



A Shade of Difference

Allen Drury

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The sequel to the Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller *Advise and Consent* From Allen Drury, the 20th Century grand master of political fiction, a novel of the United Nations and the racial friction that could spark a worldwide powderkeg. International tensions rise as ambassadors and politicians scheme, using the independence of a small African nation as the focal point for hidden agendas. A cascade of events begun in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations could lead to the weakening of the United States, the loss of the Panama Canal, and a possible civil war. Allen Drury paints a vivid and laseraccurate portrait of Washington and international politics, from top secret conferences, to elite cocktail parties, club luncheon rooms, and the private offices of the key players in government. A novel as relevant today as when it was first published.

A Shade of Difference Details

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Author : Allen Drury

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Nikki says

I remember reading both these books not long after they were published (I was a 9th-grader in '62) but I'm not certain that at least one was in a Reader's Digest Condensed version; in any case I had a lot more patience for long, long books back then. It's fun revisiting some of the books you have in your project although I probably won't reread -- my reading time is growing short (although I keep believing I have 20 years left!) Of course, I also enjoy reading about the books you read that I haven't read.

Jeff Mayo says

I actually read this first not realizing it was a sequel to Advise and Consent. I circled around to reread it after reading the first book, which I then considered a prequel. This one focuses on the United Nations. A small African nation wants independence. The United States and Russia use it as a pawn to try to gain international advantage on one another during the Cold War. As things escalate integration of public schools in the southern states, the possibility of losing the Panama Canal, and a Civil War are all negotiated in private offices, at elite cocktail parties, and somewhat openly in public places. It is an interesting read, and some parts of the fictional novel came to pass over the years, which makes you wonder when the rest will actually happen. Not as good as the first book in the series, but it doesn't miss by much. The characters here aren't as interesting, but the story holds up well.

Arlene Starr says

It's quite a book! This book is a political fiction novel based on actual historical events. It takes place in the 1960's when segregation was just being implemented in the schools. A good deal of the story takes place in the assembly of the United Nations in New York and in the senate in Washington DC. You feel like you are there in an assembly of the United Nations with U.S. senators, congressmen, majority leaders, newspaper men, and representatives and ambassadors of other countries. You hear verbal debates, threats, bluffs, and eventually a resolution for adoption put forth by the His Royal Highness the M'Bulu of Mbuele of Gorotoland, and later an amendment by the Ambassador of Panama. From here the book moves forward depicting the struggle of how the United States defends itself while many of the other countries are in favor of the amendment.

It is a book full of passion and compassion, the characterization is excellent, and the author is brilliant in the way he handles this story. The book is written in present tense, first person, and is divided into five segments, the first four are by four of the main characters of the story. However there are many others who are actively involved throughout. To me it starts out slowly but stick with it and you will be glad you did. The author makes the characters live in the eye of the reader and even though it may be over six hundred pages, for me it was sad when I reached the end.

Donna says

Read this whole series back in the 60's. Loved them then. Drury is the writer who got me started on political thrillers!

Nancy McPherson says

A little easier to get into than *Advise and Consent*. If read first, a lot of the *Advise and Consent* characters are already familiar, but it doesn't really spoil the first book.

slauderdale says

This book is not so much reviewed as it is discussed in my blog post "Too much Allen Drury":
<https://librarianslauderdale.wordpress...>

21st century readers who have heard of "Advise and Consent" the book or "Advise & Consent" the movie may not also know that "Advise and Consent" is the first in a series of six books that Drury wrote over a span of sixteen years. I really wasn't planning on reading more than that first book until I read about the premise of 1962's "A Shade of Difference" on Wikipedia ...

Judy says

This endless tome was the #3 bestseller in 1962. This review is the second installment of the 1962 reading challenge I set for myself in August. (For background on why 1962, see My Big Fat Reading Project: <http://keepthewisdom.blogspot.com/200...>) Finishing the novel also marked the completion of my list of Top Ten Bestsellers for that year.

I read Drury's first novel, *Advise and Consent*, a couple years ago. That one was the #1 bestseller of 1960 and also won the Pulitzer Prize. In any case, I knew what I was getting into this time.

Drury practically invented the Washington, DC, political novel genre, though thankfully his successors have not written in such wordy and dense prose. *A Shade of Difference* adds the United Nations to the mix and, as foreshadowed by the title, has racism as the underlying theme, making it a timely read. It is set during a year when Civil Rights was a contentious issue in America and when many African nations were seeking independence from colonial masters.

Since you might decide to read the book, I don't want to waste your time with a wordy and dense review. Believe me, you will need that time.

Of note to me was the tension Drury built between individuals who believed that change takes time and is best done within the systems of government as opposed to those who advocated force and violence to either achieve change or prevent it. One of the moderate characters is a Black member of the House of Representatives.

I was also interested in the author's portrayal of the United Nations. That made me want to learn more about both its history and current state. Any suggestions for good books, non-fiction or novels, about the UN would be welcome.

One other thing: both of Drury's novels were written a few years before their timescapes, so all the characters are fictional, including the POTUS. I find that somewhat disorienting and have to make myself stop trying to relate the novels to actual historical events. It is eerie though how prescient he was.

In 1962 I was beginning my sophomore year in high school. Though I was mostly interested in boys, it was a time when I began to be aware of political issues, especially Civil Rights. Reading books from the 1960s that deal with what was going on, particularly behind the scenes in government, is compelling and is also filling in gaps for me, showing me the issues that have loomed so large in my adult life.

Margareth8537 says

Interesting to read and very detailed

Geoffrey Feller says

In this first sequel to Allen Drury's Classic "Advise and Consent", the author delves into racial politics as understood in the early 60s. I was intrigued to find out how it would be depicted by Drury, whose hostility to left of center elites is obvious in all of his books. The story brings a collision between two burning issues of the day, African de-colonization and integration in the United States, when a tribal leader from an emerging nation in Africa barges into a school integration standoff in South Carolina. What follows is an attempt to discredit the United States at the United Nations and the reaction of Congress to these efforts. It's a bit jarring to adjust to some of the terminology from the era; the words "colored" and "Negro" were common usage and not meant to disparage. Drury has what has to be recognized as a patronizing attitude towards third world leaders and yet given what happened under Mobutu and Amin in the decades since this novel was published, not all of the author's points can be readily dismissed. It's a long, slow read at times, and only my fascination with politics and history keep me interested enough to finish the book. Sure, it's dated and occasionally downright appalling yet often entertaining if the reader can adjust for historical context and tolerate ideological bias.

Steven Hill says

8 out of 10

Jerry says

Allen Drury takes his unique style from the Senate to another flawed but necessary institution, the United Nations General Assembly. Orrin Knox, a featured Senator from *Advise and Consent* has been promoted by the new President to Secretary of State. Many of the other players from *Advise and Consent* are also here in

featured and side roles.

This is a big book, but it's also a big topic: race relations in the United States, in the world, and the growth of freedom in both spheres. Drury doesn't pull any punches, and characters who were on the right side in the previous book end up on the wrong side here, because that's the way things were. But as in the previous book, Drury goes out of his way to provide his characters with motivations that make sense and that keep all sides *human*.

More amazingly, as in his previous book this one seems to be set a few years in the future. He wrote it in 1960 to 1962, but in the book, I think, we have just landed people on the moon (the book isn't explicit about this, but does say we have a successful "expedition"). And he describes activists in the United States more as they appeared in the late sixties than the late fifties, even predicting the intimidation of traitors to causes.

He also plays with stereotypes in a stereotypically Drurian way. For example, among all the nations of the UN he describes Britain as other writers would describe the then-Orient, as enigmatic mysteries never fully revealing themselves.

One of the better characterization's is Orrin Knox's transition from senator to administration official, and how it changes him.

It starts with some members of the United Nations trying to intimidate the United States for segregation—a noble action for, unfortunately, ignoble motives. Throughout the book, the United States delegation has to grapple with the fact that the motion they're trying to defeat addresses a real and horrendous problem within the United States. But addressing it in this way may well mean the end of the United Nations.

Laura says

Not quite as good as book one, but still an excellent read. It's interesting to read these books that were written in the 50's and 60's, during the cold war, desegregation, assassination, etc. They're written with kind of a "what if" viewpoint, but I'm reading them a good 50 years later, knowing full well what that "what if" turned into. Fascinating!

Byron says

This is the second novel in a four novel series written by political reporter Allen Drury. I've read the opening act ("Terrible Terry's book") and it seems quite similar in style to Drury's earlier work, "Advise and Consent."

The critique of Drury's writing is that he is slow and methodical in his approach to the plot, leading to a slow and methodical approach by this reader.

Each plot point is met not by the subsequent action, but by paragraphs and pages of response from each of his main characters. The narrator is an omniscient being who chooses to focus on one character for a few paragraphs before switching to another. The writing is clear, so there's never confusion, but the plot slows down immensely.

Having covered the fact that Drury is not a cheap thrills paperback novelist, we move on to his redeeming qualities. Drury weaves a fantastically complex web of characters, motives, and actions. He is skilled at creating memorable characters whose actions are clear results of their motives, and so his books are a true delight for a reader willing to sift through enough prose to enjoy it.

David says

It's been more than 25 years since I read this book, but I've been wanting to re-read it and now I shall. It was the sequel to *Advise and Consent*, Drury's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Jane Carpenter says

couldn't find the books
