



The Thick of It: The Missing DoSAC Files

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Based around the idea that King of Spin Malcolm Tucker has lost a confidential and highly-damaging file on a train, this book presents a collection of sensitive documents: personnel files, policy drafts, letters and emails, election campaign documents and top secret papers on the government's media strategy for wars and recessions.

The Thick of It: The Missing DoSAC Files Details

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Sunil says

The Missing DoSAC files is hardly a book; it's a pastiche of important, bringing- down-the- government type of documents that has been lost on the tube.

Iannucci and co recreate the magic of the TV show by assorting a smorgasbord of emails, correspondences, book reviews, press releases, diary entries, media stories from the corridors of Whitehall. I must say, while it is as funny as anything can ever be on paper, it lacks the punch of the actors delivering them. Also, for readers not acquainted with contemporary British politics or the cult TV series, it wouldn't make any sense whatsoever but for readers who are, it is as ribticklingly outrageous as the TV show. Recommended for Thick of It fans and the British satire enthusiasts! Ideally I would have given 3 1/2 stars but can't, so well..four it is.

Chris says

Parts of this are very funny if you read while channeling Tucker's voice. If you're a fan of the series, you will enjoy some, if not all of this (parts of it, go on far too long). If you are not a fan or haven't seen the series, you shouldn't touch. Tucker will bollock you if you do.

Isa Lavinia says

There were a few parts in this that could only work if they were being read by the actors, but most of it was the usual brilliance you see in the show, like:

- Malcolm's interview, where he claims he could win a fight against Muhammad Ali (because he has Parkinson's now)
- Nicola's interview, where she reveals she did try yoga (but had to stop because she broke her sternum)
- Mannion's attack points file, where we find out he crashed his yacht against another yacht (because "the ocean made a sudden unexpected up and down motion")
- Malcolm's Guide to Managing Your Public Image, full of helpful tips like "if you feel you might be unable to stop yourself smiling at a service of remembrance imagine your own cock being fed into a moulinex (Clinton once coaxed a tear this way in Normandy)

If you love the show, you'll love the book.

Erica says

BLESS THIS

If you enjoyed TTOI the show you HAVE to read this. Most of it is just Malcolm swearing at various people via email or other form of communication. There's also a lot of funny memos from Nicola Murray and some correspondence between Jamie and Malc that I loved (oop it's cuz I ship them. I mean Malc signs one "Love and fucks." and like COME ON!!!)

My only lament is that there is no audiobook of this that I know of. I would kill for an audiobook.

Reni says

Just what you need if you're like me and have recently finished watching The Thick of It and ended up starved for more of the same. This beautiful, hilariously detailed collection of emails, memos, magazine articles, notes and telephone transcripts nails the mean humour and tone of the TV-show.

Some sections of the book, to me, were more enjoyable than others, but that's of course due to personal taste. All in all the spectrum of assembled material is wide enough that the humour won't feel repetitive even if you wolf down the whole thing within only two days, as I did (oops).

Jemiah Jefferson says

I bought the hell out of this book as soon as I knew of its existence, and it did not disappoint (it had to come from SWITZERLAND of all places). Excellent writing from the writers of the show in the voices of the characters (or at least how they are in email, and in magazine interviews and articles, hilariously) and with lots of amazing photos and other visual evidence of just how screwed we are as a species. If you're a fan of The Thick of It I recommend making the effort to track this down. It will require effort. Just do it.

MJ Nicholls says

I will treat this review simply as a place to promote Armando Iannucci's *The Thick of It*, *In the Loop*, and the recent American remake *Veep*. There. Go watch them. This 'missing file' contains various snippets pertaining to the employees of most incompetent government department in the world, DoSac. Based on Labour's recent decline into gibbering drooling madness, this is a mixture of gov-speak satire, ritual abuse from Malcolm Tucker, and fun extras from the BBC series. It is somewhat depressing we've come to expect incompetence and hypocrisy from our governments and that governments basically conform to our expectations, as though moulding themselves into the bastardy shapes we expect. No one in this country who isn't rich likes the Prime Minister. Depressing. Fortunately, this collection of foul-mouthed missives provides erudite respite from one's boiling rage. If there's one thing you can rely on in Britain it's savage mockery and contempt for our leaders.

Melissa says

A companion book to one of my favourite television shows. Malcolm's entries were by far the best and I read them in my head in his lovely Scottish accent. I did skim over some of the pages about the minor characters;

these bits would have worked better in the show. Overall, a really funny book!

Jenny says

Omg if you liked The Thick of It, you'll love this

Adam Dodd says

If you like the series, you will enjoy this. It could have gone harder and more creative with the swearing, but the television version has perhaps set the bar impossibly high.

One thing that represents (I believe) a genuine character development from the television version is that Malcolm Tucker puts kisses at the bottom of many of his emails. He also seems to have a very genuine fondness for his secretary.

Peter Dunn says

I have been savouring a few pages of this at a time over, several months, to provide me with a regular fresh dose of 'The Thick of It' and in particular Malcom Tucker long after the end of the show. While the last few pages were a little weak the rest of book did not disappoint – well it was written by Armando Iannucci, Jesse Armstrong and the original 'The Thick of It' crew. It was wonderful to have the equivalent of roughly two or three more episodes of the show in book form.

Aoife says

Well this was brilliant. I'm not sure when was the last time I laughed as much...possible while watching an episode of TTOI so I guess this book did what it was supposed to ;)

It's not one of those tie-in books where they just stuck some behind the scenes-photos and quotes together, clearly lots of work and thought went into this.

The focus is of course on Malcom. These are his files after all but being Malcom he of course has dirt on everyone...or at least embarrassing things about everybody, including a cringe-worthy interview with Nicola...more cringe-worthy things by Nicola, details on Jamie's 'Summer of Shame' (seriously, that had me in stitches) and accompanying e-mails in which Malcom teases him for it (and calls him 'wee Jamie'), Ollie being so useless at digging up dirt on Peter Mannion that Malcoms has to write Peter and ask for help, Phil and Terri being to full of themselves and Emma being...well Emma. Oh and the e-mails between Malcom and Sam which are adorable.

I found some of the things that directly focussed on Malcom a bit over-the-top, especially the interview (though the photo-manips portraying him as the Lord of Darkness were hillarious) and that...strange self-

insert polit-thriller but the rest was awesome.

Commanderd says

As a huge fan of the series, and the character of Malcolm Tucker in particular this was side splittingly hilarious. From Ollie's pathetic attempts to create smear material on the opposition to the emails between Malcolm and his PA Sam (signed with an X...) it's a fantastic read.

Kribu says

This is pretty much a book that would only make sense to people who are familiar with the world of *The Thick of It*, the wonderfully funny (and very swearly) British political satire show, as it's very much a compendium to the show and requires knowing both the setting and the characters.

Anyway, for any fan of TTOI, I think it's a pretty great addition. It's not a must-have - well, it sort of is if you love Malcolm Tucker (are there fans of TTOI who don't love Malcolm Tucker?) and in particular if you love Malcolm in a way that makes you appreciate those A4 colour pictures of him accompanying the interview, because phwoar, he's hot - and the mixture of funny and bizarre/awkward doesn't always work as well in print as it did on TV, but it's got a lot of good bits.

So, yeah. I enjoyed it, from the e-mails to Malcolm's how-to guides (and I loved a lot of Nicola's stuff as well!), and the ending was pretty much perfect.

Maj says

Well, I was in luck a few weeks ago, and found this on the bargain stand in the English language section of one of the book shops I pop into from time to time.

As a TTOI fan I had to have it, even though it pretty much features the docus you can find on the Tucker Phone app (which I still have on my ancient iPhone, which I occasionally use as a music player). But it's certainly nice to have them in eye-friendly size and in physical form, not easily perishable with decaying software.

Some of the humour contained lands better, some is less successful (you realise how much the actors bring to the material, really)...but all of it is true to the different characters.

It's certainly a must-have for TTOI fans (who, I'm sure, all already have it) - or for anyone who is into not-just-political comedy of the intelligent variety.
