



Hearts In Atlantis

By Stephen King

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Stephen King, whose first novel, *Carrie*, was published in 1974, the year before the last U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam, is the first hugely popular writer of the TV generation. Images from that war -- and the protests against it -- had flooded America's living rooms for a decade. *Hearts in Atlantis*, King's newest fiction, is composed of five interconnected, sequential narratives, set in the years from 1960 to 1999. Each story is deeply rooted in the sixties, and each is haunted by the Vietnam War.

In Part One, "Low Men in Yellow Coats," eleven-year-old Bobby Garfield discovers a world of predatory malice in his own neighborhood. He also discovers that adults are sometimes not rescuers but at the heart of the terror.

In the title story, a bunch of college kids get hooked on a card game, discover the possibility of protest...and confront their own collective heart of darkness, where laughter may be no more than the thinly disguised cry of the beast.

In "Blind Willie" and "Why We're in Vietnam," two men who grew up with Bobby in suburban Connecticut try to fill the emptiness of the post-Vietnam era in an America which sometimes seems as hollow -- and as haunted -- as their own lives.

And in "Heavenly Shades of Night Are Falling," this remarkable book's denouement, Bobby returns to his hometown where one final secret, the hope of redemption, and his heart's desire may await him.

Full of danger, full of suspense, most of all full of *heart*, Stephen King's new book will take some readers to a place they have never been...and others to a place they have never been able to completely leave.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

With his idiosyncratic blend of patrician airs and boyish charm, narrator William Hurt provides a wonderful complement to this wildly imaginative collection of short stories by author Stephen King. Hurt carefully weaves the disparate elements into a cohesive whole, embracing the subtle complexities of each character; one moment a wizened sadness leaks into his voice as a haunted old man, pursued by demons, asks his 11-year-old lookout, "You know everyone on this street, on this block of this street anyway? And you'd know strangers? Sojourners? Faces of those unknown?" Then, in a profound yet almost imperceptible switch, he exposes the boy's naive enthusiasm, "I think so." Right about here your neck hairs will stand at attention. Hurt's peculiar vocal style is in perfect pitch to King's dark, surreal vision of growing up amid the monsters of post-Vietnam America. (Running time: 21 hours, 16 cassettes) --*George Laney*

From Publishers Weekly

This collection of five thematically linked short stories dwells on the legacy of the 1960s. They share a collective moodiness, a feeling of depressed hangover coming after youth has been lost and the nation has suffered troubled times. Read aloud, this pungent atmosphere is especially strong. A-list actor Hurt stylishly performs the lengthy opener, "Low Men in Yellow Coats," in which 11-year-old Bobby Garfield falls under the spell of an older man his mother has taken in as a boarder (a father figure who introduces him first to literatureALord of the FliesAthen to supernatural phenomena). Hurt skillfully evokes pathos from the story's fine detailing: its sense of small-town place and Bobby's child's-eye-view of the evil characters around him. King reads the title story, "Hearts in Atlantis," about Maine college students who mindlessly play cards instead of studying while the Vietnam War rages in the background. The author's modest, reedy voice rings with autobiographical truthAas the protagonist is a young would-be writer, na?ve to the ways of the world. Taken together, at 21 hours' listening, however, King's shining moments too often give way to fatigue: the stories are repetitious, full of plot rehashings and meaningless asides. Also available on CD. Simultaneous release with the Scribner hardcover. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

YA-An intricate and compelling tapestry of the '60s and those who came of age during that turbulent decade. Readers first meet 11-year-old Bobby Garfield in suburban Connecticut in 1960. He and his friends, Sully John and Carol, come to the end of their collective childhood during that summer when violence, rage, guilt, shame, and heroism break up their close-knit relationship. The second story begins six years later on the University of Maine campus. A card game, Hearts, threatens the college future of a group of freshmen. Outside, the Vietnam War and its concurrent rebellion are raging. Pete, the protagonist, offers a firsthand view of the craziness of the time. The link to the first story is Carol, Bobby's childhood friend, with whom Pete falls in love. The next two stories each follow another figure from the summer of 1960: Bobby's friend Sully John and a member of a trio that assaulted Carol. Both young men are Vietnam vets, each one crippled in his own way from his war experience. The final story finds middle-aged Bobby returning to Connecticut, coming full circle with the events of his life. This is a very long book; however, after reading a few pages, most teens will be hard-pressed to put it down. The characters are compelling and well drawn, the action is ingeniously interwoven from story to story, and the feel of the 60s, and the baggage carried into later decades, is vivid, harsh, and absolutely true.

Carol DeAngelo, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alice Hill:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled Hearts In Atlantis can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Lola Paolucci:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, small story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not hoping Hearts In Atlantis that give your entertainment preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world much better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be said constantly that reading practice only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for all of you who want to start reading through as your good habit, you could pick Hearts In Atlantis become your own starter.

Mary Jones:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 as well as 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book than can satisfy your limited time to read it because all this time you only find e-book that need more time to be read. Hearts In Atlantis can be your answer as it can be read by a person who have those short time problems.

Pamela Acuna:

Beside this Hearts In Atlantis in your phone, it can give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or info. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh through the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow town. It is good thing to have Hearts In Atlantis because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you seldom get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this inside your hand. The Enjoyable agreement here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss it? Find this book and also read it from at this point!

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