

# SUMMARY

IT is summer at the Baltic Sea and Dora's days consist of sun, sand and children's laughter. She is accompanying a group of Jewish children who have been sent from Berlin on holiday. There she works as a cook, a teacher, whatever needs to be done. All the adults in charge are close and friendly. Dora enjoys the carefree time. She is 25 years old and comes from a strictly conservative family in Pabianice, a town in present-day Poland. After the early death of her mother Dora raised her siblings alone and knows the value of freedom and has a deep appreciation for it. ONE day on the beach she meets an apparition, for such is Franz Kafka in this place. Everyone else has sand between their toes and freckles on their noses but he is dressed elegantly, walking over the sand in polished shoes. He looks touching and attractive at the same time. And a little ridiculous.

The attraction is instantaneous and mutual. The two run into each other again and again. Franz becomes a permanent guest at the vacation home, interested in Dora, her detachment from the parental home, her faith. Dora Diamant is a good fifteen years younger than Franz, but she has succeeded in doing what he finds difficult: building an independent life. He is 40 years old, in poor health and, moreover, not settled in his life. She likes his sincerity, his charm and his whimsical humour. After a short time, the two decide that they will move to Berlin at the end of the summer. However, a short while later Franz receives a new doctor's report about his TBC and his family urges him to return to his hometown Prague. DORA understands what the implications are. Of course, Franz wants to be with her, and yet he follows his family's urging. It takes weeks and



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many, many letters before a telegram reaches Dora with the news: Franz is coming to Berlin. An apartment is found and for a few months the two live together blissfully. Franz writes, Dora works in the Jewish children's home, the two get to know each other better and better, they share everyday life, their beliefs and desires. Then comes the Berlin winter: it's cold, there's no money, no medical care either and Franz is sick. Very sick. He has to return to Prague to be under his family's protective umbrella and to wait for a place in the sanatorium. Both can hardly bear the separation. Franz's parents don't want Dora around, so she stays behind in Berlin. Franz spends precious days of his life in circumstances that have always made him unhappy. Only

when a place for him is found in a sanatorium in Austria, are the two allowed to be together again. But they do not have much time. Franz's illness was diagnosed late, and his condition is far advanced. The two revel in each others company every minute as slowly days turn into years for them. Because the feelings they have for each other are so strong everything else recedes into the background. Franz's ultimate death is a moment of peace and happiness. Dora continues to live a colourful life after his death, but Franz's memory forever remains in her heart. WE would like to tell the story of Franz and Dora as a light-hearted love story directed at an adult audience that reads and lives, and appreciates the big screen.

