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# Be Cool (Unabridged)



## **Synopsis**

The sequel to Chili Palmer's hit movie Get Shorty was a success on many fronts. It introduced a new style of hip gangster that revised the stereotype of the Godfather series. It also helped relaunch the career of John Travolta. And it brought Elmore Leonard's impressive body of fiction to larger public attention. In Hollywood, such a triumph usually spawns a sequel--a film that rehashes the great jokes and cool scenes of the first film, but with none of the panache that initially inspired audiences. In the beginning of Be Cool, the sequel to the novel Get Shorty, readers are reminded that Chili Palmer--like his creator--scored a huge success with a gangster film (his was entitled Get Shorty). But the sequel, Get Lost, was a predictable dud. Rather than follow that sordid story, however, Leonard takes Chili into a totally new direction. He places Chili on a murder investigation (in which he is a prime suspect) and then traces

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The film Get Shorty was a success on many fronts. It introduced a new style of hip gangster that revised the stereotype of the Godfather series. It also helped relaunch the career of John Travolta. And it brought Elmore Leonard's impressive body of fiction to larger public attention. In Hollywood, such a triumph usually spawns a sequel--a film that rehashes the great jokes and cool scenes of the first film, but with none of the panache that initially inspired audiences. In the beginning of Be Cool, the sequel to the novel Get Shorty, readers are reminded that Chili Palmer--like his creator--scored a huge success with a gangster film (his was entitled Get Shorty). But the sequel, Get Lost, was a predictable dud. Rather than follow that sordid story, however, Leonard takes Chili into a totally new direction. He places Chili on a murder investigation (in which he is a prime suspect) and then traces

Chili's entry into the music business. Meanwhile, Leonard reveals a whole new cast of fresh, funny, and flaky characters to populate Chili's world, characters like Elliot the gigantic, gay, Samoan bodyguard who lives to be on the stage. Throughout, the voice of John Travolta rings in Chili's every speech (word has it that Travolta has already been cast to reprise the role) as Leonard pokes fun at the Hollywood apparatus and the task of a sequel writer. *Be Cool* surpasses its original because it is so self-consciously a novel about sequels, about the sometimes cowardice that limits the creativity of the American film industry. It is hard to imagine how Leonard could top the multilayered satire/crime novel/exposé. One only hopes for a sequel. Fans of *Be Cool* might want to check out music from The Stone Coyotes, the band that served as Leonard's model in the book. --Patrick O'Kelley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Despite the title and the cover shot of John Travolta and Uma Thurman, who star in the MGM film based on Leonard's follow-up to *Get Shorty*, this production is curiously lacking in "cool." A few bars of funky music kick off the story, which follows shylock, a returned movie producer Chili Palmer as he outmaneuvers mobsters, crooked music business execs and some menacing rappers to make a CD and possibly another movie. Narrator Scott, who starred in the film *Dying Young*, attempts a low-key, laid-back performance, but the result sounds sedate rather than coolly casual. He gives Chili an inflectionless tone that's hardly reminiscent of the character's Italian roots, and all of his female voices sound virtually the same. Though Scott lends a few secondary characters more definition, a spot-on Brooklyn accent for Chili's friend, Tommy, and a self-consciously tough tone for a murderous music manager, this production largely succeeds in rendering Leonard's lively text listless. Based on the Delacorte hardcover (Forecasts, Nov. 16, 1998). (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is a long term sequel to 1990's *Get Shorty*. I never read that book, but I definitely need to. Elmore Leonard is such a consistently great writer. I did see the 1995 movie version with John Travolta. It was sheer genius and its success inspired Mr. Leonard to go for a sequel. In *Get Shorty* a Florida shylock chases a customer to LA and falls in love with the place. He decides to stick around and take a shot at making movies. It's 1999 and Chili Palmer is back. His first movie *Get Leo* was a phenomenal success, but its sequel *Get Lost* was a flop. Chili Palmer is looking for another story to turn into a film. His buddy Tommy from the old neighborhood

in Brooklyn has invited him for lunch. He landed in LA as a record company exec and now he wants Chili to make his story into movie. Out of kindness Chili sees him but doesn't care for the idea until Tommy is whacked right there in the restaurant. Now the music business has Chili's interest. As fate would have it Chili had a lead on another story line. A phone sales woman from an escort service wants to be a singer. Chili is enamored with her and decides to get into the record business and see where the story goes. It goes into the world of payola and ex-mobsters running record companies rappers having shootouts with Russian thugs gay Samoan bodyguards saving Chili life Chili falling in love with a movie studio honcho and little old Linda Moon becoming a superstar. The book is a fun romp with enough social commentary to keep it relevant. As usual Elmore Leonard keeps the pace crisp and the dialogue sharp. What's not to love? I need some more Elmore!!

There isn't a better writer on the planet, I own every book Mr. Leonard ever wrote, he passed away last year and it was a sad day for myself and friends I've introduced Mr. Leonard's book to.

A worthy sequel to Get Shorty, full of twists and great characters and a plot that is totally hilarious and keeps you wanting to know what happens next. From many of the reviews posted here, I thought this was going to be one of Dutch's lesser efforts; far from it, this is one of his best and right up there with Get Shorty. Pounce.

This book will probably have even better legs than Get Shorty. It is Leonard at his best, of it may be a little convoluted at times.

Chili Palmer is back. Cool, clever, and full of colorful dialogue and well developed characters; this is Elmore Leonard at his best.

Wish I had read the book first. Elmore Leonard is my favorite writer. Great characters, great scenes, great dialog. So entertaining. Now that I've read all his crime stories, I'm going to read all his westerns. Cuba Libre was really great too.

Fun, quick read. Not Elmore's best, not his worse. I'd recommend it for a plane or beach read. Try it.

Travolta owns the role of Chilly Palmer forevermore. The book and script by Elmore Leonard are superb. Put down your smart phones. Put down your tablets. Turn off your lap tops. This is a movie with enough twists that they'll lose your self in the maze if you don't follow Mr. Palmer closely.

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