



November

David Mamet

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David Mamet's new Oval Office satire depicts one day in the life of a beleaguered American commander-in-chief. It's November in a Presidential election year, and incumbent Charles Smith's chances for reelection are looking grim. Approval ratings are down, his money's running out, and nuclear war might be imminent. Though his staff has thrown in the towel and his wife has begun to prepare for her post-White House life, Chuck isn't ready to give up just yet. Amidst the biggest fight of his political career, the President has to find time to pardon a couple of turkeys — saving them from the slaughter before Thanksgiving — and this simple PR event inspires Smith to risk it all in attempt to win back public support. With Mamet's characteristic no-holds-barred style, *November* is a scathingly hilarious take on the state of America today and the lengths to which people will go to win.

November Details

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From Reader Review November for online ebook

Reece Roberts says

Well, that was something.

Could totally see Nathan Lane being the president.

Comedy? Perhaps, maybe it all comes down to writing.

Captivating enough though considering it's only a 4 handed piece centered around a desk.

James says

Some humorous moments, but has become somewhat dated since I saw it onstage in 2009. Better to see it live than on paper.

Writer's Relief says

With NOVEMBER David Mamet flexes his funny bone yet again—this time during the election month of a president falling out of public favor. As President Chuck Smith struggles to find the courage to fight for a second term, the reader laughs at the dismal state of affairs that is politics in America. This satirical take on elections leaves the reader emotionally connected to Mamet's president who seems such a fish-out-of-water in the tumultuous world of American politics. Things get even funnier when the traditional PR stunt of pardoning turkeys for Thanksgiving not only reinvigorates President Smith, but leaves him more determined to win than ever before. A perfect read for Mamet beginners and veterans alike.

Whitney says

In typical Mamet style, this play is fast paced, witty, and points out the absurdity of the mundane. With clarity and insight, he highlights the machinations of U.S. politics with verve and humor. I will never think of turkey pardons in the same light ever again.

Simon Sweetman says

Enjoyed this even though it was time-specific, ultimately. Was still good to read a new/ish Mamet script. Some funny lines too. And just as you think he might be going soft you get a line like, "I'm gonna cut your fucken heart out and eat it in front of your dying eyes". Would have been good to see a production of this at the time.

Matthew Burkhardt says

I actually saw this on Broadway before reading it and I found it absolutely hilarious and a showcase of David Mamet's biting humor that I fell in love with when I first saw Glengarry Glen Ross, but it's not for everyone as it's vulgar and gives you insight into President Charles Smith behind closed doors where the cameras don't follow, so you get to see his character candidly, which turns out to be less politically correct than one would hope from a President of the US. Still, I found it interesting and very funny.

Marina Fontaine says

I picked this one up at the library, opened it right there at stayed at the library reading, unable to put it down. This is my first Mamet play, and in spite of the crazy-satirical premise, I still expected it to be essentially dark, but it's really not. One can call it depressing only for the way it so accurately portrays modern American politics, but it's hysterically funny and, in the end, not at all unkind. I know that this is the play that caused Mamet to write his famous "Why I am no longer a brain dead liberal" column and come out as a newly-minted conservative (although the provocative title was not of his choosing). However, this story truly has no political slant, except for being most decidedly non-PC. I recommend it to anyone even marginally interested in politics- just be aware it does use some fairly colorful language (though in a realistic rather than gratuitous way).

Allie says

If I could give it more stars I would. I do not think I have ever read any book more outrageously funny than this play, nor have I laughed aloud more while reading. A shocking and satisfying satire of the Bush presidency, I could hear Nathan Lane's voice in my head as I read Mamet's President's lines and was only mildly surprised to hear that I had failed to recognize him on the cover and that Lane was starring in the play on Broadway. Perhaps it was written with Lane in mind? Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful; the best play and one of the finest books I have ever read.

Keith Moser says

Finished reading this the day the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage which is a nice little piece of kismet...

Play is funny, but doesn't feel overly "Mamet" (but it's still a little fucken "Mamet"). Quite jaded, but I'm excited to see this when it gets produced locally later this year. Love how it's one set over ~24 hours. A stage manager & set designer's dream!

Laura says

Sometimes it's hard to laugh when it feels closer to reality than it was in 2008... but as comedies go, it's

really a smart one.

Robert Starr says

It's been a while since I've read Mamet. Ideally, I guess it shouldn't be read, it should be seen, but nobody was putting on a performance of November near me.

This is about a president as it gets closer and closer to election day, and the poll numbers aren't looking good. It's about desperation, loss, failure, and frustration, among other things, but it also happens to be very funny. Mamet's not generally known for his imagination, but he builds a lot out of very little here, and the story quickly turns screwball.

The play was written around the time Mamet's politics shifted more conservative, but the play doesn't have a political agenda. Politics are involved (one of the plot lines relates to gay marriage), but it isn't about anything specifically left or right leaning.

The play reads fast and has a number of very funny lines, as one might expect, but it's only looking back on it now as I'm putting this together that I realize all that it touched on. It's probably too small to make a good movie, but I'd love to see a live show with a strong cast.

Susan says

The usual Mamet dialog and male banter, bonding. Somewhat dated.

Jeff says

Mamet's newest play is a biting, fierce, farcical satire that skewers, among other things, public relations, Native American casinos, overseas adoption, gay marriage, and almost every aspect of the Presidential office. It's a pretty blatant, heavy-handed piece, but it does manage some thought-provoking subtleties amid the take-no-prison punches.

Playwright42 says

I wish I had never read this. Don't be like me.

Wayne Sutton says

Pretty funny and makes you think of all the silly nonsense that is politics. Even in our highest office! This play is good for this time of year. Looking forward to seeing it at one of our local theatres here in Denver!

