



# Half the Kingdom: A Novel

*Lore Segal*

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Lore Segal

**Half the Kingdom: A Novel** Lore Segal

*New York Times* Notable Book 2013

"At once wry and poignant." —*The New Yorker*

"A masterwork...Both wise and deeply enjoyable." —Cynthia Ozick, author of *Foreign Bodies*

**The renowned *New Yorker* writer and Pulitzer Prize finalist Lore Segal—whom *The New York Times* declared "closer than anyone to writing the Great American Novel"—delivers a hilarious, poignant and profoundly moving tale of living, loving and aging in America today**

At Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, doctors have noticed a marked uptick in Alzheimer's patients. People who seemed perfectly lucid just a day earlier suddenly show signs of advanced dementia. Is it just normal aging, or an epidemic? Is it a coincidence, or a secret terrorist plot?

In the looking-glass world of *Half the Kingdom*—where terrorist paranoia and end-of-the-world hysteria mask deeper fears of mortality; where parents' and their grown children's feelings vacillate between frustration and tenderness; and where the broken medical system leads one character to quip, "Kafka wrote slice-of-life fiction"—all is familiar and yet slightly askew.

Lore Segal masterfully interweaves her characters' lives—lives that, for good or for ill, all converge in Cedar's ER—into a funny, tragic, and tender portrait of how we live today.

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