



# The Betsy

*Harold Robbins*

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**The Betsy** Harold Robbins

**From the author of *The New York Times* #1 best-selling novel *The Carpetbaggers*** comes a revealing saga that exposes the shocking, merciless world of the American automobile industry.

Angelo Perino lives life on the bleeding edge of speed and success—a race car driver of humble origins who dominates on and off the track. Loren Hardeman is the ruthless patriarch of an auto empire, fighting to keep his family from self-destructing under the weight of its own greed and decadence. The two men, bound by their passionate vision as well as their charismatic power over women, come together to create the world's fastest, most advanced automobile, "The Betsy"—named after Hardeman's great-granddaughter, who has captured Perino's heart.

Their creation threatens to disrupt the industry, whose power brokers are determined to prevent it no matter the cost. This pits Hardeman's own grandson, the company's current CEO, against him, revealing the depths to which Hardeman went to build his empire—including murder, incestuous adultery and organized crime. As the family feud escalates, Perino makes his move to conquer Hardeman's empire as well as his great-granddaughter.

When it was published, *The Betsy* spent 21 weeks on *The New York Times* best sellers list—and inspired a film of the same name starring Laurence Olivier, Tommy Lee Jones, Robert Duvall and Katharine Ross. This novel from master storyteller Harold Robbins pulls back the curtain on the glittering world of fame, fortune, and passion at the height of the auto industry, giving a look into the world that is now shown to be full of scandal and product recalls.

## About the Author

Harold Robbins (1916–1997) is one of the best-selling American fiction writers of all time, ranking 5th on the World's Best-Selling Fiction Author List just behind William Shakespeare and Agatha Christie. He wrote over 25 best-selling novels, sold more than 750 million copies in 42 languages and spent over 300 weeks combined on *The New York Times* best sellers list. His books were adapted into 13 commercially successful films and also television series that garnered numerous Oscar®, Golden Globe® and Primetime Emmy® nominations starring Steve McQueen, Elvis Presley, Laurence Olivier, Bette Davis, Robert Duvall, Tommy Lee Jones and more.

The self-proclaimed "world's best writer in plain English," Robbins wrote novels that resonated with audiences due to their graphic depictions of sex, violence, power and drugs, and the multilayered complexities of his characters, as evidenced by his best-selling novels *Never Love a Stranger*, *The Carpetbaggers*, *Where Love Has Gone*, and *The Adventurers*. He once said in an interview: "People make their own choices every day about what they are willing to do. We don't have the right to judge them or label them. At least walk in their shoes before you do."

Robbins' personal life was as fascinating to the public as his novels. An enthusiastic participant in the social and sexual revolution of the 1960s, Robbins cultivated a "playboy" image and maintained friendships with

stars including Frank Sinatra, Clint Eastwood, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dino De Laurentiis, Robert Evans, Ringo Starr, Barbara Eden, Lena Horne and Quincy Jones, and was one of the first novelists to be prominently featured in gossip magazines, earning him the title of “The World’s First Rock Star Author.”

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