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Animal Farm: A Fairy Story (Penguin Audiobooks)



Synopsis

Having got rid of their human master, the animals in this political fable look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a clever, ruthless elite takes control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the same old way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since its publication in 1946, George Orwell's fable of a workers' revolution gone wrong has rivaled Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* as the Shortest Serious Novel It's OK to Write a Book Report About. (The latter is three pages longer and less fun to read.) Fueled by Orwell's intense disillusionment with Soviet Communism, *Animal Farm* is a nearly perfect piece of writing, both an engaging story and an allegory that actually works. When the downtrodden beasts of Manor Farm oust their drunken human master and take over management of the land, all are awash in collectivist zeal. Everyone willingly works overtime, productivity soars, and for one brief, glorious season, every belly is full. The animals' Seven Commandment credo is painted in big white letters on the barn. All animals are equal. No animal shall drink alcohol, wear clothes, sleep in a bed, or kill a fellow four-footed creature. Those that go upon four legs or wings are friends and the two-legged are, by definition, the enemy. Too soon, however, the pigs, who have styled themselves leaders by virtue of their intelligence, succumb to the temptations of privilege and power. "We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organisation of the farm depend on us. Day and night, we are watching over your welfare. It is for your sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples."

While this swinish brotherhood sells out the revolution, cynically editing the Seven Commandments to excuse their violence and greed, the common animals are once again left hungry and exhausted, no better off than in the days when humans ran the farm. Satire Animal Farm may be, but it's a stony reader who remains unmoved when the stalwart workhorse, Boxer, having given his all to his comrades, is sold to the glue factory to buy booze for the pigs. Orwell's view of Communism is bleak indeed, but given the history of the Russian people since 1917, his pessimism has an air of prophecy. --Joyce Thompson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This 50th-anniversary commemorative edition of Orwell's masterpiece is lavishly illustrated by Ralph Steadman. In addition, it contains Orwell's proposed introduction to the English-language version as well as his preface to the Ukrainian text. Though all editions of Animal Farm are equal, this one is more equal than others. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Orwellian writing is both pessimistic and advisory. Orwell had the ability to look into both how people think, and into why they did what they did - their core motivations. Both 1984 and Animal Farm discuss the problems with political power, and how far those having power will subvert the good to get and maintain that power.

I am struck with the brutality that Orwell was able to include in such a fantastical tale of an all too real reality. I read this book as a middle schooler back in the early 1990s, and it was worth rereading as an adult. So much of the modern popular understanding of the evils from which a freedom loving society are to flee is, in our present time, no more articulated by the pundits, nor more understood by the masses, than the slogan "four legs good, two legs bad". I'm sure if Orwell's sheep could, that's all they'd ever tweet.

One of the finest works I have read. A must read. This is a most engaging story that eloquently explains the failures of Communism and Humanism in general.

The "new" preface provides an understanding of the political climate of post WWII England. This addition gives the reader additional insight regarding the challenges the author faced when attempting to get this work published. As a child of the cold war era myself, it was fascinating to learn that there was a time when the the soviets led by Stalin were given a free pass from the US

and British press.

Animal Farm gives me the glimpse at how Communism work. Orwell did a good job illustrated the politics of Soviet Union under Stalin rule using Animal. You may wonder how a pig (named Napoleon) can run the farm more efficient than a human can. How "he" (refer to a pig) uses hope, then fear to enslave lower animal ones? That is how the Communism work. No, I mean Animalism. Also, Orwell also includes the power struggling inside the Communist party itself into his work, as Napoleon "purge" Snowball out of the farm to gain supreme power. "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which." But myself, I can't differentiate whether "animal farm" is run by animal or human. "All animal are equal." But...nevermind...

If you ever wonder how your revolution can be hijacked by those in the background, Animal Farm is the book for you! Makes the case that the October Revolution was hijacked by pigs, who devolved to the point where they were no better than their booze swilling former masters. Quite the good read. This gets my highest rating!

The checkbox review criteria provided by is truly sophomoric, but these books stand as definitive works and models of totalitarianism that every person in the free world should read as reference materials. Orwell pinpointed the Elements, Causes, and Outcomes that result from social and political apathy leading to any of a variety of totalitarian states. "Feed your head".... read Orwell and THINK about our current world. The current fads of Political Correctness and the pathological unwillingness to offend and to be offended are not well-thought-out experiments in social behavior. THEY have dire unseen consequences to free speech and liberty. Read the books. See where it can go if left unchecked. Read Orwell, Hitchens, Dawkins, Dennet, Harris.

Orwell's writing style drew me quickly into his prophetic vision with strong characterizations and believable emotional reactions, set in vivid descriptions of the city of London in a hideous future. It is a vision of a world dominated by three global powers in a symbiotic relationship of perpetual war with no chance of one power gaining supremacy. The Point of View characters and plot thread are contained wholly in Oceania, one of the three powers. What struck me immediately is that Orwell's future deals with the major political issues of our day: the results of a sustained top-down campaign imposing political correctness which meticulously destroys every tangible vestige of history,

compassion, love, truth, privacy, religion, spirituality, and government accountability to the people--with the intent to eliminate every facet of freedom. His society holds the vast majority trapped in total ignorance and servile conditions under a nominal "elite" that is in fact less free than the peons. Above the nominal elite is a smoky inner circle directly answerable to Big Brother. Once you have read this book in its entirety, you will no longer accept our media's misuse of terms like "Big Sis," thought control, and revisionism.

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