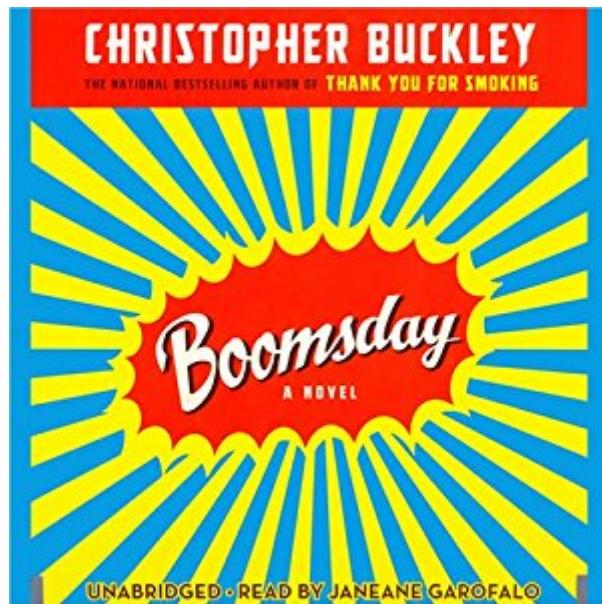


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Boomsday: A Novel



Synopsis

BOOMSDAY'S heroine is Cassandra Devine, a charismatic 29-year-old blogger who incites massive political turmoil when, outraged over mounting Social Security debt, she politely suggests that Baby Boomers be given government incentives to kill themselves by age 75. Her modest proposal catches fire with millions of her outraged peers ("Generation Whatever") and an ambitious Senator seeking to gain the youth vote in his presidential campaign. With the help of Washington's greatest spin doctor, the blogger and the politician try to ride the issue of euthanasia for Boomers (they call it "Transitioning") all the way to the White House, over the forceful objections of the Religious Right and, of course, Baby Boomers, who are deeply offended by demonstrations on the golf courses of their retirement resorts. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Buckley's humor is so close to real that it's sometimes hard to laugh -- but then, you do anyway. For anyone who follows politics -- and especially anyone who is still idealistic in the face of the creeping virus of unavoidable cynicism -- Buckley speaks for you. I find I want to compare him to Hiaasen, but it's an unjust comparison. Carl Hiaasen is comical and outrageous in his plot-lines and characterizations. When I read Hiaasen I feel like I do when I read Harry Potter. It's unreal in its bigness and broadness. Buckley is not like that. He is just a bit-beyond-the-completely-typical, which makes his work hysterically funny. Plus, it also flatters readers by intimating that they are "in on" something -- privy to a secret truth; the truth of how close he gets to reality without just writing

current events or parody. Much like a very smart inside joke that you hoard for its delight and for the status if confers on you, if you get it.

Different premise. Who is going to pay for all the increasing number of elderly. The young are going to get taxed and taxed. There is going to have to be a fundamental change. However no politician that values his job is going to do anything. Besides congress has their program for themselves and do not have to live with what the rest of us do. In case you aren't aware, look at all the perks that congress has, even if they serve 1 term, for the rest of their life.

Boomsday is not a biting satire, but it is entertaining none the less. Mr. Buckley has written more subtle books, but his nuance of Washington life and intrigue is probably uncomfortably spot on. Too often we look at our national leaders as demigods, as opposed to people who lead lives very similar to our own. The fact that we recognize ourselves in many of the characters in this novel is upsetting to some readers. But not to this one. Although the protagonist in this text is the least interesting character, she serves as the catalyst by which we meet the more infinitely appealing supporting cast. Their clever idiosyncrasies and obvious faults are funny because many readers share them. The characters of President Peachum and the evangelist Gideon Payne are some of the more enjoyable characters in this text precisely because they are so flawed. Who doesn't root for the biggest idiot in the room? My only complaint is the let down of the ending. Buckley builds the climax to dizzying heights, and then can't top the buildup. The resolution is a let down. But the journey to it was worth the ride. For another great Buckley DC satire check out his older White House Mess.

The main theme of the soon-to-be crushing expense of senior citizen entitlements is certainly relevant today and I found his over the top play on it an engaging and funny. Ditto on his portrayal of how Washington DC works behind the scenes, though I certainly hope it's closer to fiction than reality. Most of the characters are interesting and never are lacking a witty retort. The story moved at a good pace and, as I approached the ending of the book, things were moving along ... and then all of a sudden - epilogue. Pardon me? Another reviewer noted that epilogues are usually a writer's away of wrapping up without having to write a decent ending, and I definitely concur. The rushed ending left me feeling somewhat cheated out of the proper ending I deserved - an unfortunate way to end what was a entertaining read.

After reading a very huge downer of a book on the dysfunctional juvenile justice system, I needed a

sure-fire pick-me-up. As usual, Mr. Buckley came to the rescue. "Boomsday" is another fine example of why the author won the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Delightful pandemonium begins on the first page and never slows down. Politicians, businessmen, lobbyists, public relations representatives, religious leaders and the general American populace are lampooned about their narcissistic and hypocritical ways. No one is spared the author's sarcastic, playful wit. His trademark of continually interjecting ever-more outrageous scenarios embellished with snappy dialogue is why Mr. Buckley is one of my favorite authors in the area of political farce. A fast read that will delight wonks and neophytes alike.

christopher buckley writes very humorous political satire. they are short and very entertaining, with only a mild dose of a political message underneath. I've read all his books, they are all pretty similar to one another so if you try reading one and you like it, you may find yourself hooked.

Perhaps this is what real politics are like. The book starts strong and is exciting for the entire first half... Then it offers some outrageous personal character twists, then it ends. So perhaps that's how politics work in D.C. today (I tend to think so). Everyone rally's around a subject, then it sort of fizzles away. Quite a fun book though and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Even got me thinking if "Transitioning" (or radical ideas like it) would really be much worse than some of the paths we are currently heading down as a nation.

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