



Slow Boil Rising

D.T.E. Madden

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The year is 0039 according to the new calendar of the North American superstate. The President, now in his 10th term, has not been seen for years. But he still responds to his email from time to time.

Meanwhile, rebellions rage in parts of the country, and new foreign wars are brewing.

The U.S. Department of Internal Security - wielding power in the President's absence - is desperately trying to find the President before rebels or rival factions within the government can.

In this world full of bureaucrats and sheep, agents and spies, rebels and soldiers, criminals, protesters, and prisoners, most citizens are completely unaware of the power struggle that is unfolding in the nation's capital and on the battlefields in the countryside thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Department of Free Speech.

Set in the near future, the events of "Slow Boil Rising" unfold when a recently captured rebel soldier asks a forbidden question - exposing a plot against the President.

"Slow Boil Rising" is the first novel in a new series by D.T.E. Madden.

Slow Boil Rising Details

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Author : D.T.E. Madden

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From Reader Review *Slow Boil Rising* for online ebook

Melody says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway. My opinion is just that...mine...and completely unbiased.

A quirky, humorous Dystopian novel that is intelligently written and face paced. Takes place in a future society where animal life is valued and vegetarianism is the norm. "Forever hold your peace" takes on a whole new meaning as offending someone is a capital offense punishable by "harvesting". This was a one-nighter for me and I was sad to see it end.

Ken J says

At the intersection of Orwell's 1984, Collins' Hunger Games, and Hitchcock's North by Northwest is a well-paced kill-or-be-killed suspense novel that keeps you guessing until the end. Once resolved, it properly sets the stage for a sequel. Madden's character development reflects our true selves. Madden reveals their hopes, fears, angst, and primal passions, along with individual quirks- hey, aren't we all a little off kilter? The end result is, among other things, an insightful essay on the misplaced highest value of tolerance and being non-judgmental. In line with philosopher Karl Popper's 1945 work, can there be tolerance toward intolerant people? In our politically correct social climate, how dare we judge people who are, well, judgmental? Madden's novel sheds light on this paradox in a very readable manner.

Cleverly interwoven storylines that merge- think of the movie "The Gods Must Be Crazy"- and detailed descriptions keep the action moving along without being pedantic. Madden expertly bridges past and future in a humorous yet believable narrative. Minor financial transactions are not paid with dimes but Franklin D. Roosevelt "credits." High-tech drone cluster-bombing runs are paid for by gold bars and bootleg whiskey. Supra Agent Sulla is able to mask his inebriated state through advanced "alcohol-concealment pills" and old-fashioned coffee. I appreciated how Madden bridges the gap by keeping one foot planted in an understandable present and one foot planted in (our) possible future.

Like an effective TED talks presenter, Madden doesn't wear out his welcome but leaves us thirsting for more. Who is the purple man? Why did they stockpile driftwood? Tell me more about the "forbidden question." And for crying out loud, Madden chose to be discreet rather than salacious regarding the romantic dalliance between Sulla and Doctor Morena Armida. A thought provoking read, I don't know if *Slow Boil Rising* will be turned into a Hollywood production, but if it does, I can already see Matt Damon cast as Corporal Bowperson.

Robert S. says

Speaking Out Against Intolerable Tolerance

Slow Boil Rising is a strikingly intelligent and amusing futuristic novel. The America depicted is a place where offending anyone else is a cardinal sin. Tolerance, extolled by every politician, replaces liberty as our

country's primary cardinal virtue.

The book is noteworthy for the tremendous attention to detail regarding every aspect of its intricate plot. We read of specifically worded statutes passed by future rulers to keep citizens in line. This includes legislation such as the "Violence Against Whales Act of 0025" and the "Milk For Children Act," both of which makes tolerance compulsory. And towards the end of the book there is a remarkably vivid depiction of a rebellion that arises and inevitably fails.

The storyline concerns a president serving his 10th term, who no one seems to be able to locate, and a U.S. Department of Internal Security that exercises near dictatorial power – all in the name of tolerance. An anonymous opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court (soon to be renamed the Magnificent Court of the United States) helps make this madness possible. Dissenters of tolerance policy (labeled intolerants) become trainees in the Tolerance Corp. where each learns not to believe what they see with their own eyes.

Most important regarding *Slow Boil Rising* is the message the author makes regarding the upholding of truth in an all too polite and hypersensitive society. Lofty sounding aspirations too often result in individuals losing their entire identities when society is hell bent on achieving complete accord. Even accomplishing something as innocuous sounding as tolerance will never transparently or honestly occur when differing opinions are stifled.

Unfortunately, even those that should know better buy into righteous-sounding swill. It's not always the ideology that is at fault. The real problem concerns self-important people speaking in the name of ideology – whatever ideology it may be – who remain convinced that they can never be wrong.

I look forward to more works from D.T.E. Madden. We need to hear more from such an original and creative voice.

Stephen says

I just finished this tautly-paced first novel on the train this morning, and I have to say: author D.T.E. Madden is a proper bastard, and he'd better already have the sequel well underway.

The novel is set in a alternate, near-future United States (plus parts of Canada and Mexico, after a bloody "annexation"!), that envisions a society in which political correctness is taken to its extreme and "tolerance" is the government's primary mandate. The citizenry have been relocated, forcibly, when necessary, into urban "designated habitation zones," while those holdouts opposing the regime live in open rebellion in what used to be the Midwest and the Mountain regions.

Our protagonist, a fisherman/farmer taking his chances outside the designated habitation zones, quickly finds himself apprehended from his home, cursorily sentenced for animal cruelty, conscripted into military service with the Intolerance Corps, and trained for combat deployment, where he stumbles directly into a far-reaching plot, with control of the North American Superstate in the balance.

The story is billed as a "dystopian comedy," and it has some fantastic, farcical elements -- the trial of the newly dubbed "Reginald Bowperson," in particular was a delight, and the "tolerant" naming conventions for people and places always cracked me up (Bueno Francisco! Good Louis! Sacajawea!) -- but, jokes aside,

Madden's future society is very thoroughly imagined and credibly detailed, and this world felt like a fully-realized, eerily possible nightmare future. In particular, the Intolerance Corps, and its weaponry, training and organization, are incredibly well-developed, right down to their parade dress and the vegan meals in the mess hall, and felt incredibly real.

As the shifting narration bounces between Bowperson, his platoon-mate Hackberry, a rebel planning his escape from his involuntary conscription back to the resistance, and the fascinatingly corrupt Supra Agent Sulla, obsessed with investigating a lead on a mysterious rebel leader, the story really picks up speed, climaxing with a hospital bed interrogation, awesome combat sequences and a nail-biting airdrop from a dive bomber ... while strapped inside a cage (!), with Bowperson, Hackberry and Sulla on a (literal!) collision course with the enigmatic "El Asno."

I got really caught up in the suspense of the narrative, and heavily invested in the resolution of the story's carefully teased mysteries: who is El Asno anyway, who's he working for, and what's his endgame? Who's really pulling the strings at DIS? Who the actual hell is that masked dude dressed in all purple that's haunting Fort Freeperson?

Sadly, Madden leaves my questions unanswered and me eagerly awaiting his follow up, as the story ends with a cliffhanger. That calculated bit of cruelty aside, "Slow Boil Rising" was a really great read: darkly comic, but with excellent world-building and well-paced suspense, in the mode of Vonnegut or Heinlein.

Highly recommended.
