

Alfred·A·Knopf

P U B L I S H E R O F



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“Face it: You’re going to hear about the 2016 presidential race all summer long, unless you spend your vacation in a missile silo. You may as well milk it for laughs, as Mr. Stevens — Republican political strategist, former television writer, all-around nonfiction guy — appears to have done in this novel, his second. The main character is a populist, anti-immigrant Republican presidential candidate. Whatever gave him that idea?”

– Jennifer Senior, *New York Times*

May 28, 2016

Dear Editor/Producer,

Stuart Stevens - a leading political strategist and commentator - has written an election caper that might also earn him a reputation as a fortune teller. He started the novel in 2012, and finished it last year before Trump announced his candidacy. Says Stevens, “I thought I was sort of pushing events to an extreme for effect but it appears I underplayed reality.” ***THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR*** (Knopf, 6/28), is “the perfect fictional echo of the savage surreality playing out in real time on the national stage,” writes John Heilemann (author of *Game Change*.)

New Orleans, July 2016: JD Callahan is fighting the campaign of his life. His candidate, the sitting vice president, is neck and neck with an anti-immigrant, right-wing populist as the Republicans head into their first brokered convention in decades. A New Orleans native without much affection for his hometown, JD is frantically trying to coordinate the convention and round up delegates when a series of bombs sets off mass panic and tilts the convention toward their law-and-order opponent. As JD scrambles to contain the damage, his estranged brother shows up demanding favors and threatening to expose family secrets, and the FBI agent investigating the bombs makes it clear JD is the main suspect. A hilarious, sharply entertaining whodunit and a knowing satire of our political culture, ***THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR*** is the perfect summer read this election season.

“No, this book is not about the 2016 presidential campaign,” writes *Kirkus Reviews*. “But the fact that even these aspects of the novel are in sync with current events validates its author's credentials as a cagey veteran political operative.... J.D.'s rueful, acerbic commentaries... make up the best part of this fast-paced carnival of bile, guile, and blow-ups. In an era as politically mercurial as our own, even the most far-fetched events depicted here sound utterly plausible.”

Stuart is available for interviews at publication; please contact us to set one up.

With all best,

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