



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.

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Louis Begley’s *Memories of a Marriage*.

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:

Susan Metcalf:

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Bonnie Boyd:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era and that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe can update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Schmidt Steps Back: A Novel is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Linda Caron:

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