



# Hope Never Dies

*Andrew Shaffer*

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**This mystery thriller reunites Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama for a political mashup full of suspense, intrigue, and laugh out loud bromance.**

Vice President Joe Biden is fresh out of the Obama White House and feeling adrift when his favorite railroad conductor dies in a suspicious accident, leaving behind an ailing wife and a trail of clues. To unravel the mystery, “Amtrak Joe” re-teams with the only man he’s ever fully trusted—the 44th president of the United States. Together they’ll plumb the darkest corners of Delaware, traveling from cheap motels to biker bars and beyond, as they uncover the sinister forces advancing America’s opioid epidemic.

Part noir thriller and part bromance novel, *Hope Never Dies* is essentially the first published work of Obama/Biden fanfiction—and a cathartic read for anyone distressed by the current state of affairs.

## Hope Never Dies Details

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Author : Andrew Shaffer

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# From Reader Review Hope Never Dies for online ebook

## Brandon says

The 2016 Presidential Election has ended. Former Vice President Joe Biden doesn't quite know what to do with himself. As he watches his former boss Barack Obama vacationing with the likes of Richard Branson, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Hollywood superstar Bradley Cooper, he feels discarded and hopeless. All this changes when Obama arrives on Joe's doorstep one evening with the news of the death of a dear friend of Joe's..

Hope Never Dies is a fun read with an interesting premise – “Hey, I got an idea! How about Biden and Obama team up to solve a murder?” When the story begins, it doesn't appear to be anything deeper than a total bromance between the internet's two favorite political pals, however, there is actually a pretty solid mystery at the novel's core. Shaffer kept me guessing right up until the end due to several sly red herrings thrown in to misdirect this reader.

**I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.**

I can't say I know much about Joe Biden, so I'm not sure if this characterization comes anywhere close to that of the former Vice President. I'm not sure if that even matters, to be honest. Biden is described as a broken-down man struggling to come to grips with a directionless life. Some of the similes and descriptions that Biden explores are surface-level deep and downright groan-worthy, although, I believe that's the point. Above all else, it's his incorruptible character that makes him the perfect fit for an amateur sleuth.

On the other hand, Obama is played like the ultimate bad-ass dripping with swagger, which is a far cry from the casual, Dad-jeans wearing forty-fourth president we all remember. That said, he ends up being the perfect Yin to Biden's Yang. To put it another way, if Biden is Carlton, than Obama is Will Smith. Shaffer succeeds in writing some entertaining back-and-forth dialogue between the two, even if I could never imagine them saying some of the things that come out of their mouths.

I have to admit I really only asked for a copy of this book because the cover made me laugh. When I finished it, I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed it. While I generally like my mystery novels dark and bleak, it's nice to try something lighter once in a while. Hope Never Dies is the literary equivalent to a fun buddy-cop movie; an ideal summer read.

Check out my interview with Andrew.

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## Casey says

Let's face it: reading the news these days has replaced cardio for many of us as our heart rate skyrockets from the headlines alone. Remember when we had a cool/sometimes embarrassing dad president with a charismatic veep who just called out malarkey when he saw it? No, it wasn't 100 years ago, but it sure feels like it lately.

In this delightful romp of a book, Biden is feeling a little sorry for himself since Obama seems to never call because he has a lot of hip, young friends like Bradley Cooper. However, a suspicious death along Biden's beloved Amtrak line brings the team back together, this time with Uncle Joe leading the bumbling investigation. It's a cozy mystery with a muscle car, a bromance with Secret Service detail.

While Shaffer could have leaned into nostalgia alone, he's written a solid mystery with the characters fleshed out as more than just clichés. The reader really feels Biden's longing to be helpful and his anguish over seeing 44's legacy undone so quickly by an individual who shall remain nameless. (The presidential zings in this book are incredible, truly.) The tension between the two rings as true as it did when they were in office, like when Biden suddenly decided to support gay rights and had everyone else scrambling to fall into line. By all means, this book shouldn't work as well as it does. For a few hours, I got to enjoy the company of politicians who behaved like adults (mostly). It sure was nice.

Does Biden wear aviators? Does he enjoy some ice cream? Does Obama play basketball? You'll have to read to find out!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Quirk, but that in no way impacted my review since I was already excited about this book from Shaffer's previous work.

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### **Edita says**

[An intense fight on a train

Obama on a unicorn

A very dramatic "GET DOWN, MISTER PRESIDENT"

The former POTUS wielding a sawed off shotgun

And a whole lot of Joe being slick as shit in a sweet pair of Ray-Ban aviators (hide spoiler)]

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### **Andrew Shaffer says**

### **Ariel says**

Is this book 100% Barack Obama and Joe Biden fanfic where they solve crimes together in a sweet-ass car? Yes, it is. I love Quirk Books as a publishing company because they publish the weird, quirky shit that other people wouldn't think of. Like who would have gone "oh hey, now that Obama/Biden are out of the White House, let's write a book about them?" Andrew Shaffer, that's who.

This was a fun book. It was engaging. I can't attest to how well the author sticks to the personalities of Obama and Biden, since honestly I have never met them or researched them much. It was a fun mystery, not too scary, not boring at all. The fun of this book, I think, is giggling over the situations that Obama and Biden find themselves in, and how they interact with one another. Especially in the shithole that is the Trump administration, it's nice to think these guys are out there, still doing good deeds in the world. I hope they actually read this book.

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## **Debbie says**

YES I IMPULSE BOUGHT THIS AT THE BOOKSTORE TODAY. DON'T JUDGE ME.

I read this in under a day. It is a really fast read, and a surprisingly good one. It's presidential fanfiction and I loved it. It made me super nostalgic for the Obama/Biden bromance (their bromance name is Obiden, pass it on!) and I loved the idea of them teaming up to solve a murder. Because of course they would.

I laughed so much during this book. And I really hope this is book one in a long, long series.

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## **Rebecca says**

3.5, it might not be great literature but this will be the feel good read of the summer. It's like all those meme you love come to life.

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## **Maine Colonial says**

Thanks to the publisher for providing a free review copy.

When I saw the cover of this book, it cracked me up and I just had to read it. It's a lightweight and quick read, but I was surprised to find that as mysteries go, it's not bad.

But the main appeal is that it's told from the point of view of Joe Biden. I don't know the guy in real life, but I think we all have an idea of what he's like and Andrew Shaffer pegs that. Biden wears his heart on his sleeve, he's corny and old-fashioned—and he talks a lot.

Since leaving office, Biden has been at loose ends and he's frankly moping. He sees his old buddy Barack Obama BASE jumping, windsurfing, hobnobbing with the rich and famous, and Biden feels jealous and left behind. Then Obama and his Secret Service guy, Steve, show up to tell Biden about the death of Finn Donnelly, an Amtrak conductor Biden had gotten to know well after riding the train for years between DC and Delaware.

That's the premise of this nutty story of the former Vice President and President teaming up to investigate what they quickly decide is a murder. It's action-packed in a kind of looney way. Making plenty of boneheaded mistakes as they go along, the duo try to solve the case and mend their relationship. The theme of Biden's hurt feelings gets old fast, but on the whole the book is a hoot.

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## **Rincey says**

This is just 1000% camp-y fan fiction. Don't read too much into it. Like there were points in the book where I was like, "Obama/Biden would never say/do/act like that" but then I would shake it off and just keep on

keeping on. The mystery is fine, nothing really to write home about.

Also, someone give this cover designer a raise.

Watch me discuss this book in my July wrap up: <https://youtu.be/8kaQcaNn9uw>

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## **Leah Blackwell says**

I don't even know where to start on how happy this book made me. From the minute I saw the cover pop up on a friend's goodreads shelf it has done nothing but make me laugh. I even drew some fan art. not even kidding. This book is clearly absurd. Not thought provoking. Not written with beautiful prose or mind-bending plot twists. But it is magical. I'm buying cases of this book for all my friends and relatives this Christmas. Thanks NetGalley!

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## **Char says**

As soon as I saw the cover of this book, I knew I had to have it! Thanks to NetGalley and to Quirk Books for granting my wish.

Andrew Shaffer takes the former leader of the free world, joins him back up with Joe Biden, and together they work on a mystery. Amtrak Joe lost a friend, an engineer on the train that he rode nearly every day before he became Vice President. (This story is told from Joe's point of view.) After discovering a few unsavory facts about his friend and discovering a few things about *himself*, he teams up with former best friend Barack Obama, and together they set about learning what happened. Will the two solve the mystery of the Amtrak engineer? Will they continue to be friends after this case is over? You'll have to read this to find out.

I'll admit here and now that I was and am a big fan of both of these men. It's because I miss them and because the cover made me laugh that I requested this book. HOPE NEVER DIES doesn't get into politics much and I appreciated that. (I did enough comparisons between these two and our current administration in my head, I didn't need anything more spelled out.) I have no way of knowing how close this book comes to the real personalities of these two, and you know what? I don't care! It was a fun and entertaining story and that's all that I was looking for.

That said, I had only one big issue and it's likely mine and mine alone. I know that Joe Biden loves cars, (well Corvettes at least for sure.) So do I, and I've worked with them in some capacity my entire adult life. With that in mind, I couldn't understand why a lot of the vehicles referenced in this novel are referred to incorrectly. Ford does not make Impalas. I'm pretty sure Plymouth didn't make Firebirds either. (They made Thunderbirds and Superbirds- Firebirds were all Pontiac.) I did receive an ARC of this book, so perhaps those things were tidied up before publication? Even if not, most people probably wouldn't even notice.

Other than that, HOPE NEVER DIES was a lot of fun. It's not going to break any literary records or anything, but as a humorous detective story featuring two of my favorite politicians, it certainly fit the bill! I recommend it to anyone who thinks this premise is fun!

\*Thanks to Quirk Books and to NetGalley for the e-ARC of this book, in exchange for my honest feedback. This is it.\*

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### **Leigh Kramer says**

THIS IS REAL AND I NEED IT.

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### **Sarah says**

Delightful! I went into this with somewhat dubious expectations, but I really enjoyed it and hope this is the beginning of a series.

Joe Biden has been out of office for six months, and he's down in the dumps. He hasn't heard a word from his old friend Barack Obama, and meanwhile he's tortured by a constant stream of photos of Barack having fun with various celebrities. But when Barack shows up to break the news that Joe's favorite Amtrak conductor was killed--and found with a map marking Joe's house--the two do some digging around and are thrown into a mystery involving drugs, an outlaw motorcycle gang, a suspicious blonde, and lots of danger. Along the way, they deal with their friendship, the pains of aging, and whether or not Joe is going to run for president.

This made me smile big-time. The story is told from Joe Biden's first person POV and I thought the author captured his voice (or at least what you'd imagine it to be) perfectly. There were times I didn't think Obama's character rang quite as true, but he's a more enigmatic man than Biden, and it was mostly believable (as long as you're willing to accept that the former president and vice president would take up amateur crime solving together). Such a fun mix of mystery and bromance!

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### **Catherine ? says**

Why is this the best and most hilarious thing I've ever seen in my life

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### **Betsy says**

You know at first I wasn't going to read this but let's be real, after however long we've been living in this ungodly hell of the Trump administration (it can't be just a year, it feels TOO LONG) I'm obviously going to read this.

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