



Welcome to Paradise

Laurence Shames

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Before mild-mannered furniture salesman Al Tuschman left New Jersey for a week in Key West, he hadn't an enemy in the world. But a series of puzzling assaults on his privacy, his sanity, and his life has turned his stay at the tasteful Paradise Hotel into Tropical Hell. Maybe it's the humidity. Maybe the Sambuca. Or maybe it's the nickname emblazoned on his license plate: Big Al.

For Big Al Marracotta, Mafia capo, a Florida getaway means outrunning a career in crime and rancid calamari. For Katy Sansone it's a bid for sunshine and self-respect--until a case of mistaken identity pits the confused woman against a bafflement of Als and more danger than any one of them had reason to pack for. Now, if Tuschman doesn't watch his back, somebody's going to be reporting the death of another salesman. . .

Welcome to Paradise Details

Date : Published June 6th 2000 by Fawcett (first published 1999)

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Author : Laurence Shames

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From Reader Review Welcome to Paradise for online ebook

Judy says

A light and fluffy fun in the Florida sun read with a hint of squished gut violence and a top note of happy endings. Best when served with fussy umbrella drinks.

Dobby0390 says

Al Tuschman, New Jersey furniture salesman, wins a trip to Key West. Big Al Marracotta, New York mobster, takes a vacation trip to Key West. Both their license tags read "Big Al." Probably not a good thing if you're a furniture salesman and there's a vendetta out against Big Al the mobster.

This was a mostly amusing book with intricate twists and turns, fun (if sometimes scary) characters, and excellent dialog. I dropped a star because I don't like the disrespectful way Shames treats the dogs. That's not amusing.

Maria Elena says

Didn't read it. I heard the Audio book and it was wonderful! It is a great traffic time "read".

Lisa says

This is a great, fast, hilarious read and I couldn't put it down because I wanted to see what happened next. Totally the best beach read when you are in the great sunshine state of Florida while reading it. Love, love, loved it!

Tina says

This is another entry in Laurence Shames loosely-connected series based in Key West, Florida. It's a quick, funny read featuring a whole new cast of characters, but follows a similar Mob-related storyline. I've enjoyed all the books in this series, and this was no exception. Recommended.

Rich Flammer says

Seriously, as engaging as novels come... But this isn't a serious story. It's pure entertainment, and as zany as a tupperware bikini. Funny, well-written, poignant in parts and goofy in others, but it flows well throughout, has a twisting, intricate and well-developed plot, quirky but very human characters, excellent dialogue, and I

dunno, what else is there? Until I read this book, I never really experienced just how much fun reading could be.

Roberta says

A case of mistaken identity.

Mike Harper says

This would be forgivable if it weren't such a blatant imitation of Hiaasen.

Paul O'Grady says

This book doesn't try to be anything it isn't. It's a mildly entertaining beach read with some interesting characters. There is not much of a plot and the big laugh-out-loud moments didn't really make me laugh out loud. But overall enjoyable. Where was Bert the Shirt?

Richard Thompson says

Two Big Al's head off to Florida for a vacation. One is short, has a big dog and a leggy girlfriend and Mob connections. The other is tall, has a small dog and is only going on vacation at all because that's the prize he won for selling the most dinette suites at Kleiman's furniture in New Jersey. The both have vanity plates that say "BIG AL".

This was book #26 on our 2017 Read-alouds List.

Jon Koebrick says

An easy light read. A good reading palate cleanser after a serious book.

Susan says

Big Al Marracoto is a player in the New York City mafia. Big Al Tuschman is a furniture salesman in New Jersey. Their individual state license plates say 'Big Al'. They end up in Key West on vacation at the same time. The guys hired to annoy Big Al Marracoto, get their Big Al's confused. But all this is just a plate for Laurence Shames to serve up another fabulous meal of personalities, accents and plots that are like puzzle games. If you've never read any of Shames' books, treat yourself to any of them. Each is a fabulous treat. Note to author: Love the book but sure missed Bert the Shirt and his 4,000 year old dog. How are they

doing?

Judy says

I'm sorry to say but this one just didn't cut it. I was bored with the cliché characters and the ending was just too obvious! Fun, but not enough fun!

Lewis Weinstein says

Two "Big Al's" are one too many. Shames is great, funny, and Key West.

Jerry says

If you liked the books by Carl Hiaasen and Dave Barry then you will enjoy this. New York Mafia honcho gets confused with a New Jersey furniture salesman with the same name. The hit team assigned to take out the Mafia guy, they decide it should be death by seafood. But there is a slight case of mistaken identity. Let the fun and games begin.
