



Hurt People: A Novel

By Cote Smith

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It's the summer of 1988 in northeastern Kansas, an area home to four prisons that has been shaken by the recent escape of a convict. But for two young brothers in Leavenworth, the only thing that matters is the pool in their apartment complex. Their mother forbids the boys to swim alone, but she's always at work trying to make ends meet after splitting with their police-officer father. With no one home to supervise, the boys decide to break the rules.

While blissfully practicing their cannonballs and dives, they meet Chris, a mysterious stranger who promises an escape from their broken-home blues. As the older brother and Chris grow closer, the wary younger brother desperately tries to keep his best friend from slipping away.

Beautifully atmospheric and psychologically suspenseful, Cote Smith's *Hurt People* will hold you in its grip to the very last page, reminding us that when we're not paying attention, we often hurt the ones we claim to love the most.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[A] very special first novel . . . Writing with extraordinary grace and tenderness, Smith injects unnerving tension into a delicate coming-of-age story set squarely in the path of a tornado."

?Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*

"A violent debut told with startling intimacy . . . [*Hurt People*] is the strangest breed of page-turner, one that's plotted like a thriller but plays like a hymn."

?Liz Cook, *The Kansas City Star*

"A beautifully written story about brotherly love and the loss of innocence. Smith crafts a compelling narrative from the point of view of a nine-year-old that never waivers all the way through the gripping conclusion."

?Anders Carlson, *The Rumpus*

"[In *Hurt People*] Smith does a remarkably convincing job of showing a vulnerable eight-year-old trying to make sense of the confounding world of adults."

?Mary Ellen Quinn, *Booklist*

"[Smith writes] razor-sharp characterizations, a richly evoked period setting, and the sense of a community forever living in the shadow of fear."

?*Publishers Weekly*

"A debut novel with red herrings steeped in mind-numbing heat and bone-chilling darkness deep in the modern American prairie . . . This first novel represents an expansion of a short story by Smith (who grew up in Leavenworth), and at times, it seems to strain from the added development. But Smith's spare, taut prose, along with the empathy he brings even to characters neither you nor the boys like much, compensates for such lapses, as does a flair for raw, gut-clutching menace shared by masters of rural American gothic."

?*Kirkus Review*

"Set against the backdrop of Leavenworth's prison-industrial complex, Cote Smith's debut novel bravely reveals that home is where the hurt is. But thanks to the graces threaded throughout *Hurt People*, Smith soothes the ache and reminds us that family isn't just a thing we inhabit?family is a thing we *do*."

?Smith Henderson, author of *Fourth of July Creek*

"In *Hurt People*, Cote Smith introduces one of the most memorable young narrators I have encountered in years, his voice charming, wise, and heartbreaking. Through his eyes, we watch as Leavenworth, Kansas, heats up one summer, aflame with danger and sorrow and disappearing innocence. Smith's language is beautifully, terrifyingly simple, his view at once stark and compassionate. *Hurt People* belongs to an exciting new type of coming-of-age story, clear about the way the world works but acknowledging our need to remain hopeful anyway."

?Lori Ostlund, author of *After the Parade*

"Cote Smith writes characters that are beautifully, viciously alive. *Hurt People* is the supremely rare kind of novel that will crawl inside your heart and live there forever."

?Laura van den Berg, author of *Find Me* and *The Isle of Youth*

"I do not want to imagine a world where I did not spend all Sunday lying in bed tearing through this book. It was beautiful outside, autumn beckoned, but all I wanted to do was turn the pages of this beautifully written psychological thriller and root for these characters, who may be hurt but are not broken."

?Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Vacation*

"Cote Smith's *Hurt People* is a jackknife of a novel: it's sharp and it plunges deep. The book beautifully captures the menacing atmosphere of a prison town and the intense bond between two brothers."

?Elliott Holt, author of *You Are One of Them*

"At the center of *Hurt People*, a young boy grows up in the shadow of four prisons and his malcontent older brother. When his unquestioning loyalty is challenged, he is forced through a one way gate to the adult world of secrets. Quiet and moving, *Hurt People* is a scorching meditation on how childhood can be in Leavenworth, where irresponsible adults, poverty, and dark intentions threaten a young boy's innocence at every turn."

?Marie Helene Bertino, author of *2 A.M. at The Cat's Pajamas*

About the Author

Cote Smith grew up in Leavenworth, Kansas, and various army bases around the country. He earned his MFA from the University of Kansas, and his work has been featured in *One Story* and *Five Chapters*. He lives in Lawrence, Kansas.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Merideth Davis:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this *Hurt People: A Novel*.

Cynthia Medina:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book *Hurt People: A Novel* it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

Susan Swain:

This Hurt People: A Novel is fresh way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having small amount of digest in reading this Hurt People: A Novel can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get through anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in book form make them feel tired even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book style for your better life as well as knowledge.

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