



Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2)

By Ursula Hegi

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Floating in My Mother's Palm is the compelling and mystical story of Hanna Malter, a young girl growing up in 1950's Burgdorf, the small German town Ursula Hegi so brilliantly brought to life in her bestselling novel *Stones from the River*.

Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view. Although Ursula Hegi wrote *Floating in My Mother's Palm* first, it can be read as a sequel to *Stones from the River*.

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Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) By Ursula Hegi Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This impeccably crafted, intensely moving novel, whose narrator is a young girl in post-WW II Germany, confirms Hegi (*Intrusions*) as an exceptionally talented writer. In short chapters that glow with the luminosity of Impressionist paintings, Hegi illuminates Hanna Malter's family and the other inhabitants of a small town on the Rhein. Her mother, a painter, is a risk-taker who has lost her faith in organized religion but teaches Hanna to have confidence in the powers of nature; her father is a kindly dentist who enjoys the security of an orderly life. Other village residents--a dwarf who is the town gossip, the illegitimate son of an American soldier, an architect whose dreams of death come true in a bizarre fashion, a teenager impregnated by her grandfather--are seemingly ordinary people whose quiet existences mask their sadness or desperation. While she obliquely exposes their secret lives, Hanna also reveals herself as a typical adolescent, whose rashly candid tongue sometimes wounds her friends. Some of the parables are a little too neat, but in general these finely tuned, interlocked vignettes convey both the essence of childhood and the spiritual emptiness of a community unwilling to confront the implications of the recent war. Building in power, the novel offers transcendent moments that affirm the need for some sort of faith to add meaning to our lives.

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From Library Journal

This novel of a girlhood in a small German town in the Fifties memorably recalls a time and place and people. Hitler is not mentioned at school. The unspoken and unspeakable extend from the past to the postwar present in a series of intimate vignettes and tales about the townspeople--family secrets and tragedies, accidents, suicides, murders, incest, and grotesqueries told with the spellbinding grace and beauty of old ballads and a touch of the Brothers Grimm. Young Hanna's reckless mother is an artist both fascinated and confined by the town. Daring to swim during a thunderstorm, she initiates her daughter into a fierce and joyous love of life as they dance together in the water. The moment confers a healing benediction on Hanna's sometimes painful and mysterious rite of passage. An exceptional work, recommended for most fiction collections.

- *Mary Soete, San Diego P.L., Cal.*

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Review

Lynne Sharon Schwartz A treasure of a book. At once amazingly delicate and eerily powerful, it envelops the reader in the raw, painful, and poignant life of a small town in postwar Germany -- benumbed, bewildered, and, sadly, not much wiser. Ursula Hegi is a beautiful writer with much truth to tell.

San Francisco Review of Books Exquisite...Hegi's language signals a rare and particular power. There is a sonorous, hypnotic hum about these sentences that resound as prose, poetry, and hymn -- and when we put the book down, its after-images burn the mind's eye.

Bob Shacochis If Stravinsky were a writer, I imagine he would have written a book such as this, for Ursula Hegi gathers all the tonal moods and emotional power to her work that we expect of music that moves us to appreciate our hearts and souls and their troubling complexity.

New York Newsday An unusual, beautifully written book that sets the coming-of-age of a perceptive child,

full of merriment, pain, and compassion, against the brilliantly realized small German town relatively untouched by the world outside...remarkable.

The Washington Times A gentle, German *Our Town* with moments of truth that transcend the time and place of the story...delightful.

Hilma Wolitzer Ursula Hegi re-creates childhood and history in this poised and lyrical book.

The Washington Post Book World Deft and delicate.

The Detroit News Radiant...[the] opening is a touch of genius beginning Hegi's use of altogether stunning imagery that will go on to luminously pervade the rest of this remarkable novel.

J. M. Coetzee Sometimes charming, sometimes deeply moving...Hanna Malter, an adolescent trying to make sense of the disturbing world around her, emerges as a strong and authentic presence.

Michael Dorris Lyrically transforms the memory of particular people and place into a song sung with great beauty and meaning. This novel is a gift to savor...stirring, unforgettable.

Chicago Tribune Brilliant...mesmerizing reading [by] a talented and insightful author.

The Seattle Times/Post-Intelligencer Beautiful...tender...vividly and memorably painted.

Alice McDermott A graceful, lyrical, heartbreaking book that offers many pleasures, not the least of which is the opportunity to read a very talented author writing at the top of her form, telling stories she seems born to tell in a voice that is completely her own. Marvelous.

The New York Times Book Review Wholly convincing...[Hegi] is an outstanding talent.

Los Angeles Times Stunning...it can break your heart....[Hegi] has created an absolutely correct postwar Germany with all its forbidden questions and mysterious behavior, all its squalor, loss and longing.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jose Murry:

This *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The main reason of this *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) can be one of the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed a person with information that maybe will shock your earlier knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed types. Beside that this *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) giving you an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Lillian Owensby:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still skepticism Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) as good book not just by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its include, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Theresa Pepper:

This Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that will?

Michael Watkins:

That e-book can make you to feel relax. This specific book Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) was colorful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading that will.

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