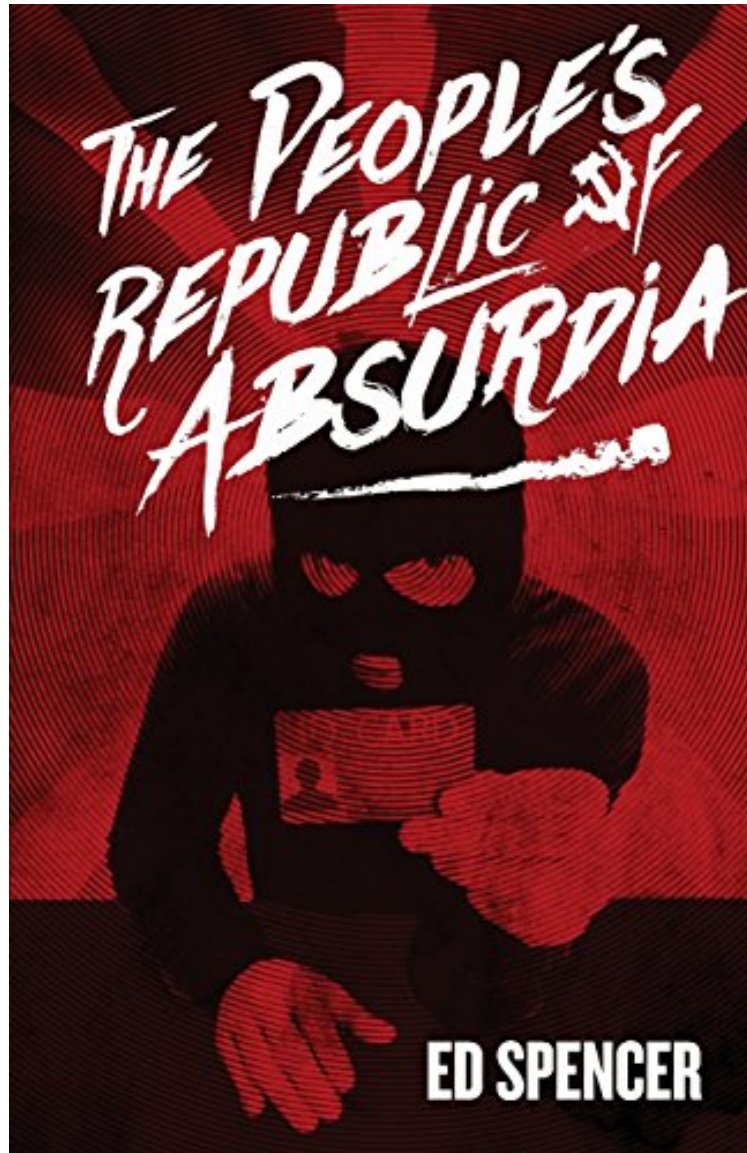


(Free) The People's Republic of Absurdia

The People's Republic of Absurdia

Ed Spencer

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Ed Spencer : The People's Republic of Absurdia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The People's Republic of Absurdia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So funny, so true - I highly recommend to all ...By CustomerSo funny, so true - I highly recommend to all currently feeling dystopic about the bad future ahead!! Ed is an amazing author.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stupendous satire that is a must for all non fans of Governmnet.By Tommy DooleyThe World has lost it – well the UK has and I don't mean having the temerity to tell

Brussels where to stick it, but worse – this is the future and we have reverted to non consumerism! Never, I hear you gasp as you retweet some banal non statement from a D Lister, but in this great book that is exactly what has come to pass. After we had polluted ourselves to toxic levels with the cappuccino throw away culture that is the norm, the ECO friendly parties have formed a coalition and taken us into some sort of dystopian eco – fascist World. This is overseen by a spin doctor extraordinaire – one Fred McVelly – he is a mischief maestro and wants to have a laugh; only at everyone else's expense. So he has some very familiar career 'politicians' leaping at his every piece of drivel to the point where society has become his plaything and citizens grub about eeking an existence whilst being constantly surveiled by an administration that is the iron fist in a velvet glove type – only the velvet is thread bare through too many beatings. Throw into the mix an alcoholic Scotsman, an erudite dandy-esque character a portentous Reverend a love interest or two, a plethora of well realised, if often scary types, and you have a book of authentic and audacious abilities. It is both funny and nasty in some of the antics but the humour keeps coming through right to the last. There are so many great ideas here that one can only imagine as to why Ed Spencer did not save some for a sequel – and I do hope there is one as I ruddy well loved this. It is also really well written and that is always a plus for a book that is essentially being driven by the story, but I always appreciate a good stretch in the vocab department. Unlike a mongrel with the mange and a nasty STD, I could not put this down (scratch that I think you can give them pills now?) Well suffice to say this was a great fun read. I was sent an uncorrected proof to be able to write a review and I am very pleased I was – completely recommended.

Ed Spencer's debut novel is a timely political-satire-cum-black-comedy-thriller, an exquisitely funny and frightening take on that most prescient of debates – the erosion of civil liberties. In Absurdia he poses how a perfect storm of inequality, data gathering and environmental meltdown leads to extraordinary repression, all made possible by a most despicable practical joke... Following the outbreak of the Plasticitis plague, Britain is in meltdown. The landfills of unfettered consumerism have burst and deadly effluent seeps from the earth and sea. There are energy shortages, non-existent public services, and millions dying – and Fred McVelly, womanising confidante to the drug-addled Premier, Terry Hair, is having the time of his life. Having masterminded an election victory sold as a rescue package (but in truth an experiment in how far you can take a prank) Fred is now the quasi-leader of the People's Republic of Britannia – an environmentally fascist nanny state in which each person's every move is regulated and recorded through Citizens' Accounts linked to ID cards, Parliament and the Monarchy are branded 'unhelpful' and disbanded, and having a drink on the wrong day can mean getting banged up. All necessary as the 'environment has been trampled on and it is imperative to step lightly.' With Fred's every whim implemented and laws becoming more and more severe, a banned zine resurfaces, calling for revolution. To demonstrate the government 'winning the battle for hearts and minds', Fred concocts a tabloid campaign, enlisting the help of media mogul, Signor Oli Garqi. But when Fred chooses Pontiff to be the star of the show, a man he believes to be a heavy-drinking down-and-out, thing don't go to plan. Fresh out of a LifeManagement4Life Institute and exasperated by the nation's collective idiocy, Pontiff is in no mood to play along. Especially given he's keen to get stuck into a spot of terrorism. As myriad groups jostle for power, a raft of hilarious and grotesque characters discover they are connected in ways they didn't imagine. But all are united in one thing: the battle to stay alive. It's anyone's guess who'll come out on top. Deadly serious and a lot of fun, fans of Orwell, Vonnegut and Phillip K. Dick will find much to enjoy here. This is the novel for our bizarre times.

"This novel is like the Monster Raving Loony Party... with ideas. If we're not careful, this will be our future" - Rosette Tokelove, Author of I've Never Been Wrong Yet "He captures the truth of the times very well" - Arthur Riotus, Well Thumbed (The Second Hand Porn Mag) "Spencer has a rare brilliance for making stuff up" - Halton Pickles, Author of My Mother Was A Vegetarian In A Tribe Of Cannibals About the Author Ed Spencer is something of a nomad. Having attended eight different schools he's travelled extensively during his 37 years, writing since his teens. In his quest for material he's done every job under the sun including (but not limited to) subtitle editor, walking tour guide, barman, caretaker at a high school, copywriter, music writer painter of Saatchi warehouses. He's long since thought life is a black comedy. Whisky, coffee and ale are important. Ed has had stories published on Litro EtherBooks, been short-listed for the Unbound Press Flash Fiction Award, co-founded a political zine and written for numerous publications including Artrocker magazine. The People's Republic of Absurdia is his first novel.