



Tropical Swap

Laurence Shames

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Wanted: NY apartment in exchange for a great Key West house with swimming pool. In February.

Who wouldn't take a swap like that? Then again, if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is, as Meg and Peter Kaplan soon discover. Heading south for a supposed dream vacation, what they find instead is a panic attack waiting to happen. Coconuts crash through windows, bearing cryptic death threats. People fall from palm trees while spying on the pool. Neighbors whisper of Mob connections, leaving the Kaplans to wonder if they'll get whacked by mistake in the Southernmost City or if their cozy West Side co-op has been transformed into a convenient Mafia morgue.

Enter an FBI agent going rogue, a very good girl determined to be very bad, and the irrepressible Bert the Shirt with his chihuahua, and the cast is complete for this riotous Florida romp. Told with Laurence Shames' trademark mix of suspense and comedy, mayhem and romance, crackling dialogue and lush description, TROPICAL SWAP is a vacation you can savor without ever leaving home.

Tropical Swap Details

Date : Published November 23rd 2014 by SKLA

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Author : Laurence Shames

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Genre : Humor, Fiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Tropical Swap for online ebook

Karen Young says

Good

Love Bert

Love story

Ready to re-visit Key West.....I have been missing all the action!

And on to the next in the series.

Richard Thompson says

Meg and Peter get an offer from a man in Key West who is offering his home — complete with a swimming pool — in exchange for their apartment in New York... in winter.... It is only when a coconut — complete with cryptic threatening message scrawled thereon — smashes through the window of the Key West house on their first night there, that Meg — and especially Peter — begin to think that there is something not quite right about the set up.

Many echoes from Shames' earlier books (Bert the Shirt is back) and the story was entertaining enough, but it did seem a bit of retread...

TROPIC SWAP was book #58 on our 2017 Read-alouds List.

Nancy Marsanico says

A quick fun read based in my favorite place.

Homerun2 says

3.75

Laurence Shames' Florida books are great companions. They have a unique feel for the peculiar and unique qualities of Key West in particular. There are a few recurring characters but most feature different casts and situations.

"Retired" Mafioso Bert the Shirt and his twitchy little dog are back. They get caught up in an odd situation. Two couples trade homes for a mini vacation -- one pair in New York and one in Key West. Only something is wrong -- the vacationers in Key West end up being threatened and harassed because evidently the real homeowner has Mafia connections. And then suddenly the lady of the house shows up two days into their vacation.

This adventure features a few mob guys, a rogue FBI agent, a women fingered by the mob for elimination and the two couples who started it all. Lots of fun, great writing, and a little introspection thrown in.

Richard G. Peters says

Always great.

Shames is a wonderful denizen of the lower Keys. If you've been there, he will bring it all back into your head. If you've never been down there, your next move once done with the book, will be to crank up Kayak and start looking.....

Ellen Smith says

One of my new favorite authors

I would recommend this Key West adventure for all who just want a good time read that will have you laughing and wanting more.

Lenny says

Another awesome Adventure in Key West!

AudioBookReviewer says

My original Tropical Swap audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

This book is everything that's good about campy mobster stories, packed in a nice and compact 6-hour audiobook.

The characters in this book are simply delicious; the neurotic and paranoid Peter Kaplan who isn't at all happy about the situation he's now found himself in with his wonderful, unfazable wife Meg.

They've swapped homes for the spring with what might be the world's most inept gangster, who's been sent out on a job by his father-in-law. Understandably, this isn't quite what the Kaplan's had in mind for their time away from home and they find themselves drawn in to mob activities and then fixed under police scrutiny.

The characters are all caricatures and highly entertaining, from the gruff police detective just looking to be swept away in a grand romance with a bad-girl, and the would-be assassin who has a secret passion for painting. The story is madcap and fast paced, taking us from one funny misadventure to another before you can blink.

‘Romp’ is definitely the right word for this book, it’s comfortingly predictable but very fun to listen to. As the title might suggest, the setting of the book also plays a large point in this story as it’s the character’s strong accents that make it so fun to listen to.

Jem Matzam performs all of the accents wonderfully, bringing all the colourful characters to life and making the story a pleasure to listen to – though I did initially find it quite difficult to concentrate fully on his non-character narration.

There’s not really a lot I can say about this book that you can’t figure out from the synopsis, other than highly recommend it for a holiday road trip – there’s no swearing in this book that I remember and only mild comic violence and very vague sexual references, so it would be suitable for little ears if you’re going anywhere as a family.

Audiobook was provided for review by the narrator.

Nancy Holcomb says

Always a fun read.

His caricatures are colorful. The northern accents are right on. Key West is just as Laurance shames describes. A wonderland.

Paul says

I don't think this author has written a bad book. This was the light funny read I needed. Husband and wife swap their Manhattan apartment for a house in Key West and from the moment they arrive in the tropics nothing works the way they thought it would. Crazy Floridians, shady Key Westers, the mafia, the FBI, and the one constant of this author's series Bert The Shirt. Really a very fun book.

Robert Sanderson says

Better Effort

Nice to see a better effort - after the naked detective I was ready to give up, but a last minute plane ride encouraged me to give tropical swap a try and while certainly not an award winning novel, it's a fun read.

Tina says

This is always a fun series, and this offering doesn't disappoint. This loosely-connected series features a recurring character or two, but always introduces someone new. The characters in this book were likeable and well-drawn. I just like everything about the Key West books, and this one was great.

Charles A Guess says

A great weekend read.

Florida and Key West in particular seem to be the birthplace of many stories. Tropical Swap puts you tight in the middle of a tale that pits the mafia, a dog, a cat, and a cast of neat characters against one another to prevent a killing and open a art gallery.
