

# MADNESS UNDER THE ROYAL PALMS

## LAURENCE LEAMER

READ BY TODD MCLAREN

In an account that combines the eccentricity of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* with the pure, crass ambition of *Phillistines at the Hedgerow*, Laurence Leamer tells a story of money, murder, and mad pretension inside what has long been America's most exclusive—and surreal—super-rich enclave: Palm Beach.

In March 1999, a Palm Beach matron and her socially ambitious husband invited the elite of the island for a dinner dance honoring Prince Edward. Among those dancing to the string orchestra that evening would be those accused of murder and spousal abuse, and others who would suffer fates both unseemly and unspeakable. Among the outer circle there would be murders, suicides, and fatal fires. There would be those who would rise from the dust of obscurity to the heights of wealth and those who would fall to oblivion and disgrace.

Thus begins *Madness Under the Royal Palms*. Laurence Leamer takes us behind the walls of America's most exclusive enclave of wealth and privilege and tells a braided story involving a socialite determined to make it to the top of Palm Beach society, two infamous murders, and a powerful society reporter. The cast of characters includes trophy wives, trophy husbands, purported gigolos, glamorous widows, a pioneering gay couple, a wildly irreverent event planner, a sociopathic multimillionaire, and an elegant society queen.

For 100 years, Palm Beach has been a fantasyland nurtured by, and maintained for, the megawealthy. In the end, Leamer's tale of money, murder, and mad pretension reveals a darker strain.

**Laurence Leamer** is the bestselling author of thirteen books, including *The Kennedy Women* and *Fantastic: The Life of Arnold Schwarzenegger*. A former staff member of *Newsweek*, he has also written for the *New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *Playboy*, and many other publications. He lives in Palm Beach, Florida, and Washington, D.C.

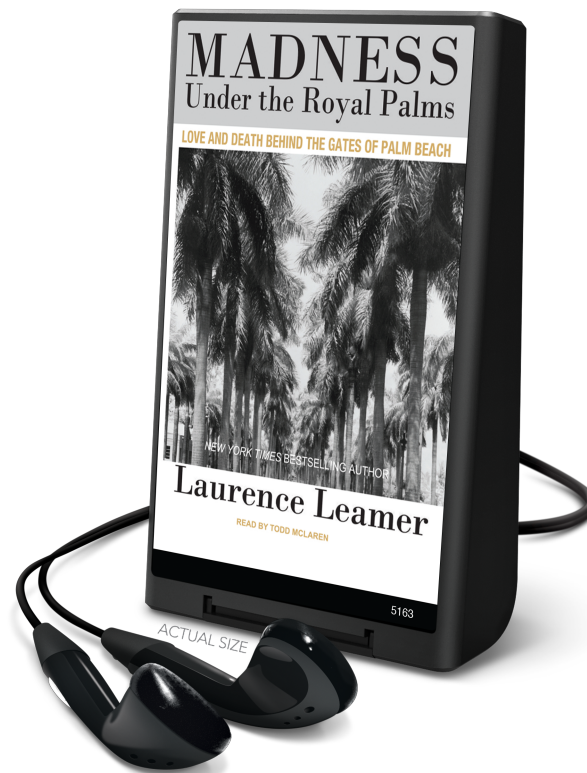
**Todd McLaren** was involved in radio for more than twenty years. He left broadcasting for a fulltime career in voice-overs, where he has been heard on more than 5,000 TV and radio commercials, as well as films. His audiobooks include *The Siege of Mecca* by Yaroslav Trofimov and *The Immortalists* by David M. Friedman.

PLAYAWAY®

MADNESS UNDER THE ROYAL PALMS  
LAURENCE LEAMER  
READ BY TODD MCLAREN

# PLAYAWAY®

THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK



**Tantor**  
a u d i o

Running Time: 11.5 Hours  
Unabridged

© 2009 Laurence Leamer  
© 2009 Tantor Media, Inc. Published by arrangement with Hyperion.  
www.tantor.com



**Tantor**  
a u d i o

## PLAYAWAY®

Playaway is a better listening experience combining an easy-to-use player with an entire audiobook. Ask your librarian for more details!

WWW.PLAYAWAY.COM  
© 2009 Playaway. Patent Approved.  
All rights reserved. Designed in Ohio. Made in China.



LIGHT



PLAYAWAY® and associated logos are registered trademarks of Findaway World, LLC.  
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA