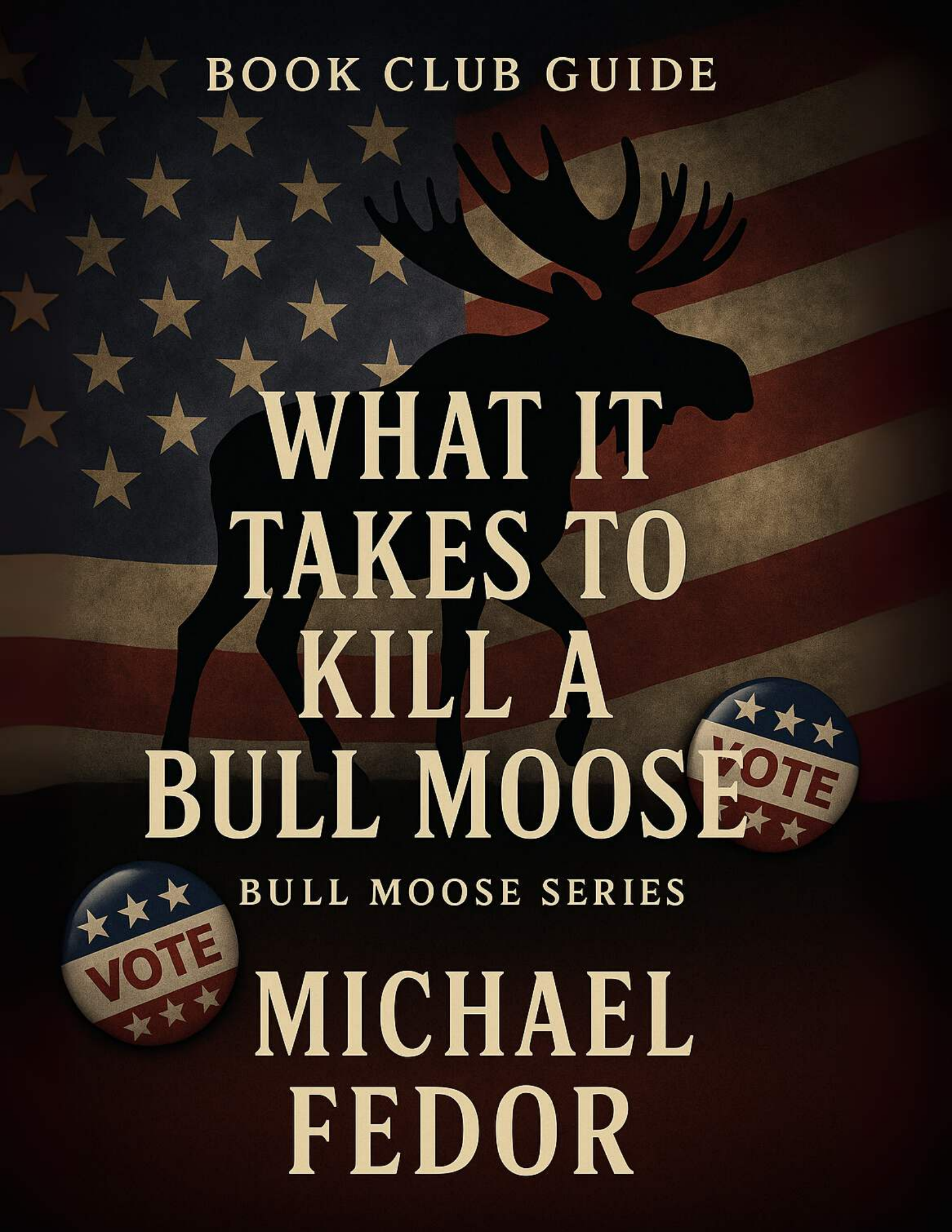
BOOK CLUB GUIDE



WHAT IT TAKES TO KILL A BULL MOOSE

BULL MOOSE SERIES

MICHAEL FEDOR

WHAT IT TAKES TO KILL A BULL MOOSE

THE OFFICIAL READING GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE BULL MOOSE UNIVERSSE

Thank you for choosing *What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose* for your book club! This guide is designed to spark lively conversations, connect the story to current events, and help you uncover the layers of political intrigue, character development, and historical rhymes within the novel.

ABOUT THE BOOK

What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose is the first full-length novel in Michael Fedor's Bull Moose series, a political thriller set in the near future. The story follows Jackson Piper, a former U.S. Senator forced into exile after a crushing political defeat. Living quietly in the mountains of Colorado, Piper is pulled back toward the dangerous world he tried to leave behind when old allies and new enemies converge. At the center of the storm is President Russell Warner, a ruthless operator willing to rewrite the rules to cling to power, and Marco Alvarez, a billionaire tech mogul whose agenda is more than playing in America's elections.

Blending the pulse-pounding pace of a thriller with the sharp commentary of political fiction, Fedor imagines an America where truth is manipulated by technology, democracy is suffocated by dark money, and courage is the only weapon left for reformers. With echoes of Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose spirit, the novel explores timeless themes of loyalty, corruption, and resilience in the face of overwhelming odds. It is both a gripping page-turner and a provocative mirror held up to the challenges of our own political moment.

Though it dives deep into the mechanics of campaigns and the flaws of our political system, the book itself carries no partisan agenda. Readers from across the political spectrum have found the story's themes, characters, and events both thrilling and thought-provoking. At its core, *What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose* aims to inspire critical thinking, spark meaningful conversations, and remind us that courage and integrity matter no matter your political perspective.

BOOK CLUB PACKS

The *5x award-winning novel What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose* is available in bundles for your book club! Visit the online store here or at http://shop.michaelfedorbooks.com to find a package that fits your club's size and reading habits. Audiobook versions are also available.

Don't see a fit? Email us at bookrights@michaelfedorbooks.com to request a package to suit your needs.

WHAT IT TAKES TO KILL A BULL MOOSE

THE OFFICIAL READING GUIDE

READING SCHEDULE

Your club can undertake the reading of this conspiracy and political thriller on any schedule that suits your readers. This guide outlines a five-week approach, assigning each Part of the book's five parts to one week of reading. Here is the suggested schedule:

- Week 1 - Part 1 - Exile and Temptation
- Week 2 - Part 2 - Loyalty's Price
- Week 3 - Part 3 - Corruption and Resistance
- Week 4 - Part 4 - The Boiling Point
- Week 5 - Part 5 - Betrayals

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This guide includes some suggested discussion questions to help spark lively conversations as well as reveal intriguing perspectives during your club's weekly discussion of the reading. Serving only as examples, feel free to use as few or as many as you like with your club.

WEEK 1 - PART 1 - EXILE AND TEMPTATION

- The moose-hunting scene opens with Jackson Piper lowering his rifle. How does this moment symbolize his fall from power and his struggle with identity?
- Catherine emerges as both a grounding force and a skeptic. How does her perspective on politics differ from Jackson's, and what tension does that create in their marriage?
- Ron Bender and Diesel Browning push Jackson back into politics. Are their motives primarily patriotic, self-serving, or nostalgic? Defend your response.
- What do you believe are Alvarez's motives for pushing Warner so hard during the visit to CA?
- How did you feel about Ziggy, a highly advanced AI assistant? Is she comic relief, sinister foreshadowing, or both?

WEEK 2 - PART 2 - LOYALTY'S PRICE

- President Warner is ruthless yet vain. How do his interactions with Olivia Clay expose his dependence on others?
- Alvarez's control of The Mark blurs truth and propaganda. Did this feel frighteningly plausible?
- Paul Drummond is portrayed as an "invisible man." What does his characterization say about the type of leaders produced in corrupted systems?
- Diane Fogarty clears the field for Drummond. How does this illustrate institutional rot in party politics?
- Alvarez's audacious ask — the vice presidency — shocks Warner. What does this scene reveal about Alvarez's vision for power?
- Despite the two Parties having wildly different approaches, they carried out the same results. How do the party meetings symbolize what the author is saying about machine politics overall?

WEEK 3 - PART 3 - CORRUPTION AND RESISTANCE

- Jackson grapples with betrayals from supposed allies. Which betrayal struck you as the most damaging, and why?
- The subplot of Catherine's medical research provides a counterpoint to the corruption in Washington. How does her work expand the novel's moral universe?
- Ziggy and simulated intelligence hover at the edges of political intrigue. Do you view these technologies in the novel as neutral tools or as political actors?
- How does the author balance breakneck thriller pacing with detailed political critique? Did one aspect dominate for you?
- What scenes most reminded you of real-world politics?
- What's your read of the Bull Moose Party? The argument against third parties is that they draw votes from only one side of the political spectrum. American voters are often wary of new political brands. How are Piper and Bender setting up the Moose to be something both different but also familiar?
- The Curse of Tippecanoe adds a layer of mysticism onto this conspiracy thriller set in the future. How might luck, curses, legend, and rituals be important in a book about American politics?

WEEK 4 - PART 4 - THE BOILING POINT

- With the knowledge of old loyalties of the Golden Four, how are some decisions and motivations of the book's main characters recast for us?
- A new layer of horror is added with Jessica Brown's story. Could you see such terrible manipulations of truth becoming possible in the future?
- Why might Brown's exit from the landscape be so important to Marco's plans?
- The assassination plot raises the stakes dramatically. Did you see it coming, or was it a true surprise?
- What was your reaction to the death in Chapter 31? Talk through some of your feelings about the choice the author made here.
- Jackson's courage and flaws collide under pressure. How does his response show both strength and naiveté?
- President Warner doubles down on authoritarian tactics. How does his strategy differ from Alvarez's subtler manipulations?
- Which secondary character (Diesel, Ron, Catherine, Olivia, or others) surprised you most in this section?
- How does the tension between loyalty and betrayal drive the action in this Part?

WEEK 5 - PART 5 - CLIMAX AND AFTERMATH

- The title *What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose* becomes both literal and symbolic. What does the "Bull Moose" spirit represent by the end? What major conflicts throughout the book does the title frame for the reader?
- Jackson must decide whether to stay in exile or reenter the political fight. How convincing was his choice to you?
- How did the final confrontation resolve (or fail to resolve) the central conflict between truth and power?
- It is possible to believe the story ends on the final page. Fedor also clearly sets up a sequel for the readers wishing to continue the adventure in *Tree of Liberty*. Which unresolved questions are you most eager to see answered in Book 2?
- In your view, does the book end with hope, despair, or something more complicated? How does the book's ending contrast our own political present?
- In our current political climate, is it possible Bull Moose could become a banner book? What controversial themes, portrayals, or qualities might land it on such a list?

⚡ WRAP-UP ACTIVITIES

Congratulations on completing Bull Moose Book 1! As a celebration to commemorate your club's completion of another novel, here are some ideas for wrap-up activities to tie it all together.

- **Casting Call:** Who plays Jackson, Catherine, Warner, Alvarez, and Ziggy in a screen adaptation? Cast the film using only living actors and actresses. Which characters get dropped in your screenplay?
- **Platinum Soundtrack:** Pick 12-16 songs that coincide with pivotal moments sure to be in the Streaming Series or film adaptation. Be sure to indicate which scenes the songs play over.
- **Alternate Headlines:** Write what The New York Times, NPR, MSNOW, and Fox News would publish about key events in the story. How might bias play into their portrayal of Jackson Piper and the Bull Moose?
- **Personal Reflection:** If you were Piper, would you accept the mantle of leadership again — or walk away for good?

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✍️ ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Fedor brings over twenty years of political organizing and storytelling experience to his writing, moving from the campaign trail to the page with the same goal: to persuade, to inspire, and to spark conversation.

His novels and short stories are deliciously thrilling and terrifyingly plausible, leaving readers to wonder where real life ends and political fantasy begins.

Michael began his career as an English teacher, often channeling John Keating of *Dead Poets Society* — standing on desks, declaring *carpe diem*, and urging students to "make your lives extraordinary." Drawn to a broader stage, he left the classroom in 2006 to work in politics. Over the next 14 years, he gained a front-row seat to the costs of pursuing power, working for candidates from president to dogcatcher and running five races of his own — winning three. By 2020, he hung up his "running shoes" but carried forward the lessons of ambition, loyalty, and sacrifice.

Those lessons became fuel for his fiction. Dusting off a manuscript first drafted in 2004, Michael reimagined it with two decades of lived experience. The result is the Bull Moose series — political thrillers with a futuristic edge that blend Washington intrigue, technological disruption, and human courage. The first full novel in the series, *What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose*, has already earned multiple awards and a devoted readership.

A proud Penn State graduate with both bachelor's and master's degrees, Michael often says the greatest gift he gained there was meeting Serena, his best friend and wife of more than 21 years. Together, they are raising three boys in Pennsylvania — teaching them to have imagination, healthy loves of ice cream, and generous souls.

Like his protagonist Jackson Piper, Michael is an avid outdoorsman, a student of history, and retired from the dream of public office. "Piper is not a sketch of me," Michael says. "Of course, there is a little of me in every character, just as there is plenty of influence from men and women I worked with in each of the characters in this series. I think its my experience that makes this story so powerful."

Michael also says he is a relentless autodidact: "If I don't know how to solve a problem," he says, "I use every resource I can find to teach myself the means to arrive at the solution."

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FOR A DEEPER READ

No Ph.D. in politics is required to enjoy Bull Moose, but here are just a few signposts to help you get even more from the story.

BULL MOOSE LEGACY

- The title nods to Theodore Roosevelt's 1912 Progressive (Bull Moose) Party. Roosevelt's fight was about reforming government and breaking up corruption, themes that echo throughout this novel.
- You don't need to know the details, but **just remember**: "Bull Moose" = independent, reform-minded, willing to stand up to entrenched powers.
- Roosevelt was shot in October 1912, just weeks before Election Day. Despite having a bullet lodged in his chest, Roosevelt gave an hour-long speech before going to the hospital. After a few days of recovery, Teddy emerged, proclaiming triumpantly, "it takes more than that to kill a bull moose."

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

- The book is set in a near-future where America still has two dominant parties, though they are referred to as the Old Party and the Other Party. It's up to the reader to decide to which present-day party each moniker refers.
- The story critiques how both parties have become corrupted, gridlocked, and manipulated by money.
- **All you need to know:** the labels are different, but the frustrations with the system will feel familiar to anyone who follows today's politics.

TECHNOLOGY, AI, & THE MARK

- In this fictional future, Alvarez's tech company Juniper created The Mark — software that automatically labels all digital information as "true," "false," or "questionable."
- Juniper is also behind the successor to AI - Si or Simulated Intelligence. Think R2D2, C3PO levels of computer sentience and abilities.
- As the book unfolds, we discover that Ziggy is not a Juniper invention.
- The catch: The Mark can be exploited to protect those in power.
- Readers don't need a tech background — just know this is a commentary on how AI and media fact-checking can be weaponized.

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THE CURSE OF TIPPECANOE

- A bit of American folklore: every president elected in a year divisible by 20 (from 1840 to 1960) died in office, starting with William Henry Harrison.
- That streak broke in 1980 when Ronald Reagan survived an assassination.
- The novel plays with this “curse” as part of its suspense.
- Readers don’t need to believe in curses — just treat it as another thread that blurs superstition, history, and political fate.

JACKSON PIPER’S PAST

- You’ll quickly learn Jackson Piper is a fallen senator who lost his seat after just one term (2035-41) under shady circumstances.
- But Jackson is not a neophyte; he served four terms in the House (2027-2035) and was the architect behind electing the first female governor of Pennsylvania.
- Jackson and Catherine Piper are millennials. We can estimate that they were born around 1999, graduated from undergrad around 2017, and married somewhere near 2024.
- Jackson seems to be an only child; there is no mention of siblings. Piper lost both of his parents before the age of 20 to poor health.
- For new readers: you don’t need to have read *The Senate Deception* (the prequel novella), but it adds depth. This book stands alone by filling in the essentials.

✨ BOTTOM LINE FOR READERS:

If you understand that (1) U.S. politics is often gridlocked, (2) money and technology wield enormous hidden influence, and (3) reformers like Roosevelt inspire the “Bull Moose” spirit, you’re ready to jump in.

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FINAL NOTES

We hope you enjoyed your reading of *What It Takes to Kill a Bull Moose*.

If you are interested in author Michael Fedor joining your club via Zoom, Teams, or possibly in-person for a next-level discussion of the book and its many influences and secrets, email us at author@michaelfedorbooks.com. Be sure to include "BOOK CLUB REQUEST" in the subject. While we cannot guarantee Michael Fedor will be available to attend every club, he would be thrilled to meet your readers and share a few words of appreciation, not to mention answer some of your more burning questions about the series.

Michael has also personally curated a list of books for reading before or after your reading of Bull Moose 1. These may complement your club's enjoyment of the Bull Moose series. In no particular order:

- *All the King's Men*, Robert Penn Warren, Harcourt, Brace and Company, NY, 1946.
- *Advise and Consent*, Allen Drury, Doubleday and Co, NY, 1959.
- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury, Ballentine Books, NY, 1953.
- *1984*, George Orwell, Secker and Warburg, London, 1949.
- *The President is Missing*, Bill Clinton and James Patterson, Alfred A. Knopf and Little, Brown and Company, NY, 2018.
- *The Senate Deception,* (Bull Moose Book 0), Michael Fedor, Epoch Edge Press, 2024.
- *Tree of Liberty*, (Bull Moose Book 2), Michael Fedor, Epoch Edge Press, 2024.
- *The Nine-Hour President*, (Bull Moose Book 3), Michael Fedor, Epoch Edge Press, 2025.

Whether you loved or hated Bull Moose Book1 or somewhere in between, please do us the honor of leaving your rating and review on one of these fine stores or sites:

- Goodreads
- Story Graph
- Amazon
- MichaelFedorBooks.com
- Chirp
- Kobo
- B&N
- Apple Book Store
- Target, Walmart, or other fine stores.