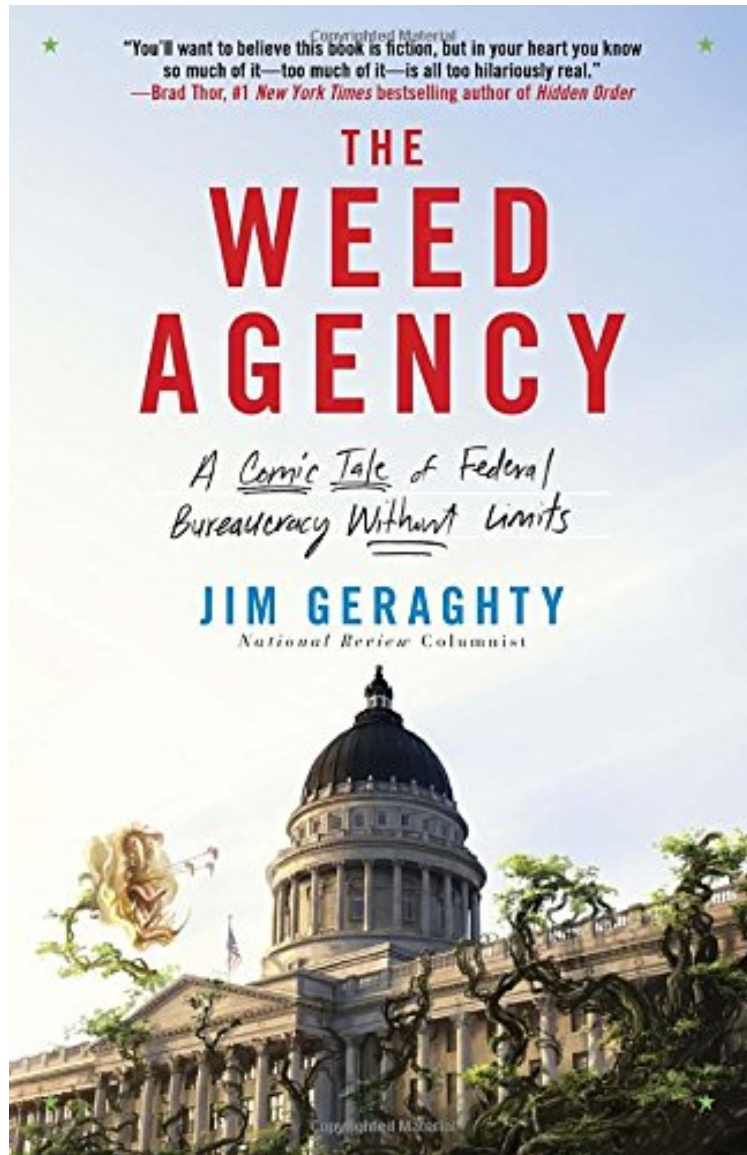


The Weed Agency: A Comic Tale of Federal Bureaucracy Without Limits

Jim Geraghty

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Jim Geraghty : The Weed Agency: A Comic Tale of Federal Bureaucracy Without Limits before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Weed Agency: A Comic Tale of Federal Bureaucracy Without Limits:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of My Favorite BooksBy Karen ZiminskiHis mockery of

computer information systems in the government may seem exaggerated. Actually it's prescient and understated. "The Weed Agency" was published in 2014. It wasn't publicly known until March of 2015 that Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, was at times sending and receiving classified information over a not particularly secure private server. In July 2015 the Office of Personnel Management discovered that hackers, probably Chinese, had gotten into over 20,000,000 records of current and former government employees and their friend and family members. In May 2016 we learned that American nuclear missiles are controlled by software stored on 1970s-era floppy discs. Remember floppy discs? Vaguely? Then in December 2016 we learn that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services neglected to run names of applicants for citizenship through FBI data-bases of immigrants with criminal records. The Department of Homeland Security blamed computer code. Geraghty hasn't yet written as much as Anthony Trollope, but I'll put "The Weed Agency" up against anything in the "Palliser Chronicles." Like Trollope, he understands the working of government, writes developed, believable characters, and is just too funny. As good as Trollope was, I feel he had a tendency to get a little bogged down in boring, complicated political intrigues, whereas Geraghty's pacing is perfect. If Geraghty keeps writing at this level, I could see him being worthy of a Nobel Prize for literature some day. Would the Swedish Academy actually give him this award? Based on the apparent political outlook underlying their recent choices, probably not. I refuse to be a pessimist. I believe that some day the pendulum will swing in the other direction, although I can't be confident it will come in my lifetime. That's how I was able to read this intelligent and entertaining book without getting morbidly depressed by the culture of waste and inefficiency upon which Geraghty bases his novel. Geraghty is usually on the "Three Martini Lunch" podcast Monday through Friday. It's almost always good for a few new insights into politics and a few good laughs. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and I cannot say enough nice things about it. By G. MCGHEE I've just finished reading "The Weed Agency" (2014) by Jim Geraghty, and I cannot say enough nice things about it. The subtitle, "A Comic Tale of Federal Bureaucracy Without Limits," conveys a lot of what this novel is about, but there is much more going on here that should be of interest to readers wanting an insider's view of Washington DC, told with exceptional wit and raucous humor. Written by a former National Review columnist, this book sets a high standard for successfully integrating numerous social and political issues in a single, hilarious yarn. There are characters that we recognize and care about, told against the factual backdrop of Washington political history, beginning with the Carter administration and its disasters, and ending fairly recently. This historical background -- filtered through the daily cares and concerns of the Agency of Invasive Species (AIS), its administrative director, Adam Humphrey, and his chosen successor, Wilkins -- anchors and supports a Pickwickian cast of players, and treats us to a long-view of the political process. The broader story is how shifts in political power, crazes and movements, personnel turnover, budgetary strategies and turf battles, impact the AIS in different and unpredictable ways. The Clinton scandal, the dot-com start-up bubble (complete with messianic visionary), and lastly, the shift toward an entitlement mentality, all provide abundant humorous material. There is, a chuckle on every page. There are also supporting factual footnotes scattered throughout -- as if to remind us that what may appear to be ridiculous on the page, pales in comparison with Washington's surplus of human frailty and foibles. If this is an angry critique of federal bureaucracy, the acrimony is well hidden and smothered in the arms of a mother that loves and cares about the American political process. The people that live and breathe in this narrative are, in that sense, real. Very little feels contrived, because, as the blurb says, "You'll want to believe this book is fiction, but in your heart you know so much of it -- too much of it -- is all too hilariously real." In this way, it is a lot like Charles Dickens' early humorous writing. Middle-managers will immediately recognize and appreciate the administrative director's mentoring lectures to Wilkins on Washington's inner workings, strategic appraisals, and analysis. By way of example, the book offers ways to deal with superiors and rivals. It really is about politics, and how sadly wrong-headed it can be, most of the time. The book is stocked full with snappy come-backs and witty observations. But what is missing in terms of a theoretical sociology of bureaucracy can be easily found in the tenets of Zygmunt Bauman's "Modernity and the Holocaust" (1989). Here, Bauman lays out in chilling detail the laws governing bureaucratic hierarchies, and the cognitive impairments so apparent in Geraghty. For both, in their own way, the result is the tragic loss of humanity, but only "The Weed Agency" gives us the opportunity to laugh at it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Jim Geraghty knocks it out of the park. By John The Weed Agency is imbued with more than enough real history and detail to bring governmental empire building and recklessness the rich attention it deserves. It moves fast, and the characters are so real that I suspect that 'only the names have been changed to protect the innocent'™. The Dot Com era, so similar to the system of power building in the regulatory world, does not go untouched here. Having known dozens and dozens of civil servants, this tome rings true to ministerial bureaucracy at all levels of governance. Good people doing good work corrupted by appointees and the politics that they infect and poison their fiefdoms with. The Weed Agency hints at what many already suspect - that the system of mutual support and reward installed by the inner circle of elected officials is an unholy trinity of political servitude, self-promotion, and the absolute quest for power.

The spellbinding mock history of the Department of Agriculture's most secretive and vital agency The little-known USDA Agency of Invasive Species -- founded by President and humble peanut farmer Jimmy Carter -- would like to

reassure you that they rank among the most effective and cost-efficient offices within the sprawling federal bureaucracy. For decades, under Administrative Director Adam Humphrey and his “strategic disengagement” approach, the Agency has epitomized vigilance against the clear and present danger of noxious weeds. Humphrey’s record of triumphant inertia faces only two obstacles. The first is reality; the second is the loud critic who dares to question the magic behind the Agency’s success: Nicholas Bader. Formerly known as President Reagan’s “bloody right hand,” Bader is on an obsessive quest to trim the fat from the federal budget. Full of oddball characters who shed light on the daily operations of Beltway minions, THE WEED AGENCY showcases a world in which federal budgets balloon every year, where a career can be built upon the skill of rationalizing astronomical expenses, and where the word ‘accountability’ sends roars of laughter through DC office buildings. That’s life inside the federal Agency of Invasive Species... and it may sound suspiciously similar to your reality.

"Jim Geraghty is smart, funny, compelling, entertaining...and his book does real damage to liberals if thrown hard enough." - Governor Bobby Jindal "A conservative comic romp through the toughest corridors of federal bureaucracy....a fun glimpse into the fake-but-accurate world of bureaucratic infighting." - Jake Tapper, Author of The Outpost "The Weed Agency brilliantly captures the absurdity of the real Washington. It is, as they say, funny because it's true." – Jonah Goldberg, Author of The Tyranny of Clichés "Geraghty captures the hilarious realities of Washington waste brilliantly. And we all need to laugh at Washington to stop from crying." –S.E.Cupp, author of Losing Our Religion and CNN Host "Jim Geraghty absolutely nails it. You’ll want to believe this book is fiction, but in your heart you know so much of it – too much of it – is all too hilariously real." - Brad Thor, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Hidden Order About the Author Jim Geraghty is a blogger and contributing editor at National , and writes columns for the New York Daily News, Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Guardian. He’s the author of the daily newsletter The Morning Jolt. He resides in Alexandria, Virginia.