



Heart of Palm

Laura Lee Smith

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“Intelligence, heart, wit . . . Laura Lee Smith has all the tools and *Heart of Palm* is a very impressive first novel.”—Richard Russo, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls*

Utina, Florida, is a small, down-at-heels southern town. Once enlivened by the trade in Palm Sunday palms and moonshine, Utina hasn't seen economic growth in decades, and no family is more emblematic of the local reality than the Bravos. Deserted by the patriarch years ago, the Bravos are held together in equal measure by love, unspoken blame, and tenuously brokered truces.

The story opens on a sweltering July day, as Frank Bravo, dutiful middle son, is awakened by a distress call. Frank dreams of escaping to cool mountain rivers, but he's only made it ten minutes from the family restaurant he manages every day and the decrepit, Spanish-moss-draped house he was raised in, and where his strong-willed mother and spitfire sister—both towering redheads, equally matched in stubbornness—are fighting another battle royale. Little do any of them know that Utina is about to meet the tide of development that has already engulfed the rest of Northeast Florida. When opportunity knocks, tempers ignite, secrets are unearthed, and each of the Bravos is forced to confront the tragedies of their shared past.

Reminiscent of Kaye Gibbons, Lee Smith, Anne Tyler, and Fannie Flagg, *Heart of Palm* introduces Laura Lee Smith as a captivating new voice in American fiction.

"Like a sandspur, *Heart of Palm* sticks with you, drawing blood."--Rita Mae Brown, author of *The Sand Castle*

“Laura Lee Smith masterfully creates a deep, compassionate, and often heartbreakingly funny portrait of a wild, complex Southern family on the brink of massive change . . . Smith is a brilliant writer, and *Heart of Palm* brims with lush vitality, loss, and desire.”—Julianna Baggott, author of *Pure* and *The Prince of Fenway Park*

“[An] incandescent debut novel . . . I can't get the astonishing and benighted Bravos out of my head. And I don't want to. What an extravagantly and engagingly flawed family this is! Smith is an enchanter casting her spell with lyrical prose, evocative details, and spellbinding characters. She explores familial chaos, reckless behavior, and hopeless love with grace, intelligence, and tenderness. She gives me what I long for in fiction: compassion and provocation. What talent, what nerve, what a wondrous and spellbinding story. Trust me, these Bravos will haunt your dreams.”—John Dufresne, author of *Requiem, Mass.* and *Louisiana Power and Light*

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From reader reviews:

Freida Gilbert:

This Heart of Palm book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That Heart of Palm without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Heart of Palm can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This Heart of Palm having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Vincent Ashworth:

Heart of Palm can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Heart of Palm but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

Daniel Starkey:

Is it a person who having spare time after that spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This Heart of Palm can be the response, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

Sarah Luis:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This book Heart of Palm was filled in relation to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has several feel when they reading any book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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