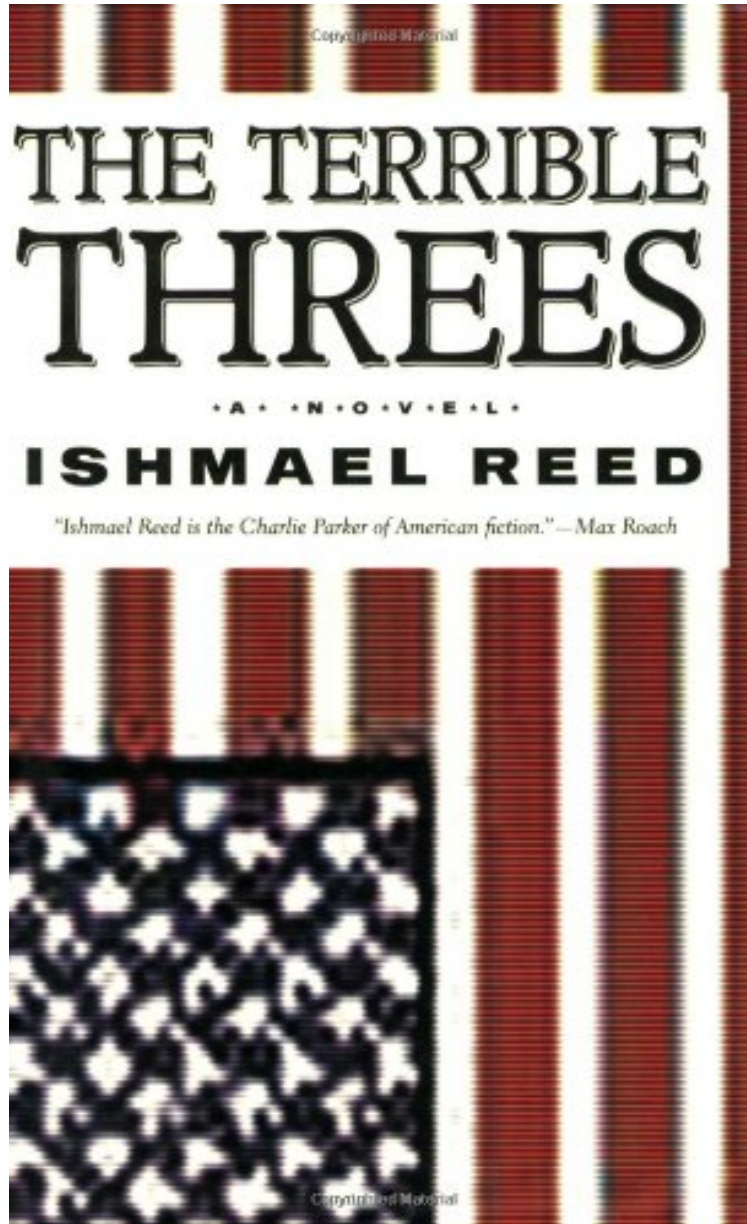


(Download free ebook) The Terrible Threes

## The Terrible Threes

*Ishmael Reed*

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#2064846 in Books Columbia University Press 1999-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.47 x .49 x 5.56l, .52 #File Name: 1564782247192 pages | File size: 64.Mb

**Ishmael Reed : The Terrible Threes** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Terrible Threes:

With offbeat humor and on-target social criticism, Ishmael Reed presents in "The Terrible Threes" a vision of America in the not-too-distant future, a portrait of a fairy tale gone awry. Opening on Thanksgiving Day in the late 1990s--three years after the former fashion-model president was laughed out of office for admitting that Saint Nicholas knew more about the workings of the executive branch than he did--the White House is implicated in a plot to rid America of its surplus people and the Third World of its nuclear weapons.

From Publishers Weekly Reed's jazzlike, surreal phantasmagoria is set in the late 1990s, in an America where millions of surps (homeless people) forage for food, while U.S. President Jesse Hatch is a figurehead manipulated by televangelist Rev. Clement Jones, his spiritual adviser. The former president, ex-fashion model Dean Clift (star of The Terrible Twos, this novel's predecessor) has been removed from office but will soon stage a comeback. Among the convoluted subplots, two drive the action: White House communications chief Robert Krantz's "lone cowboy" scheme to drop neutron bombs on New York and Miami, then place the blame on Nigeria; and billionaire toymaker Elder Marse's plan to exploit the charisma of dwarfish Rastafarian Black Peter. Reed's uproarious, wisecracking, deadly serious farce swings between the inspired and the heavy-handed, but when he is on target, which is much of the time, he is one of the sharpest socio-political satirists around, hurling pointed barbs at racism, the CIA, women, the Vatican, the New York literary crowd and Americans' demand for instant gratification. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Reed's eighth novel seems aimed at a select audience filled with unfocused anger. Dystopian in theme, it is set in the late 1990s, and what passes for narration apparently involves Santa Claus's taking over America and punishing assorted villains. The plot, however, exists only to allow Reed to attack his favorite pet peeves and, as an added attraction, sophomorically to hit out at famous folk, regardless of creed or color. Nasty little references abound, with American women the favored target: "always kvetching and talking about being unhappy, without knowing what they are talking about." Though a few satirical jabs hit home, this mean-spirited, hapless little novel strains to be humorous, but alas only adds up to a flat, mildly disturbing embarrassment. - Charles Shapiro, York Coll., CUNY Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Hilarious! Race through this book in a public place only if you don't mind laughing and spitting on yourself in front of strangers." -- Trey Ellis "Ishmael Reed is the Charlie Parker of American fiction." -- Max Roach "Like all great American comic spirits from Louis Armstrong to Curly Howard of the Three Stooges, from Richard Pryor to Zora Neale Hurston, Reed relentlessly deciphers his culture, subverts it really." -- Gerald Early, New York Times, 5/7/89 "The brightest contributor to American satire since Mark Twain." -- Nation