



Adjustment Day

Chuck Palahniuk

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The author of *Fight Club* takes America beyond our darkest dreams in this timely satire.

People pass the word only to those they trust most: Adjustment Day is coming. They've been reading a mysterious book and memorizing its directives. They are ready for the reckoning.

Adjustment Day, the author's first novel in four years, is an ingeniously comic work in which Chuck Palahniuk does what he does best: skewer the absurdities in our society. Smug, geriatric politicians bring the nation to the brink of a third world war in an effort to control the burgeoning population of young males; working-class men dream of burying the elites; and professors propound theories that offer students only the bleakest future.

When *Adjustment Day* arrives, it fearlessly makes real the logical conclusion of every separatist fantasy, alternative fact, and conspiracy theory lurking in the American psyche.

Adjustment Day Details

Date : Published May 1st 2018 by W. W. Norton & Company

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Author : Chuck Palahniuk

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From Reader Review Adjustment Day for online ebook

Lydia says

Invisible Monsters is my favorite Chuck Palahniuk book. I feel as though listing your favorite Chuck P book is the proper way to start a review of one of his other works, so people can understand the lens through which you're viewing it.

Adjustment Day is the perfect rebuttal to any and all of the “anarcho-libertarians” who continually misinterpret Fight Club. It’s as if Project Mayhem grew and was successful - it provides the follow-through, “but what if...” that anarchists are often too afraid to explore. What if your plan to overthrow the government succeeds? Do you think the people can rule themselves? Will they be satisfied by the limited power they inherit? How will it end? Adjustment Day gives these answers in an immensely satisfying way. Anyone, from the anarcho-libertarians themselves to the progressive “social justice warriors” in the world, can find the bitter humor in the way they’re displayed in this novel. It will leave you ruminating on your role in the millennial generation and society as a whole for a long time after you finish it.

I highly - HIGHLY - recommend this book to those who enjoy Chuck Palahniuk’s work and have been waiting for these past four years for new content to devour.

Uriel Perez says

I’m pleased to report a few months ahead of the scheduled publication date that this is classic Chuck; back with enough here to shock, offend and make us laugh all the same. The book follows a plot to completely upend the U.S. government and re-invent the nation into some Libertarian fantasyland, creating separatist ethno-states and violently dispersing wealth and prestige to the most violent and dedicated followers of a radical, new edict.

From the far reaches of Caucasia, Blacktopia and Gaysia, the principal homelands within the formerly United States, we follow a mishmash of displaced persons and leaders with newfound power navigating their “adjusted” positions to disturbing, heroic and often hilarious ends.

Adjustment Day is a side-splitting satire that is ripe for this day and age. It holds up a mirror to our own societal decay, casting a spotlight on the faults and ironies of our broken political and ideological systems.

Absolutely perfect for Generation Click-Bait.

Drew says

Rounding up from a 3.5

On the one hand, it's nice to have Chuck back and doing fiction. Not only that, he's doing fiction that doesn't rely on a gimmick like the last.... decade or so of his output. No disrespect to some of those books, but also some of them were garbage.

On the other hand, it was hard to read this and not feel like the man is perhaps past his prime. Conceptually, he's got his finger right on the jackhammer pulse of the present (it was surprisingly gratifying to see him sending up the ways in which his own oeuvre has been co-opted by alt-right white males who believe that FIGHT CLUB was an instructional guide etc) and the novel has flashes of that sharp, sharp, *sharp* satirical brilliance that made his early work so special. But it's also a surprisingly LONG novel for only being 300-ish pages. At times, it is a downright drag, man, and while the chronologically jumbled narrative has a purpose (of sorts), it mostly just furthers the novel's sense of disconnection.

And maybe it's just all a little too close to home. Or maybe it's that Palahniuk's irreverent "piss 'em all off" attitude towards political correctness feels a little jejune these days. Or maybe I'm not the reader I was when I first found Chuck. Maybe that's for the best.

Stacy Fettters says

"Drugs are popular because they give the user a window of madness or illness that can be scheduled. Unlike sickness, drugs can synchronize the infection, derangement, and recuperation of a group of people."

Adjustment Day is a modern reinvention of Project Mayhem that takes over the world. People get brainwashed by what they see on television and what they read in this little blue/black book. They get consumed by what they see and hear. It's eerie how similar this story is to the world we are living in now.

The first rule of Adjustment Day is you must talk about Adjustment Day.

The second rule of Adjustment Day is you must talk about Adjustment Day.

The third rule of Adjustment Day is you must carry the little blue/black book at all times and it must be visible.

The fourth rule of Adjustment Day is if you die, that ear is coming off.

Chuck Palahniuk is my favorite author and it pains me to say this but this is the first time that I have been fully disappointed by one of his books. There wasn't anything special about this and I couldn't even finish it. My heart breaks.

If you are just reading Palahniuk for the first time, I would find another one. If you don't look at it, maybe it will go away!

Bill says

Grilled peacock tongues, sweet smelling Shasta earplugs, brown recluse mush dick, buckets of spit, scary unbridled vajayjays, and the start of grouse hunting season.

Palahniuk is a strange cat. I dig his work, but he seems to be a wee hit or miss. He can be absolutely brilliant and then turn in something marginally mediocre. Dude definitely has his own unique style and voice. Despite

the inconsistencies, he remains one of my “must read” authors.

I was lucky enough to meet Mr. Palahniuk in San Francisco recently on the Adjustment Day tour and we got to chat for a few minutes before his signing event. It was pretty cool to meet him in person. Turns out to be a very nice and soft-spoken guy. Funny too, as you would expect.

Adjustment Day is a mixed bag. Flashes of the brilliant Chuck with periods of wtf. I enjoyed parts of it but thought it could have been a bit more with a little less fluff. It was very political, as well, which I could always do without. Overall, a just better than ok effort set upon a very high bar. I giving this one 2.5 Stars.

“A smile is your best bullet proof vest.”

Peter Derk says

50 pages into this book, I was thinking, "Ah, Christ. So Mr. Palahniuk is weighing in on American politics too? Is fucking EVERYONE an expert now?"

But then I read some more, and what he's doing is way more interesting.

What I see happening on both sides of the real-world political fence is journalists, interviewers, reviewers and so on amping up the political side of every story. An artist releases a new album, and we're WAY more likely to hear about the artist's politics or projected viewpoint than we are to hear anything about the musical qualities of the album. A movie comes out, and we're pretty likely to hear where it falls on the pass/fail spectrum of the Bechdel Test, but less likely to hear about its qualities as a movie. A book comes out, and there's a lot of application of "so important in this fraught political moment."

This isn't a bad thing. Someone should always be looking at things that way, and someone always has been, but it's tipped towards that being the primary, if not only, method by which so many of us are evaluating art.

It feels like we're using everything as a segue to politics. All roads lead to politics. And while art can serve that purpose, it's being railroaded into serving only that purpose. Hence the common phrase: All art is political.

Adjustment Day calls bullshit. Instead of using art to talk about politics, Mr. Palahniuk uses politics to talk about art. Politics dominate the book up top, and the path they take leads away, back into art.

I love this book for doing that. I love that this book poses the idea that art is bigger than politics, that art doesn't serve politics.

I love the idea that art doesn't have to be yoked into service pulling the wagon of politics. Politics can take a turn pulling its own fucking wagon. I never thought I would consider that a radical statement, but here we are.

Mr. Palahniuk has done something really interesting here. Something really different. Of all his books, I'm most curious how this will age. I wonder if it will make sense to a generation who comes of age 25 years from now and doesn't really understand the current climate. It might not make sense. It might, like a lot of

satire, do well. Jonathan Swift, Kurt Vonnegut, Joseph Heller, Ken Kesey, Miguel de Cervantes, Shakespeare, John Kennedy Toole, all writers who did very "of-the-time" satire that still works years and years later. Probably because satire sticks it to assholes, and it doesn't matter what time or country it is, we all love to see an asshole get what he deserves.

Either way. It's a book for fans of Chuck's work. Now, don't get me wrong. The writing style is different. It's calmer, less white-knuckle than his early books, and that's in the service of the story. The writing style presents things less as immediately engaging than it does really, really interesting. It's not a difficult, dense book. It's lulls you into going along with a very crazy story by presenting it in a very plain way.

What I mean is, if you like Chuck's work because he's always doing his own thing, writing books that nobody else is writing, then you'll appreciate this one as part of that career.

Wait, shit. Not "career."

You'll appreciate it as a limb on his body of art.

Allen Adams says

<http://www.themainedge.com/buzz/the-...>

America's master of transgressive literary satire is back at it again.

Chuck Palahniuk's new novel – his first in four years – is "Adjustment Day," a bleak look at the potential future implied by the logical (and not-so-logical) endpoints of our society's current extremities. Filled with off-puttingly fascinating imagery, Palahniuk combines a belief in the power of the individual man with a nihilistic lack of faith in the judgment of mankind. It's an anti-Randian treatise born of an extrapolation of Randian viewpoints, a libertarian fever dream of a dystopia populated by easily led men fueled by hatred and ignorance.

"Adjustment Day" also features Palahniuk's standard well-honed prose and pitch-black humor, along with at least a few moments that'll turn your stomach even as they force you to consider the heretofore unthinkable.

It's an undefined time in America's near future. The global community is teetering on the brink of another world war – this one driven by elderly politicians eager to thin the herd of young men and maintain the status quo. The U.S. is on the verge of reinstating the draft, leaving thousands upon thousands of young men frustrated, angry and afraid. The blue-collared masses dream of turning white collars red. Ivory tower academics spout little more than grim platitudes that offer neither satisfaction nor sympathy.

Into this tumult comes the List.

The List simply appears one day, a collection of names on the internet. An open-sourced invitation is expressed – add the names of anyone you might consider an enemy of society. From there, people vote. If a name doesn't receive a certain number of votes within a set timeframe, it disappears from the List. But some names – politicians, academics, figures from old media and new alike – rapidly climb the ranks.

Simultaneously, a strange book begins making the rounds. Passed from hand to hand, the book espouses a

particular and peculiar philosophy, one whose impassioned militancy captures the imaginations of a certain subset of the disaffected – people who perceive their place in the world to be far less than what they truly deserve. People whose whispers of what's to come are passed between those so overwhelmed with lies that they've chosen to create their own truth by whatever means necessary.

People who will welcome the brutal reality of Adjustment Day ... and what comes after.

What makes Chuck Palahniuk such an effective writer is his ability to strain the bonds of credulity without snapping them. He stretches and shapes the worlds he creates, piling relatively minor alterations atop one another until we're suddenly existing in an insane place at which we arrived through a seemingly sane series of steps. He never pushes too hard, but he also never stops pushing – the result is a distended and divided dystopia, a nightmarish landscape that still offers a horrifying hint of plausibility.

The narrative is a bit disjointed; Palahniuk is unafraid to leap from perspective to perspective, illustrating both the lead-up to and aftermath of Adjustment Day through a wide spectrum of characters. The quick cuts between storylines could have been a distraction, but the shattered-glass quality of the structural choices only serve to mirror the fractures borne out in the society we see play out on the pages.

“Adjustment Day” would seem to be Palahniuk’s reaction to the radical alterations to our own societal structures in recent years; while he has always been transgressive in his attitudes, this book is different. Whereas in past works, there’s been a feeling of remove, an observational quality to the stories he tells, this one feels angrier and more personal. Occasionally, it seems that the heat undermines the narrative a bit. More often, however, that rage serves to elevate the proceedings, providing an immediacy and urgency that we haven’t seen from Palahniuk for some time.

(There’s also a metatextual quality to the book; Palahniuk uses this new work to reflect (and pass judgment) on his own previous creations. Most of the time, that reflection/judgment is inferred, but he occasionally gets REALLY overt about it, in ways that are both insightful and darkly funny. This seems to serve as almost a satiric whetstone, a way to hone the blade so that it might cut even deeper.)

“Adjustment Day” isn’t a complete success. The cast of characters runs a bit too big; they occasionally run together a bit. There are a couple of spots where Palahniuk might be trying a little too hard to shock, but that’s par for the course – the guy is unafraid to take big swings. And when you swing big, well ... sometimes you miss.

What Palahniuk has created here is a chilling and unsettling vision of our future, an exaggerated Darkest Timeline rendering of where our society’s current path might lead. It is garish and gross, a nihilistic stomach-punch of a book fueled by anger and gallows hilarity. “Adjustment Day” is evocative and provocative in equal measure – a novel very much of its place and time.

Jilly says

I LOVED Fight Club. Of course, I only saw the movie and didn't read the book. Totally brilliant! So, when I saw this, I thought I would be blown away and that there would be some awesome twisty stuff. But, neither of those things happened. It was disappointing.

The set-up is a crazy end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it in the U.S.. There is a take-over and re-shuffling. It is a parody of what is going on in our society, but it was a little over the top with silliness. I wished it was grittier, but it is mostly silly.

Also, it was long. Like waaaaay too long for what it was. If it was half the length, I think it would have been a strange little parody on American politics and the war between the Boomers and the Millennials. It just missed the mark by going on and on, and having things get so ridiculously out there. Which leads to the next point:

This book offends **everyone**. It is an equal opportunity offender. So politically ridiculously over the top! Everyone is getting raped. Eye-raped, ear-raped, mind-raped, stomach-raped.... I saw the humor in using the term raped the way he did, because it really was timely, but again, offensive as hell.

My advice is to stay away. It isn't as clever or funny or even biting as he thinks it is.

This guy's funnier.

So's this one.

Chris Berko says

After first reading Fight Club in 1998 Chuck P has been one of my favorite authors. I've read all of his first eight books at least twice and most of them three or four times. Unfortunately he has been hit or miss since those, and this one is undoubtedly a miss. It probably would have made a great short story, I liked the first twenty pages and then the last ten or so were alright but everything in between was a mess. No matter how preachy he used to get, no matter how nihilistic or anarchy-inducing his writing was it never failed to be entertaining. This stuff was not entertaining. In my real life I am a politics junkie, I scan twitter and news sites for that one morsel that is going to make me feel better, which admittedly never comes. Perhaps if I read this in less crazy times, perhaps in a time when it doesn't seem like the world is on the brink of collapse every minute of every day, but alas I did not. I know it is satire, and I get where he was coming from with the concept behind this book, but at the same time I want to be entertained. This did not. Two stars because I finished it.

Alicia says

God, it's hard to watch the statues of your literary gods crumble. It pains me to say this, as I usually love Chuck, but hell, this was dismal. I can't say enough what a stinking, poorly written, rambling pile of shit this is. It's not because it's satire, nor is it because it's offensive. That's what you're hoping for in a scathing Chuck Palahniuk book, but this was executed poorly. It wasn't transgressive and clever, it was lame. I feel like the victim of a practical joke, where the price of buying the hardcover is the punchline. Maybe if it were a short story, it would have worked, but by page 200, you're just praying for this mistake to be over. He

mentions Fight Club and himself too much, which destroys the absurd illusion. You shouldn't have to explain a book as you're writing it. This might be my last Chuck. He hasn't produced anything of value since Lullaby.

Ian says

I've been a big Chuck P fan for quite some time now. I even caught him live at the Triple Rock for the "Snuff" tour. His last few books haven't grabbed me like "Rant," "Lullaby" or "Survivor" did. "Adjustment Day" is different. An interesting take on dystopia, fueled by the concept that there is a cyclical population bulge of males that is alleviated by war. This time, instead of another war, the young men and blue collar folks of country rise up and decapitate the intelligentsia and the leadership elites from their positions of power. Then black and white ethno-states and "Gaysia" are created and a new ruling class is created from the young men and blue collar rebel leaders. Hijinks ensue and it takes a while to sort out who is important to the reader but a worthwhile novel..

Jim says

I've not read much of Palahniuk's work. In fact, I've only read Fight Club. So, when I got the chance to get my hands on an ARC of his new book, I didn't hesitate. He's a writer I've always wanted to explore more.

But, man, what a drag this was. I really, REALLY enjoy the premise. The book reads sort of like a tome for an event that's already happened, and it's eerie to see the similarities between our real world and the world Palahniuk creates. It was hard not to make comparisons throughout to Project Mayhem, if Project Mayhem went global. Maybe that's because I've only read Fight Club, but maybe it's something others will see as well.

Even though the premise is good, the execution is just not there. The book jumps from character to character so much that I couldn't grasp who anyone was, or care about anything they were doing. It also seemed to take FOREVER to actually get to Adjustment Day - by my calculations, it started on page 111. For a 330ish page book, that's a hell of a lot of build up to the event the book is named after.

I really wanted to like this. I loved Palahniuk's writing style and his voice. But the jumbled narrative and lack of a central character to really relate to made the whole thing quite a slog. This might work better as an HBO series than a novel.

fortuna.spinning says

"If you can slash a tire, you can harvest an ear."

On a large scale the premise is so intriguing, but in execution, it's a disorganized mess. With no distinct chapters, and a stupid number of characters (none of whom I cared lived, died, lost an ear, whatever), it was easy to get storylines confused. Talbott's blue-black book of aphorisms is the only thing that kept me going. Glad it's over.

Derek Wolfgram says

Palahniuk's best book since Lullaby. While the narrative is a bit jumbled, the paranoid libertarian fantasy world in the story is a brilliant extrapolation of today's political environment, and could only have been written by the author of Fight Club. Darkly funny and poignant.

Amanda NEVER MANDY says

When I see the words **REDUCED SODIUM** printed on a label I know the contents are going to be bland and flavorless. The manufacturer might try to supplement the missing ingredient with other spices and whatnot in a pathetic attempt to trick the taste buds into believing this shit is good but we all know it isn't. The can of goop falls flat and the only happy person is the one who made money off of selling it to my stupid ass.

I wish this concept could be applied to books. I would stamp a big fat warning dead center on the cover of this book. I usually enjoy satire but this one was way too much. It was over the top and extremely disappointing. The characters were generic as hell and I couldn't tell one from the other. Right now I can't even recall a specific name or action for any one of them. They weren't entertaining, they weren't engaging, they weren't really anything.

As I am writing this I have decided to drop it down another star. The only thing I enjoyed about it was the occasional spot of humor and the limited supply of it was barely worth a star. The plot was all over the place forcing me to reread chapters and I absolutely hate knowing that I wasted time and money on this. I usually enjoy reading books from this author but not this time.
