

## Political Novels

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Baldacci, David. *Absolute Power*.

Set in Washington, D.C., this fascinating thriller dares to explore the unthinkable abuse of power and criminal conspiracy - a vicious murder involving the president, his mistress, and a cover-up orchestrated by his zealously loyal chief of staff and the Secret Service. Unbeknownst to the president and his lackeys, a witness saw everything.

Beinhart, Larry. *American Hero*.

Impassioned in its anger, lethal in its aim, this paints a scathing portrait of the strange place this country had become in the Reagan-Bush years - and shows how only Hollywood could have taken full advantage of the demise of the Old World Order. The film *Wag the Dog* was based on *American Hero*.

Boxer, Barbara. *A Time to Run*.

On the eve of the nomination of an ultraconservative Hispanic female Supreme Court justice, a liberal senator from California receives sensitive documents that could derail the nomination, and has 24 hours to decide on a course of action.

Bram, Christopher. *Gossip*.

When a member of ACT UP discovers his lover is a closeted conservative journalist, he breaks up with him. Then the journalist is found murdered, and the police think they know who did it.

Buckley, Christopher. *No Way to Treat a First Lady*.

When the First Lady is charged with killing her philandering husband during a bedroom argument, she turns for help to notorious defense attorney Boyce "Shameless" Baylor, her former flame.

Buckley, William F. *The Redhunter*.

A fictionalized biography of Joseph McCarthy, pursuer of communists and communist sympathizers in government.

Clancy, Tom. *Executive Orders*.

CIA agent Jack Ryan faces domestic and international enemies after a terrorist jet crashes into the Capitol and he unexpectedly becomes president.

Clarke, Richard A. *The Scorpion's Gate*.

Turmoil in the Middle East threatens to lead to World War III between the United States and China over oil. Clarke served as White House counterterrorism chief for many years.

Condon, Richard. *The Manchurian Candidate*.

A classic cold war thriller that remains just as chilling today, featuring Sergeant Raymond Shaw, ex-prisoner of war, Medal of Honor winner, American hero . . . and brainwashed assassin, who has come home programmed to kill the U.S. presidential nominee. The 1962 movie version was banned for 25 years after the Kennedy assassination, and a remake came out in 2005.

Cox, Ana Marie. *Dog Days*.

A Democratic campaign staffer launches a fictitious Internet diary intended to expose the seamier side of Washington life. The author is the former writer of a scathing political blog, *Wonkette*.

Date, V. S. *Smokeout*.

A tobacco bill has been introduced into the Florida legislature, and on its passage rests the livelihoods - and in some cases, the lives - of many of the state's finest denizens. Soon, ruthless executives, venal politicians, sexy lobbyists - and a few honest citizens - reach critical mass.

Didion, Joan. *The Last Thing He Wanted*.

A reporter inherits her father's secretive life as an arms dealer for the U.S. government in Central America in 1984.

Drury, Allen. *Advise and Consent*.

This 1960 Pulitzer Prize winner is still a page-turner today. The plot centers on the nomination of a one-time communist sympathizer to be the Secretary of State at the height of the Cold War.

Fuentes, Carlos. *The Eagle's Throne*.

This is corrosive satire from one of Mexico's eminent novelists. It is the decade 2020, and an ailing Mexican president has banned oil exports to the U.S. and called for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from occupied Colombia. In retaliation, American President Condoleezza Rice has shut down all of Mexico's telephone, fax and Internet communications.

Flynn, Vince. *Separation of Power*.

With the CIA director dead, his protégé is poised to take over the reins of the agency, while CIA operative Mitch Rapp heads to the Middle East to try to stop the chaos that could ignite World War III.

Gavin, William. *One Hell of a Candidate*.

Republican Congressman T. Claude "Buzzer" LeBrand has barely survived his last election when videotape of him frolicking with bikini-clad bimbos in St. Kitts ends up on the evening news. And then Buzzer has a heart attack in a D.C. Metro station, hits his head on the escalator, and falls into a coma.

Horrock, Harry. *Potomac Fever*.

This high-powered thriller set in Washington, D.C. features a pair of cops in a fiendishly clever plot that involves everything from kinky sex to shady real estate development.

Klein, Joe. *Primary Colors*.

This is a funny and dramatic story with characters and (a.k.a. Anonymous) events that resemble some familiar, real-life figures. When a former congressional aide joins the staff of the governor of a small Southern state, he watches in horror, admiration, and amazement as the governor mixes calculation and sincerity in his campaign for the presidency.

Lawson, Michael. *The Inside Ring*.

Following an assassination attempt that wounds the president and kills the president's closest friend, the Secretary of Homeland Security, who had warned the Secret Service about the attack, initiates an investigation.

Lehrer, Jim. *The Last Debate*.

Four journalists are scheduled to moderate a debate between two presidential candidates. The Republican is a born-again racist, while the Democrat is not too swift but a decent fellow. The journalists decide to torpedo the Republican, in this post-Clinton satire.

Lewis, Sinclair. *It Can't Happen Here*.

After a fascist demagogue ascends to the presidency, a small town newspaperman flees to Canada to join the underground resistance, in this cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy, written in 1935.

McCarry, Charles. *Lucky Bastard*.

This is the break-out book by one of America's best political novelists. John Fitzgerald Adams, the bastard son of President Kennedy, runs for president with the help of political friends, in this entertaining study of sex and power.

McGrory, Brian. *The Incumbent*.

In the bestselling tradition of *Absolute Power* and *The Tenth Justice*, a veteran Washington press insider delivers a timely, gripping first novel about an attempt on the president's life 12 days before the election.

Meltzer, Brad. *The Zero Game*.

Bored with their jobs as senior staffers to a respected congressman, Matthew Mercer and Harris Sandler become involved in the clandestine Zero Game, but when someone close to them turns up dead, they discover the sinister intent of the "game."

Mitchell, Michele. *The Latest Bombshell*.

A young political consultant lands herself in the middle of a high-profile scandal while spinning the case of the century.

O'Connor, Edwin. *The Last Hurrah*.

Boston Mayor Frank Skeffington's reelection bid at age 72 provides a glimpse into the wheeling and dealing of a big city Irish politician in this 1956 novel, which was made into a movie starring Spencer Tracy.

Powers, Thomas. *The Confirmation*.

A nominee for CIA director is forced to confront a dangerous secret from his past. Among those caught up in the ordeal are an idealistic CIA analyst, an old bull of the Senate, an unprincipled investigative reporter, and two disgruntled war veterans.

Richardson, Douglas. *Dark Horse*.

The congressional campaign of a front runner candidate spins out of control and goes negative when a dark horse candidate enters the race.

Safire, William. *Full Disclosure*.

A constitutional crisis commences when the president is blinded in an assassination attempt and his cabinet seeks his resignation under the 25th Amendment.

Silva, Daniel. *The Mark of the Assassin*.

A contemporary Washington-based thriller set in the White House. Silva, a veteran newspaper and television reporter, puts his insider's knowledge of the nation's capitol to powerful effect, as he spins a frightening tale of a president targeted for destruction by a cabal of business executives.

Tarloff, Eric. *Face-Time*.

A gripping, undeniably plausible novel of a top White House aide whose girlfriend is having an affair with his boss, the president of the United States - and who refuses to give up this once-in-a-lifetime "privilege".

Welter, John. *Night of the Avenging Blowfish*.

A Secret Service agent is demoted after he fails to prevent the White House chef from serving Spam to the president to get even for an insult to his cooking.

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