

Dark Side of Human Nature in the "House of Cards" by Michael Dobbs

Name:

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*House of Cards* is a popular British trilogy, the plot of which revolves around drama, mystery, and darkness to the fullest extent. Along with scandalous investigations and obscure discoveries, the series portrays a central issue which is noticeable throughout each part: the darkness of human nature. *House of Cards* is likewise shockingly attractive and surprisingly related to real life, owing to the revelation of political uncertainties that make this novel a true masterpiece of British publishing.

In the novel, Michael Dobbs describes the dubious experiences of the protagonist Francis Urquhart and analyses the psychological portrait of this soulless, egocentric, yet ambitious individual. The story of human obscurity is linked directly to the political world, in which the accurate explanation of the British parliamentary system is disclosed. The author of the novel proposes a scenario in which party MPs, not the voters, elect the Prime Minister and coordinate their work in the political arena (Donahue, para 3). The destiny of Francis Urquhart is in turns a series of cynical, ironical, and ridiculed events which make him a nonconformist and unable of maintaining a humane attitude to anyone he works with.

What makes the novel even more appealing and engaging to its readers is the opening lines of each chapter, which are full of various political inclinations, such as in the following statement: “All members of a Cabinet are referred to as Right Honourable Gentleman. There are only three things wrong with such a title” (Donahue, para 4). Francis Urquhart is strangely harmonious in his image of a person who does not know what solidarity is, which makes readers praise his direct honesty and disdain his unscrupulous provocations at the same time. Media threats, public appearances, and blackmailing are only a few sinister examples that point at Urquhart’s unacceptable behavior. The main paradox that arises upon examining the nature of the main character is that Francis Urquhart fits the role of a politician at most, since only such tough and impossible-to-deal-with men are capable of resisting the influence of their rivals, opponents, and enemies despite their off-putting disposition and unbearable features of character. The evil nature of the protagonist questions the validity of the political system and challenges the reliability of a Parliament's order.

Apart from the leading man who represents the dark nature of the human soul, other characters include such notorious persons as an ambitious woman reporter, a cocaine-addicted public relations executive, Urquhart’s Wagner-loving wife, and a number of uncontrollable British politicians and press barons who embody a combination of cruel, immoral, corrupt, and hungry-for-power people. Acting illegitimately is an inherent feature of all characters, while their deep-rooted sense of indignation makes them a symbol of national “worth” which changes the image of law-abiding and responsible political members to the core. The Machiavellian prime minister Francis Urquhart, therefore, leads the hierarchy of political figures owing to his reputation of his unethical, reckless, and dark persona.

Conclusively, *House of Cards* is a one-of-its-kind story which manages to depict the darkness of human nature and translate the mood of questionable British behavior, both in public and private spheres of the political world. Such acts of Urquhart’s disobedience as negligence as Prime Minister, many media manipulations, constant misconduct against policies, and noncompliance with political correctness make the trilogy one of the most eye-opening and revealing British stories.

Reference

Donahue, D. (2014, January 14). Love the TV series "House of Cards"? You'll adore the novel.

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