



Schmidt Steps Back: A Novel

Louis Begley

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“Tragic and redemptive . . . Updike had *Rabbit*, Roth has *Zuckerman*, Richard Ford has *Bascombe* and Begley has *Schmidt*. . . . [*Schmidt Steps Back*] is the most ambitious novel [yet] in the Schmidt cycle.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Full of dark humor, compassion, and heart, *Schmidt Steps Back* is the most romantic installment yet of the drama that began with the acclaimed *About Schmidt*. Now seventy-eight, and just as passionate, sharp, and endearingly prickly as ever, Albert Schmidt faces a life alone, with only the crumbs of grandfatherly status and a less-than-demanding position at an international organization to sustain him. His only hope is Alice Verplanck, the French widow of a former partner, as elusive as she is beautiful. Whether his rusty seduction skills can lure her from Paris to the Hamptons won't be known, though, until Schmidt endures one more ordeal by fire. Hilarious, engrossing, and deeply poignant, *Schmidt Steps Back* is Louis Begley's finest novel yet.

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

Praise for *Schmidt Steps Back*

“Engaging . . . Begley gets as close to Schmidt as a diarist, inhabiting this man who has been seasoned by a long life.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Begley gets inside Schmidt's fertile WASP brain . . . with subtlety, intelligence, and wit.”—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“The novel grows in Begley's excellent intricacy . . . to the level of art rather than manners. . . . One cannot read one of the Schmidt novels without laughing.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Thoroughly absorbing . . . [a] cause for celebration.”—*Salon*

“[A] superb tragicomedy . . . seductive, subversive, and commanding.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

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From reader reviews:

Antoinette Hagen:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They may be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Schmidt Steps Back: A Novel.

Michael Short:

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Tessa Krieger:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled Schmidt Steps Back: A Novel your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The Schmidt Steps Back: A Novel giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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