

Ursula Hegi

SACRED TIME

A Novel

reading

The bestselling author of *Stones from the River* delivers her most ambitious and dramatic novel yet—the unforgettable story of an endearing yet flawed Italian American family in the Bronx.

In December of 1953 Anthony Amedeo's world is nested in his Bronx neighborhood, his parents' Studebaker, the Paradise Theater, Yankee Stadium—and in his imagination where he longs for a stencil kit to decorate his windows like all the other kids on his street. Instead he gets a very different present: his Uncle Malcolm's family.

Malcolm is in jail for stealing—once again—from his last new job, and Anthony's aunt and twin cousins settle into the Amedeos' fifth floor walk-up. Sharing a room with girls is excruciating for Anthony, despite his affinity for the twins. But the real change in Anthony's life comes one evening when he causes the unthinkable to happen, changing each family member's life forever.

Evoking all the plenty and optimism of post-war America, *Sacred Time* spans three generations, taking us from the Bronx of the 1950s to contemporary Brooklyn. Keenly observing the dark side of family—and its gracefulness—Hegi has outdone herself with this captivating novel about childhood's tenderness and the landscape of loneliness. Ultimately she reveals how the transforming power of a singular event can reverberate through a family for generations. With gravity and grace, Hegi turns her keen yet forgiving eye on the essential frailty and dignity of the human condition in this elegant and fast-paced novel.

Praise for Ursula Hegi:

“Hegi is an old-fashioned storyteller, and her characters are deeply engaging.”

—Ann Patchett, *Chicago Tribune*

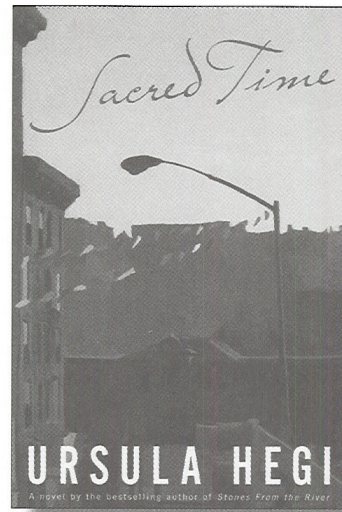
“Hegi is an outstanding talent.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*



©Gordon Gagliano

Ursula Hegi's other books include *Intrusions*, *Floating in My Mother's Palm*, *Stones from the River*, *The Vision of Emma Blau*, and *Hotel of the Saints*. She lives in New York.



HARDCOVER

DECEMBER 2003

TOUCHSTONE

Fiction

6 ¼ x 9 ¼, 256 pages

Rough front

Carton quantity: 20

EAN: 978074325598152500

0-7432-5598-4

\$25.00 hardcover

\$37.50 in Canada

Other formats:

UAB CD: 0-7435-3558-8, \$39.95

UAB Cassette: 0-7435-2656-2, \$39.95

Also available by Ursula Hegi in paperback

Hotel of the Saints, 0-7432-2716-6, \$12.00

The Vision of Emma Blau,

0-684-87273-0, \$14.00

Unearned Pleasures and Other Stories,

0-684-84485-0, \$11.00

Intrusions, 0-684-84481-8, \$12.00

Salt Dancers, 0-684-84482-6, \$13.00

ADVERTISING

- National advertising in *The New York Times Book Review* and *The New Yorker*

PUBLICITY

- 5-city author tour: Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle
- National print publicity
- 15-city national radio satellite tour
- Local New York area publicity

PROMOTION

- *Book Club Reader* newsletter promotion

