

Synopsis  
CHASING PALMS  
61,679-Word Thriller  
By Jonathan Herbert

BUTCH SANDS, 24, is a wise-beyond-his-years journalist. He travels to Miami at the request of rookie cop, CHASE ANDERSON, for questioning regarding a trail of money left behind by the man who saved his life during a kidnapping attempt one month earlier. His brother, KEVIN SANDS, brings his girlfriend and the group is caught in a drive by shooting at a gas station where infamous Miami drug dealer, TATUM JONES, kills her. Butch is also injured, but manages to take pictures of the get-away seaplane. Chase gets his meeting with Butch while Kevin is left to grieve at a local hospital. The three of them meet at a diner the next morning, off the record, and agree to pursue her killer together.

The chase begins at Tatum's house in the Florida Keys. Following a heated exchange, a gunfight ensues and the three narrowly escape. They fly north and crash land near Pedro Island. Chase leaves the group to check in with his Miami PD contacts while Butch and Kevin lay low on their home island. Editor-in-Chief for the *Island Courier*, DUDAS, is anxious to get some work out of Butch. He also gives him a message from HAILEY, Butch's fiancée. She waits in Mexico wondering why Butch missed his flight.

Chase shows up the next evening with information about his Chief of Police being involved with Tatum. He was followed, and the group survives an ambush at the island marina with help from an old Naval Captain. Bullets rip through their wing and they only make it as far as Pensacola. They steal a car and drive to New Orleans in hopes of catching Tatum in a heroin deal. The group is disbanded. Hours later, Tatum confronts Butch on a city street while Chase is off looking for his contact. Butch is forced to follow Tatum through back alleys, and sees his world first hand. Chase comes to Butch's rescue and threatens a large group with gunshots. Tatum is injured but driven away by his crew. Butch and Chase drive to Pensacola that night. Kevin catches up with them and they steal a local fishing guide's boat. They make it back to Pedro Island the next day and decide to split up.

Tatum's men eventually kidnap Butch, concerned he will write a story about their operation. Chase is also captured and ends up in a room next to Butch. Days later, Chase is fatally injured during an attempted rescue. Kevin saves Butch and confronts Tatum for the last time.