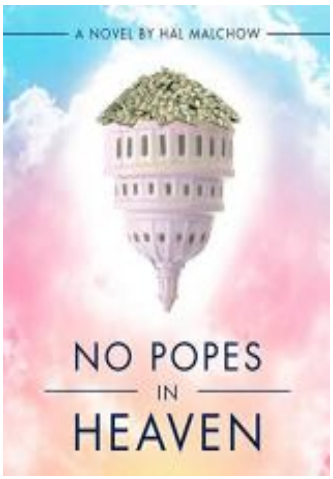
No Popes in Heaven

by Hal Malchow



About the Book

What has happened to American democracy? NO POPES IN HEAVEN is a political thriller with biting commentary about what has gone wrong with the world's ideal government.

A major pharmaceutical company has developed a drug to slow aging --- but the long clinical trials required to bring it to market are just that: too long to be profitable. Operating with political maneuverings the would make Machiavelli blush, the Big Pharma company conceives of a different course of action --- brilliant, lucrative and dangerous. But as this tactic spins out of control, the curtain is pulled back on the worst of Washington's machinations: big money, back room deals and betrayals, and political campaigns that leave voters behind.

Discussion Guide

1. Scientists expect to that drugs that can extend life five to ten years will be available within the next decade. How will longer life change human society? What adjustments will we have to make?

2. Speaker Hazeldine, in his efforts to pass the Life Bill, faced an uphill climb. Almost all members of congress had taken donations from the pharmaceutical industry and getting them to vote against Big Pharma was difficult. Was he wrong bend the rules and give out government projects in districts where he needed votes?

3. In NO POPES IN HEAVEN, enormous amounts of money were spend on television ads and other communications to sway voters but these campaigns seemed not to have a large effect of the vote. Do you think political ads are as effective as they once were? Where do you get your information to make voting choices? What would be the best way for a candidate do to get your attention and earn your vote?

4. On controversial issues, do public officials have a better chance of compromising and reaching agreements when they

meet privately or in public with journalists present? How do open meeting laws which require that discussions of legislation be held in meeting open to the public and press, affect our democracy?

Author Bio

Hal Malchow?s writing career began when his then eight-year-old son approached him about writing a book together. Two years later, they completed the first draft of THE SWORD OF DARROW, a highly acclaimed young adult fantasy novel. In 2014, writing alone, he published a sequel, THE DRAGON AND THE FIREFLY.

His new book, NO POPES IN HEAVEN, draws on his successful 30-year career in politics. Starting on his kitchen table in an efficiency apartment, he built America?s largest voter contact firm. He pioneered the use of advanced data analytics to revolutionize political targeting and control group experiments to measure and improve campaign tactics. His work in changing campaign politics is chronicled in Sasha Issenberg?s 2011 book, THE VICTORY LAB: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns.

Over his career, Hal has worked for five Democratic presidential nominees. In 2016, Hal was inducted into the political consultants Hall of Fame.

Hal closed his firm in 2010, discouraged by the dialogue of modern campaigns. He is currently moving from Washington, DC to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Critical Praise

"Author Malchow?s (THE DRAGON AND THE FIREFLY, 2014, etc.) quarter-century of experience as a political consultant is impossible to miss, as he?s clearly an expert on the dark machinations of American political life."

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