



The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance (MIT Press)

By Russell Roberts

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A love story that embraces the business and economic issues of the day? *The Invisible Heart* takes a provocative look at business, economics, and regulation through the eyes of Sam Gordon and Laura Silver, teachers at the exclusive Edwards School in Washington, D.C. Sam lives and breathes capitalism. He thinks that most government regulation is unnecessary or even harmful. He believes that success in business is a virtue. He believes that our humanity flourishes under economic freedom. Laura prefers Wordsworth to the Wall Street Journal. Where Sam sees victors, she sees victims. She wants the government to protect consumers and workers from the excesses of Sam's beloved marketplace. While Sam and Laura argue about how to make the world a better place, a parallel story unfolds across town. Erica Baldwin, the crusading head of a government watchdog agency, tries to bring Charles Krauss, a ruthless CEO, to justice. How are these two dramas connected? Why is Sam under threat of dismissal? Will Erica Baldwin find the evidence she needs? Can Laura love a man with an Adam Smith poster on his wall? The answers in *The Invisible Heart* give the reader a richer appreciation for how business and the marketplace transform our lives.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hailed as an "economic romance" by the publisher, yet reading more like a dissertation on big business versus the consumer, this snappy, well-written novel casts economic polemic in fictional form. Laura Silver is a newly hired English teacher at the prestigious Edwards High School in Washington, D.C. On the street one day, she strikes up a conversation with Sam Gordon, fellow instructor of economics at Edwards. Despite Sam's fanatical devotion to free-market capitalism, bleeding-heart liberal Laura finds she enjoys their verbal sparring. Over the course of the school year, Laura and Sam run into one another on campus and around town, each time learning more about the other and delving further into political and economic topics. Meanwhile, an out-of-the-ordinary subplot pits ruthless Charles Krauss, CEO of mega-corporation HeathNet, against smart and savvy Erica Baldwin, director of the consumer watchdog agency, the Office of Corporate Responsibility, with their vicious sparring illustrating Sam and Laura's abstract arguments. It's an understatement to say that this is a novel with an agenda the agenda is the story here. Readers with a basic sympathy for deregulation and capitalist hegemony will enjoy Sam and Laura's intellectual adventures best, but students of economics across the board may find this fictionalized debate engaging and informative. (Mar.)

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Review

A page-turning, well-written love story that also teaches an impressive amount of good economics.

(Milton Friedman, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Nobel Laureate in Economics)

The Invisible Heart should be required reading for every politician and bureaucrat who has lost touch with the romance of what happens outside of Washington, DC. Sam Gordon is a modern-day hero -- impassioned by logic, inspired by free markets, and impelled by love. Russell Roberts has crafted a charming and clever tale sure to captivate readers with an endearing combination of economics and emotion.

(Declan McCullagh, Washington Bureau Chief, Wired.com)

About the Author

Russell Roberts is Professor of Economics and the J. Fish and Lillian F. Smith Distinguished Scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He is the author of *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism* and is a frequent commentator on National Public Radio.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gerald Morin:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of e-book you read,

if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The actual The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance (MIT Press) is kind of publication which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Mary Hopkins:

This book untitled The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance (MIT Press) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you to past this book from your list.

Patricia Howland:

Is it you who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance (MIT Press) can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

Paul Horn:

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