



## The Senator and the Priest

*Andrew M. Greeley*

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Tommy Moran fights for the underprivileged on the floor of the United States Senate. He's determined to restore civility and compassion to American politics. But his opponents don't share his scruples. Almost from the beginning, Tommy and his family find themselves besieged by vicious personal attacks.

## **The Senator and the Priest Details**

Date : Published December 1st 2006 by Forge (first published 2006)

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Author : Andrew M. Greeley

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## From Reader Review The Senator and the Priest for online ebook

### **Joe says**

I don't need to read another. The writing was decent, the characters reasonably well developed, and the plot was OK but the book was meaningless, there was no sense of heading in a direction with an outcome. So, no more from Greeley.

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### **Annie Myers says**

I hate to say it, but I think Father Greeley has lost his touch - or maybe it was just that this book was way too political for me. I didn't care for it at all.

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### **Kathleen A. Parrish says**

#### **Great Book. I thoroughly enjoyed it.**

Great Book. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Andrew M. Greeley was a very gifted writer. I have most enjoyed his Blackie Ryan books.

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### **Jim says**

Okay. Greeley writes readable potboilers. Tries to be mildly racy (for a priest) but it's all pretty tame. The topic is timely: civility vs. hardcore political attacks in national politics and elections. The conservative priest/liberal senator brothers' relationship could be more interesting, but disappoints. In the end, Senator Tommy has it a little too easy to be believable.

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### **Amelia says**

This book really appealed to the political science major in me. The story was entertaining and the political theories within the story were enthralling to me. Those not as interested in politics would certainly not enjoy it as much as I did.

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### **Johnny says**

I picked up *The Senator and the Priest*, mistakenly thinking it was another Blackie Ryan mystery. There is something of a mystery in this, for lack of a better term, political thriller, but it isn't anything like the late Father Greeley's marquee mysteries. To be honest, for a political thriller, it doesn't have that intense, world-

threatening crisis of *Seven Days in May*, *Fail Safe*, or *Patriot Games*, either. It's more *Advise & Consent* than *The Manchurian Candidate*. Yet, it was still engrossing!

It is somewhat intriguing that the story is told from both the perspective of a male and a female protagonist/narrator, the would-be Senator and his brilliant attorney spouse. Greeley grants nearly equal time to the two voices and the narrative seems to play to the strengths of both. Maybe it was appealing because some of the issues being faced haven't changed in the decade since *The Senator and the Priest* was published (2006). Anyone who reads the following description of the political landscape could swear it was written in 2016 rather than 2006. The attorney is speaking about the Senator's book. "The last couple of chapters, however, talked about attack methods in contemporary American politics. He argued that the deliberate destruction of an opponent in American political life was a dangerous threat to our society, both because such a strategy was far more effective in an age of television and, worse, created a polarization which had never existed before. ...The result was that politics had become more vicious, and dislike and distrust for politics and politicians was increasing dramatically." (pp. 45-46)

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### **Susan Reed says**

good

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### **Mickay says**

From a technical standpoint, I think that Fr. Greely should lose his overuse of "what is the character thinking in his head" for over sixty percent of the book.

My main issue with the book is that Fr. Greely condemns conservatives for their black/white judgements while making his good Democratic Catholic characters operate in the same type of stark clarity between positions. There is a wealth of books and print in magazines on the tortured Democrat pro-lifer. Instead, Greely offers the idea that lock-step with the Democratic party is the only choice.

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### **Nancy Brady says**

I haven't read Greeley for some time, but finally picked this one up. I found it interesting for its politics especially.

Tommy Moran is drafted into running for the U.S. Senate after agreeing to run for a more local office under the platform of no negative attack ads and no raising of contributions (people could contribute anonymously but he wouldn't ask). Against the odds of running against a particularly vicious incumbent with a well-funded campaign chest and political machine, he ekes out the win. Along the way, his family's car and house are destroyed by bombs and his family's reputations are attacked as well. He maintains his integrity throughout although his older brother (the Priest) is against his running and serving, and possibly running again. He manages to keep all of his promises throughout the rough campaign, and even afterwards as his opponent continues to mount attacks, claiming the election was fixed, etc. His eldest daughter is slandered, too, so no one in the Moran family is exempt from media and political machine attacks.

His time in the Senate is particularly effective considering he is a junior Senator from his state of Illinois. He

forms alliances across the aisle, and works for the betterment of people (immigration reform, school vouchers for the poor, and protection of pension funds, to name but a few of the issues he takes on). Ah, if the members of Congress on BOTH sides of the aisle (Republican and Democrat alike) could just adopt his methods. Perhaps there would be some decent elections as well as some real reform for the citizens of this country!

Will he ever make peace with his disapproving brother?

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### **Amanda says**

I liked this book more than I thought I would. It was so interesting learning about the inner-workings of the senate. But it is hard to be a Republican and read such an obviously Democratic weighted book.

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### **Tracy says**

My least favorite of GReeley's books. There was too much of the politics and not enough of the relationships.

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### **April says**

I do love Greeley! Wish I had a family tree of all those characters in his books - they are so beautifully intertwined in each and every novel!

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### **Jack Kooyman says**

I enjoyed this Greeley novel from beginning get to end. I hope and want to believe that there actually are politicians with the combination of integrity that have and consistently follow their moral and spiritual compass. Although first published in 2006, what transpires before and during his term as a U.S. Senator sounds all too familiar with what has been happening in recent years. Truly a worthwhile read IMHO.

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### **Taija says**

An interesting novel that looks at discrepancies among churches and related organizations' stance on political issues, and the nasty ordeals those who try to break out of the mold must undergo. The point of view changes between husband (the senator) and wife, which serves to confirm the picture of marriage created throughout the novel. There is a deep sense of oneness, unity, and complementary personalities. I will probably check out his other books sometime this summer.

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**Wes Bishop says**

Great fictional book about religion and politics. Also an interesting story about people that are very fun to read about. By the end of the book I was rooting for Senator Tommy and hoping for a revolution in politics like he had started. Hopefully Obama will be something like this character (minus the assassination attempts).

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