

Island Tempest



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Frank Pitchard has recently been leading a quiet, rather depressed existence-even though he lives on Eden, an exclusive resort island community off the coast of Florida. Forced into retirement after his company was taken over and "reorganized," he spends his days sitting outside, reading *The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook*, thinking about his loving deceased wife, and dreaming up ways to get back at the corporate raiders. One bright spot is the lithe and beautiful Ariel, his wife's nurse, who's been hanging around since her death. Another is Randi, an Eden trophy wife currently between husbands. She gives Frank a set of binoculars and introduces him to bird-watching. However, Frank uses the binoculars to spy on Cal Barlow, his crippled next-door neighbor, and one day sees him sitting in his wheelchair, cradling a blue-steel pistol. The two men strike up a friendship soon afterward, when Cal happens upon Frank pushing a golf cart into the lake. An odd partnership develops. What Frank doesn't know is that Cal is an ex-mobster in witness protection-and that he's sleeping with Randi right under Frank's nose. And Cal doesn't seem to realize that there's an assassin on his tail and that the Feds aren't far behind. In this wicked and sharply drawn tale of the shady places between good and evil, Michael Mewshaw once again proves himself to be a storyteller of boundless talent.

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目录:

[Island Tempest_ 下载链接1](#)

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评论

[Island Tempest_ 下载链接1](#)

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