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# Keep The Aspidistra Flying (CSA Word Recording)



## Synopsis

Orwell's darkly comic novel centers around the life of Gordon Comstock, onetime advertising copywriter turned bookshop employee and struggling poet. Gordon's disdain for money and artistic compromise preclude his earning enough of a living to escape constant public embarrassment. On top of this, it gives him terrible trouble holding on to his girlfriend. Unwilling to dilute his stubborn stance on capitalistic pursuits, he constantly obsesses "money, money, money, all is money." Gordon's problems mount while his only published volume, *Mice*, gathers dust on a shelf, and his attempts at a new collection stagnate. Written during Orwell's time living in Notting Hill and set in London during "the year of blight, 1934," the novel is a fine example of Orwell's wit, and a masterpiece of fiction. It also hints towards themes about power and relationships that would color his later works *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm*. Reader Richard E. Grant is one Britain's best-loved actors, and best remembered for his role in *Withnail & I*. In 1997 Grant also appeared as Gordon Comstock in a film version of Orwell's novel. Unabridged.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

London, 1936. Gordon Comstock has declared war on the money god; and Gordon is losing the war. Nearly 30 and "rather moth-eaten already," a poet whose one small book of verse has fallen "flatter than any pancake," Gordon has given up a "good" job and gone to work in a bookshop at half his former salary. Always broke, but too proud to accept charity, he rarely sees his few friends

and cannot get the virginal Rosemary to bed because (or so he believes), "If you have no money ... women won't love you." On the windowsill of Gordon's shabby rooming-house room is a sickly but unkillable aspidistra--a plant he abhors as the banner of the sort of "mingy, lower-middle-class decency" he is fleeing in his downward flight. In *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, George Orwell has created a darkly compassionate satire to which anyone who has ever been oppressed by the lack of brass, or by the need to make it, will all too easily relate. He etches the ugly insanity of what Gordon calls "the money-world" in unflinching detail, but the satire has a second edge, too, and Gordon himself is scarcely heroic. In the course of his misadventures, we become grindingly aware that his radical solution to the problem of the money-world is no solution at all--that in his desperate reaction against a monstrous system, he has become something of a monster himself. Orwell keeps both of his edges sharp to the very end--a "happy" ending that poses tough questions about just how happy it really is. That the book itself is not sour, but constantly fresh and frequently funny, is the result of Orwell's steady, unsentimental attention to the telling detail; his dry, quiet humor; his fascination with both the follies and the excellences of his characters; and his courageous refusal to embrace the comforts of any easy answer. --Daniel Hintzsche --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

If 'peerless prose' could apply to one writer alone, I'd accord it to Orwell. \* The Guardian \*

In the 1960's I first read this book. It has been a guiding reminder through these years of how fragile freedom and democracy can be and of how important it is to be vigilant and aware of trends that may destroy them! (2017)

This book is stunning, really makes you think how degraded our government has become.

I'd read this year's ago but I thought was a good idea to read it again and brush up on things Today Kellyanne Conway announced that we were given alternate facts. Shades of changing the past and controlling the present Get ready to party like it's 1984

I find this work still is applicable if not even more so now than when it was written.

I read this in high school (I'm 72 now) and at that time it was a prediction of things to come. In some ways it's pretty close. It is interesting that people are reading it more now because of the current situation. I think that if they are alarmed by this book they should try "It Can't Happen Here." Another

worthwhile book is "A Nation of Sheep" by William J. Lederer

This is one of the best books I have ever read. After reading it is still hard to believe it was published in 1949. It does not feel like an old book. Orwell didn't go into excessive detail about technological advances in 1984 which is great, because the predictions made in his time were so far off (as we all have come to see), that they are comical. Something like that would have ruined this book for me. That would have made it too hard to relate to. All of the things Orwell focused on in the plot of this book are things that could very well still happen in the near future, and it makes one wonder just how much of it is actually happening right now. I finished the book last week, and I still get chills when I think about it. It was that good. This truly is a timeless classic. I highly recommend it.

1984 was a year of some fears. There was the Cold War fear, the fears about the film 'The Day After' that reflected the nuclear fears. But, the 1984 that George Orwell, had predicted, Was not, yet, here.. We went along in the 1980's with those and other fears, but we were mostly happy. I first read this book as a teenager, and there was a great deal of discussion about the book. Did we really think that life would be as totalitarian and regimented in 1984 as the book predicted? For most of us, no. We realized most would be alive in that year, and we had no fear. Now, in 2017, the fear is here. 1984, the book is in the top ten book sellers this week. Why? Fascism is upon us. Our rights are being depleted everyday. George Orwell told us, but it took 33 years after 1984 for his predictions to come true. Read on, ye seekers of truth, we need to unite. Recommended. prisrob 01-25-17

I believe '1984' is standard reading for many high school/college English classes, but it wasn't in mine. I decided to read it on my own this summer, and boy am I glad I did. 1984 tells the story of Winston Smith, a man who lives in THE totalitarian government, wants to fight back, and isn't entirely sure how. He is watched almost all the time, must be constantly on guard against showing dissent from the party, or else he will be disappeared. While he and similar characters aren't exactly brimming with personality, they don't need to be to make this book good. The greatest thing about this book is the government itself. A common saying in this book is [paraphrased] 'he who controls the past controls the future, and he who controls the present controls the past'. Orwell goes into detail on how to accomplish this, and delivers on all of the horror, both stated and unstated, that goes along with it. The even more classic line 'War is Peace' is brought up, and explained in such a way that I even found it plausible in a severely twisted sort of way. And the worst part? All of this misery, terror, and oppression? It's entirely believable that it could happen to us. The government

doesn't need any sci-fi tech to take absolute control, and they don't need it. Heck, North Korea is doing something similar right now! One minor thing I have to say I like is the prose. A lot the book I've read that are sixty years have a lot of archaic grammar and word choice. 1984 doesn't for the most part. I recommend this book to anyone interested in classic literature, second only to 'Catch-22' in my list of books you should read. So, you know, buy it.

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