



The Pinocchio Syndrome

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An international thriller of political intrigue, personal betrayal and cutting-edge science, The Pinocchio Syndrome marks the debut of a brilliant new talent. America is in turmoil. And that spells trouble for the entire world. In the middle of a vicious struggle for the leadership of the country, the vice president is struck down by a new 'living death' disease that is breaking out across the globe -- the 'Pinocchio Syndrome'. With the current administration close to collapse, and billionaire extremist Colin Goss and his dangerous views gaining ground, it seems that only one man can unite the country -- Michael Campbell, a popular, media-friendly young senator. But what is his secret? In a nerve-shredding race against time, a Secret Service agent and troubled female journalist are forced together to crack a conspiracy that could destroy the world .

The Pinocchio Syndrome Details

Date : Published 2003 by Harper Collins

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From Reader Review The Pinocchio Syndrome for online ebook

Lauren Bradshaw says

Enjoyable, but slow to get into and then it seemed to end too quickly.

Kevin says

I thought this book was great. Kind of political fiction that took a lot of twists and turns that left me on the edge of my seat. I would definitely read another book by this author but have yet to find one.

Max D says

Amazing gripping novel. good name and good plot. a real page-turner. certain parts do drag on in regards to detail, but he nailed everything else. note: would not recommend for readers younger the 11-12 as it contains sex and swearing.

Henri Moreaux says

A nuclear missile takes out a cruise ship filled with high achieving students, a mystery virus spreads in several small towns, the vice president and his successor is infected by it, the third successor is killed in a hit and run. Meanwhile hard line right wing political opponent Colin Goss gains ground in the polls and the government slips, will new appointee Michael Campbell be a saviour that keeps the government in power and society safe? When he is named polls climb, suddenly his wife is abducted.

Meanwhile a reporter investigating the virus begins to think all may not be as it appears.

The novel is quite the page turner, set in the US it's got political manoeuvring, a touch of mystery and a dark shadow hovering over a potential future that darkens as the story unfolds.

Enjoyable, unfortunately seems to be the only book by the author however, else I'd be hunting the others down also.

Jennifer Brooks says

I've read this book more times than I can count over the years. I absolutely love the tale David Zeman weaves, which has become scarily prophetic in today's political climate. I love the ins and outs of the storyline and how it all connects, and the ending is superb. It remains a constant on my top five favorite books of all time and is one of my safety blankets for when I just need a good book to get lost in. Its book jacket is so worn with use after over a decade of loving use. I'll continue to read this story over and over.

Well done!

Jeff Tufano says

I actually give this book 2 1/2 stars but I'll round up for the sake of generosity.

I didn't dislike this book but I didn't love it either. Be forewarned it doesn't have anything to do with the beloved character who wishes to become a real boy someday. It was a quick read about politics gone awry but the plot and the characters were a bit over the top for me. Some rich guy poisons people with something that makes them go catatonic and who eventually die so some other guy can become president. The rich guy/villain was written as a bit of a mustache twirler for me. I'm not sure if I'm the only one who thought there was a bit of homoeroticism between him and the political guy he wanted for president. The reporter who caught onto the story was a bit more plausible. Not a whole lot to go in depth about which is why I guess the reviews are pretty scarce. As political thrillers go this is pretty run of the mill.

Melissa Lavery says

I like this book and its many surprises. The plot was unique, and the book quickly became a page-turner. However, with that said, the author's use of the same diction, phrases, concepts (verbatim) became an irritation. Even when the thoughts of a character emerged, the word choice was the same as with several other characters. That part lacked complexity and authenticity.

Nicholas Roy says

The Pinocchio Syndrome starts out with an American cruise ship, The Crescent Queen, full with a thousand middle schoolers and high schoolers who all due to their academic prowess received a free cruise ride being obliterated by a hydrogen bomb. One year later the tragedy is still fresh in the minds of the American public as they ponder having a special election to oust the current administration. The candidates are, Michael Campbell a young and photogenic US senator or Colin Goss a pharmaceutical billionaire with extremist views on terrorism and foreign policy. Then the syndrome hits and begins to freeze people in their tracts, rendering them completely immobile by the millions. The population divides staunchly on who to support in these troubling times.

Now to say this, David Zeman is a misogynistic author who wrote a story that had strong bones, but a horrible layering of plot and was just convenient for its time of conception. The story read as if it was a fictional account of the 2016 election, though it was published in 2003. David monopolized on the public's fascination with terrorism in the early post 9/11 world and churned out this five hundred page story. Then to gain more readers, every time a female character is introduced or mentioned, her breasts and body are always described in detail, though it has no significance at all. I do not recommend this book as a one night stand with the political thriller genre,

Angela says

In a world where your life is ruled by few governing individuals, we like to think that those ruling us have societies best interest at heart. Or at least have some value of life and those of their fellow man. And woman. What happens behind the shiny exterior put on for the camera?

With the president under attack from all political sides, it is left to a young shining star of a politician to lead people away from panic after a terrible nuclear attack. To make matters worse a horrible illness is leaving seemingly random people paralyzed. A syndrome deemed the Pinocchio Syndrome. Is it a horrible coincidence, or are both events linked? Karen Embry is going to get to the bottom of what is happening, but who can you trust if you suspect a virus may not be an accident after all?

Ruth says

power of politics. A rich businessman runs for president and manipulates the desired outcome - hit protégé becoming president. The rich businessman's company develops a paralyzing germ than can be manipulated on an individual basis. He eliminates all obstacles but the past - Harvard's pin the tail on donkey sex game and his involvement is revealed and his and his protégé's political futures are destroyed.

Grahame says

Very enjoyable. A thoughtful plot and an engaging writing style.

Iris says

It starts with a bang, whimpers along, and dies into absurdity that is the graveyard of too many political thrillers. There's something almost schizophrenic about the writing -- patched of dullness and all of the sudden, a brilliant sentence or paragraph becomes even more brilliant from the contrast with the background. The story is interesting — I hope it gets picked up for a screenplay; I would love to see it as a movie.

Jeff Tufano says

I actually give this book 2 1/2 stars but will round up to be generous since I've read worse.

I didn't dislike this book but I didn't love it either. Be forewarned it doesn't have anything to do with the beloved character who wishes to become a real boy someday. It was a quick read about politics gone awry but the plot and the characters were a bit over the top for me. Some rich guy poisons people with something that makes them go catatonic and who eventually die so some other guy can become president. The rich guy/villain was written as a bit of a mustache twirler for me. I'm not sure if I'm the only one who thought there was a bit of homoeroticism between him and the political guy he wanted for president. The reporter

who caught onto the story was a bit more plausible. Not a whole lot to go in depth about which is why I guess the reviews are pretty scarce. As political thrillers go this is pretty run of the mill.

Sandra Cosgrove says

Really enjoyed this book. Would recommend.

Cathleen Ash says

Okay, so first let's just say that any book that blows up a cruise ship full of children in the first six pages is okay be me! (Just Kidding!). It's six months later, and everyone in the U.S. is freaked out by the fact that their brightest children - on a special gifted & talented cruise - are gone. No one (or should I say too many people?) has claimed responsibility.

It's snowing in Iowa and the postman is crossing a quiet street, continuing on his route. He glances over the hills behind the house, his gaze drifts out of focus, and he pauses.

He pauses so long, a mother who's looking out her window notices him standing very still in the middle of the street. When she goes out to help him, there's a fine layer of snow covering him. His eyes are open, but he seems frozen.

He's the first case of many: the Pinocchio Syndrome. As the presidential campaign heats up, and the candidate calling for all out retaliation and retribution over the dead children starts pulling ahead, more and more people are being struck down with the Pinocchio Syndrome. The tension in the country rises to a fever pitch. Will Colin Goss gain the presidency based on his no nonsense approach to terrorists? Will the world find a cure, or a culprit, for the Pinocchio Syndrome?
