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It Can't Happen Here (Signet Classics)

Signet Classics

SINCLAIR
LEWIS



IT CAN'T
HAPPEN HERE



WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

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Synopsis

"The novel that foreshadowed Donald Trump's authoritarian appeal." "Salon" The only one of Sinclair Lewis's later novels to match the power of *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, and *Arrowsmith*, *It Can't Happen Here* is a cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy, an alarming, eerily timeless look at how fascism could take hold in America. Written during the Great Depression when America was largely oblivious to Hitler's aggression, it juxtaposes sharp political satire with the chillingly realistic rise of a President who becomes a dictator to save the nation from welfare cheats, rampant promiscuity, crime, and a liberal press. Now finally back in print, *It Can't Happen Here* remains uniquely important, a shockingly prescient novel that's as fresh and contemporary as today's news. "Written at white heat." "Chicago Tribune" "A message to thinking Americans." "Springfield Republican" "Not only [Lewis's] most important book but one of the most important books ever produced in this country." "The New Yorker" From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

The price of \$7.99, happily paid for this Lewis' kindle, is so much cheaper than the heavy price of my first clandestine acquaintance with the same book during the years of my USSR youth in the fifties: it well could be from 5 to 7 years in labor camps, so I was really lucky then to escape this

punishment, given for any anti-Soviet reading. Well, Mr. Lewis himself had nothing to do with such an interpretation of the book: he was writing about the threat of fascism, not of socialism. But Stalin's censors were quite shrewd in their understanding that practice of fascist hell in America would look just a bit too familiar for readers in a socialist paradise here. I have no boldness to comment the excellent book itself (it's about the same as to comment Dostoyevsky's "The Possessed", which was as clear warning about horrors of Communism for the Russian readers). Unfortunately, neither masterpiece was believed by their respective societies, so the best comments to them are made now not by readers, but by life. Now it's a life, which is very different from the thirties: though terms like "fascism", "capitalism" or "socialism" are still widely used, but for the majority of our politicians (both in the USA and elsewhere) they are hardly anything today but a purely technological means to hide their lust for immense power and immense wealth. That's a " for modern politicians. As for modern voters a " I can't agree with Mr. Gary Scharnhorst's afterword: "Lewis's message " his protest of middle-class complacency and intellectual regimentation, what we today call a "political correctness" • on both the left and the right" remains as relevant and timely as ever". With all my love to optimism, I think that in our sad reality this book isn't timely any more.

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