



Hail to the Chief

Fiction on Presidential Elections



Boomsday by Christopher Buckley

FIC BUCKLEY

Buckley, author of Thank You for Smoking, centers his next novel on the upcoming generation crisis between aging baby boomers and younger taxpayers footing the social security bill. Cassandra Devine is on her way to Yale when she learns her father blew all her tuition money on an internet start-up company gone bust. She joins the Army, pays her way through school and emerges a political analyst hidden amidst the swirl of other Washington lobbyists and partisan gurus. But Cassandra is able to forge her own ideas as a blogger in cyberspace expressing theories on how boomers should be given incentives to commit suicide at age 75. Economic albeit radical, the idea catches on with the Gen-X crowd outraged at growing taxes and diminished employment benefits and eventually catches on with an ambitious senator seeking the youth vote in his presidential campaign.

Citizen Sidel by Jerome Charyn

FIC CHARYN

Mystery writer Charyn has his lead character New York City Mayor Isaac Sidel agree to join forces with baseball owner J. Michael Storm in his candidacy for the president. With Sidel as his running mate (and muscle behind the campaign), Storm seems destined for victory until a murder within NYC's police department garners Sidel's attention. With a police captain suspected of murder by Sidel but evidently the picture of integrity with his subordinates, Sidel fears corruption is brewing. Privately threatened by the captain to back off or suffer the consequences of a presidential "accident", Sidel must proceed with caution on every step.

The Final Addiction by Richard Condon

FIC CONDON

Owney Hazman lives a pleasantly quiet life selling hot dogs. His needs are met and he's happy except for one thing—his own mother abandoned him when he was nine years old. His lifelong ambition to seek her out holds a strange fate, however, as along the way he meets Oona Noon. Oona is currently masterminding her dunce of a husband's candidacy for president funding his campaign through her extensive drug cartel. Oona entangles Owney into her susceptible plot leading to an all out international scandal. Satirical from the very start, Condon pokes fun at political wheeling and dealing in this hilarious, laugh-out-loud black comedy.

Big Government by Ev Ehrlich

FIC EHRLICH

Ehrlich was actually employed in the White House during the Clinton administration and has an insider's feel for how things really are. His hilarious debut novel depicts the current President stepping down 10 months prior to the end of his term due to chronic boredom and a need to have fun. With the vice-president woefully inappropriate for the job, the election year becomes anyone's game. Enter the players—a war hero turned TV evangelical, an unemployed geology professor, small town stooge, and the publisher of *Modern Weapons* magazine.

The Next President by Joseph Flynn

FIC FLYNN

Thriller author Flynn brings us face to face with retired army sniper J.D. Cade who's just been blackmailed into a plan to kill Frank Rawley, the first African-American with a legitimate shot at the Presidency. Without knowing who's behind the conspiracy, Cade infiltrates Rawley's campaign finding it ever more difficult to pull the trigger on Rawley or allow the conspirators to murder his kidnapped son. Tension builds as the day approaches leaving Cade desperate for a way out.

The Mammoth Cheese by Sheri Holman

FIC HOLMAN

Three Chimneys, Virginia is a rural town not found on most maps until one couple, thanks to fertility treatments, gives birth to 11 babies--*at once*. The town is an immediate spectacle, an international phenomenon attracting even presidential candidate Adams Brooke. Brooke's promise of amnesty given to America's independent farmers is of dire importance to town resident Margaret Pickett; cheesemaker, divorced mother of a thirteen year-old daughter and sole proprietor of her centuries-old family farm. In an effort to further the Brooke campaign, Pickett reconstructs a 1,000 lb. cheese reminiscent of when Thomas Jefferson supporters did the same thing in 1801.

Any Place I Hang My Hat by Susan Isaacs

FIC ISAACS

Amy Lincoln has had it rough. Abandoned by her parents as an infant and raised by her Grandmother who shoplifts their meals, Amy escapes at fourteen after receiving a scholarship to an exclusive New England prep school. Inevitably shunned by the privileged elite, her hard work pays off in scholarships to Harvard and Columbia where she graduates near the top of her class in journalism. Her new job as a political reporter finds her investigating the past of a current Presidential candidate through communication with an self-alleged illegitimate son. While on the trail of this current mystery, Amy begins digging deeper into her own family's heritage revealing some buried secrets no one could have thought possible.

Dark Horse by Fletcher Knebel

FIC KNEBEL

The National Committee had a shoe in candidate for the presidency. Walter Hudson, state senator and long-time democrat, was the perfect choice. A party gopher that would never stray from the Committee's agenda, everything was going according to plan until Hudson's sudden heart attack ruined everything three weeks prior to the election.

Enter Edward Quinn, a transportation official from New Jersey and one whom the committee thinks is the perfect substitute pawn. But Quinn has his own ideas and his own integrity to back them up. Suddenly his bold new approach is attracting potential voters while estranging Committee backers. Election Day nears and the tension builds as Quinn's popularity skyrockets leaving his campaign managers enraged and plotting his downfall.

Dewey Defeats Truman by Thomas Mallon

FIC MALLON

Owosso, Michigan was just like any other small town until 1948 when its most famous ever (and soon-to-be state of Michigan's most famous ever) citizen--Thomas Dewey--ran against Harry Truman for President of the United States. Dewey just had to win, after nearly 20 years of democrats in the White House, America was finally going to be in the hands of a Republican. But there are no sure things, just as Owosso bookstore clerk Anne Macmurray knows all too well as she must choose between two marriage suitors—a labor union organizer and an ambitious Republican attorney.

Birth of a Nation

by Aaron McGruder & Reginald Hudlin

YP FIC MCGRUDER

Drenched in satire of the current day political atmosphere, graphic novel Birth of a Nation tells the story of East St. Louis (Ill.) and its residents who, one Election Day, aren't allowed to vote for various "reasons". When the final count reveals a near-deadlocked race in which the East St. Louis votes would have accounted for a different president elected. Instead, the new president assumes office as a dim-witted stooge for a larger right-wing led administration. Outraged the city's mayor aided by some shady supporters resolves that East St. Louis should secede from the union. Complete with an "offshore" bank and support rising from the organized crime sector, terrorists groups, and other wayward backers; the new *nation's* problems arrive simultaneously with its declared independence.

It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis

FIC LEWIS

Written in 1935 by Nobel Prize winner Lewis, the novel focuses on an America ripe with tension, eager for stability, needing a way out from under the heavy cloak of economic depression. Lewis shows the susceptible path of a democracy turned fascist through a desperate nation

seeking relief and finally backing a presidential candidate who is not only able to do as they wish but eliminate the possibility of a capitalist system abusing any power entitled it. This “new way” of thinking makes honest Americans proud again, puts food into children’s mouths, and preserves order within the social sector. But just when the hungry are full enough to think for themselves, they realize the awful price they’ve paid for their bread—*their freedom*.

The Plot Against America by Philip Roth

FIC ROTH

What if FDR had not been President during WWII? What if, instead, he had been easily defeated in the 1940 election by the none other than famous pilot Charles A. Lindbergh? Roth gives us the story of what could have been in his bestselling book about an America at its most critical hour. With Lindbergh’s public dislike of Jews, his firm isolationist policy, and his “understanding” with Hitler; Americans have become divided over support for intervention and personal safety. Meanwhile American Jews are petrified with fear as reports of oppression and terror reach the states from what is now Adolf Hitler’s *new* Europe.

Missionary Stew by Ross Thomas

MYS THOMAS

Prior to the 1984 U.S. Presidential election, campaign agent Draper Haere is ordered by his candidate boss to uncover the secret behind the opposition’s suspected right-wing coup involving a Central American country’s dictatorship. His quest to expose the truth takes him south of the border enlisting the aid of his rogue reporter friend Morgan Citron. Together they confront guerilla fighters, cocaine traffickers, and Citron’s estranged over-the-top, tabloid-publishing mother.

The Run by Stuart Woods

FIC WOODS

Following a series of tragic events, Georgia senator Will Lee has been thrust onto the national stage as a candidate for the presidency. Though well-backed and supported by his party as well as his wife Kate, Will can’t shake the nagging sense that things are just a little too convenient for him. His fears materialize as he realizes the real political force behind his candidacy and the conspiracy which targets his very life. Acclaimed author Woods never fails to deliver his own brand of political suspense and this thriller is no different.

Other classics:

The Manchurian Candidate by Richard Condon

FIC CONDON

The Perfect Killer by Lewis Perdue

FIC PERDUE

Special Relationship by Robyn Sisman

FIC SISMAN

Conspiracy by Allan Topol

FIC SISMAN

Deception Point by Dan Brown

FIC BROWN

Lost Lake by Philip Margolin

FIC MARGOLIN

