoreline and high grass with brownish tips separated the beach from a stretch of creeping myrtle and thick underbrush. Beige condominiums extended from the pine forest surrounding the public walkway to the beach.

Arlen loved spending time at the wooden pavilion along the public access. He decided to act as its caretaker after discovering locals did not use the antiquated structure. Morning meditations there and long hours of writing preceded late naps under the warm evening sun. Good writing was rewarded with