



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:

Ruby Pritchett:

The book *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem using your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) to get your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a publication *Floating in My Mother's Palm* (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this publication?

Gregory Phipps:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students because they are still students or this for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great along with important the book Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2). All type of book would you see on many sources. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Elmo Bragg:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2), it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Curtis Waters:

Does one one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't determine book by its include may doesn't work is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not seeing that fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer could be Floating in My Mother's Palm (Burgdorf Cycle Book 2) why because the excellent cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

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