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Iago in the Land of La Mancha: A Political Satire

Michael Funnell

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Michael Funnell : Iago in the Land of La Mancha: A Political Satire before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Iago in the Land of La Mancha: A Political Satire:

Iago in the Land of La Mancha is a political satire about a conservative government elected in Australia. Our story begins on election night of the pending victory. It's also a tale of a political betrayal on a truly bumbling scale by a parliamentarian advisor who channels Shakespeare's villain from Othello. Jeremy Iago works as a staffer in

conservative MPs parliamentary office, Jeremy is a brash young man with oodles of confidence but far less competence. The seeds of discontent are sown when shortly after the election win Jeremy is allocated by the party to work for newly elected MP, Richard Moore. Unfortunately Richard fails to share Jeremy's high opinion of himself and only offers him a junior advisors job. Stung at being denied the promotion he feels he so richly deserves Jeremy agrees to take the job but privately swears his vengeance against Richard. The euphoria of the conservative win quickly fades as the newly elected Ministers realise that there's more to policy than simple three word slogans, attacking the renewable energy sector and tilting at many and varied windmills along the way. Meanwhile in Melbourne and Sydney an elaborate game of cat and mouse is afoot between Outlaw Nuns and the combined might of ASIO, the Australian Federal Police and the newly created Border Force. In Canberra Jeremy is joined in his conspiracy by his mates and fellow staffers Gavin and Shaun. Will they succeed in their diabolical plot to unseat Richard? or can the newbie MP survive the treacherous political waters of Canberra?

After years in the political cold, the conservative Liberal (obvious misnomer) party has just won the elections in Australia. The story begins with the victory party. Peter Hodge, the new Prime Minister is overwhelmed by his new role. He balances loyalties and conflicting policies in his attempt to run a tight ship. Skulduggery takes center stage as party loyalists compete and continuously jostle for power in the new cabinet. Alliances will be made and broken in the crowded contest. Add in conservative old guards, lobby groups, the media, a gullible public, and the stage is set for a contest of Machiavellian proportions. The typical party hierarchy in this book is in descending order; Prime Minister (PM) - Ministers - Junior Minister - Member of Parliament staff (MOPs). Jeremy Iago is a MOP in the Environment ministry - Rivers and Water Resources section; he served under Barry the minister while in the opposition. Barry assigns him to his subordinate as a spy. His current boss is the junior minister, Richard Moore. Richard is a political greenhorn and a member of parliament for Venice, Melbourne. He denies Iago the coveted position of Chief of Staff opting for the less privileged media advisor. This earns Richard his wrath and he's now all too happy in exacting his revenge. Unknown to Iago, he's part of a wider conspiracy by his backers who think lowly of him. It is true when they say that never join politics for the sake of making friends. Watch as the Shakespearian-like Iago plots his many moves against equally cunning foes, will he make it? Or will he end up like the similarly named character in Othello? I needed a break. For over a month now, I've been reading non-fiction titles for personal improvement purposes. What better way to let loose than a refreshing take on political satire - served Aussie style. Besides, who can resist Shakespeare? Unless you are Australian, please make sure you go through and continuously reference the glossary section while reading this book-- Aussies speak and do things differently. Suffice to say, this book is written in Australian English which is more similar to British English. Iago in the land of La Mancha has a lot going for it. Both the titles Iago and La Mancha come from 2 very famous books. Attributes of the Machiavellian Iago and the macho-chivalrous La Mancha knight, are exhibited by the characters. Being a satirical piece, it just had to be funny. The author was creative, especially with the names of the Ministers and their ministries. My favourite was Fred Flintstone, the minister for "Pretending to like Science." There's also Drac Ula and Attila Dogwhistler. The conversations were a riot; my kids thought I was insane when they found me laughing by myself - which never happens. The funniest scene has to be the Soldiers of Vegemite protest march to Parliament buildings. I risk spoiling the experience for potential readers by revealing any more information. Just a learning point; never go protesting half drunk, on foot, in sweltering heat with highly inebriated colleagues. They don't mix well. I rate this book 2 out of 4 stars. There were multiple funny scenes that kept me entertained. But, the book had so many characters, who had long conversations. Some of these conversations were drawn out needlessly, or rather, the joke/satire gets reused enough it becomes stale. I believe this book would have been better if it was a shorter story. I would recommend this book to lovers of political satire. There's just something about political experiences that are common to everyone no matter your location. Consider the following passage, "Politics is all about appearances not reality...lasting impressions are made by emotions, not facts." Julius Otinya - OnlineBookClub.org