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Animal Farm: A Fairy Story



Synopsis

George Orwell's timeless and timely allegorical novel is a scathing satire on a downtrodden society's blind march towards totalitarianism. "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible. When Animal Farm was first published, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target. Today it is devastatingly clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of George Orwell's masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Animal Farm remains our great satire on the darker face of modern history." —Malcolm Bradbury
"As lucid as glass and quite as sharp [Animal Farm] has the double meaning, the sharp edge, and the lucidity of Swift." —Atlantic Monthly
"A wise, compassionate, and illuminating fable for our times." —The New York Times
"Orwell has worked out his theme with a simplicity, a wit, and a dryness that are close to La Fontaine and Gay, and has written in a prose so plain and spare, so admirably proportioned to his purpose, that Animal Farm even seems very creditable if we compare it with Voltaire and Swift." —Edmund Wilson, The New Yorker
"Orwell's satire here is amply broad, cleverly conceived, and delightfully

written. [San Francisco Chronicle](#) "The book for everyone and Everyman, its brightness undimmed after fifty years." [Ruth Rendell](#)

George Orwell (pseudonym for Eric Blair [1903-50]) was born in Bengal and educated at Eton; after service with the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, he returned to Europe to earn his living penning novels and essays. He was essentially a political writer who focused his attention on his own times, a man of intense feelings and intense hates. An opponent of totalitarianism, he served in the Loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War. Besides his classic *Animal Farm*, his works include a novel based on his experiences as a colonial policeman, *Burmese Days*, two firsthand studies of poverty, *Down and Out in Paris and London* and *The Road to Wigan Pier*, an account of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War, *Homage to Catalonia*; and the extraordinary novel of political prophecy whose title became part of our language, *1984*.

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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