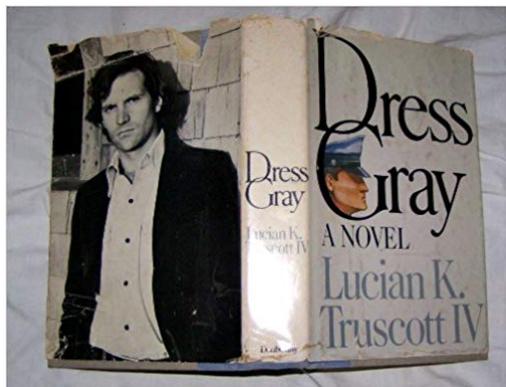


Dress Gray *by* Lucian K. Truscott



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A cadet's investigation into his friend's death reveals a massive cover-up of his rape and murder and a network of lies and corruption extending from West Point to the Pentagon



Reviews of the *Dress Gray* *by* Lucian K. Truscott

Gom

Not a bad novel about West Point as it was in the 1960s and 1970s. The author attended West Point himself, and this gives the novel a definite air of authenticity. Personally I did not enjoy the gay subplot to the novel, which was hostile both to gays and non-gays -- you will see what I mean if you read the novel. Setting that aside, this one is OK but not great. By the way, the sequel and prequel are both awful. This is the only readable novel that this author ever wrote. RJB.

Zacki

Like others, I couldn't put this book down, but the ending came up too suddenly for me. I kept watching my progress at the bottom of the page, and when it showed 95%, I figured I still had a little ways to go.

But all of a sudden we find out who the killer is -- some guy I either hadn't heard of before, or whose character was so sketchy that I couldn't remember him at all, unlike the rest of the fully developed characters in the story. Then the protagonist rides off into the sunset (figuratively) and the final 5% is devoted to the beginning of another one of the author's books, designed, of course to get me interested in purchasing it.

The writing is superb; a pleasure to read, and a real page turner. I highly recommend the book on that basis. But somehow the reader should be forewarned that the Kindle edition is going to end at 95%, not 100%. I felt I'd been left in the lurch because of that. Otherwise, I'd give it five stars.

Whatever

If you're interested in the goings on at West Point and it's abusive training, you'll like this. Unfortunately, for me, there wasn't one character who I could relate to or feel any empathy for. The leading man is so messed up that he's hard to like. His relationship with the Israeli woman seemed unreal and their sex scene was the least sexy I've ever read. The story unfolds fairly nicely but gets rather repetitious and you soon lose interest. There is far too much West Point lingo and at times it gets confusing. I managed to finish it but was disappointed in it's finish.

Andromajurus

I liked the novel. It seemed to show a deep understanding of the West Point environment. I thought it got a little slow at times but in all it was a well written book. Good descriptions of the ambiance of West Point.

I liked the effort that the author put in to the development of the protagonist's character. He was quite believable as was his eventual decision.

If you are looking for a sanitized version of West Point, this is not the book for you. If you are looking for unbridled anti military rhetoric, this is not the book for you. This book attempts to show both the bad and the good and, for the most part succeeds

Shadowbourne

Obviously written by a former cadet as only one with firsthand knowledge and experience could be that informative about plebe life. The plot is different and not predictable, the outcome is. Some parts drag on too long but it is interesting and readable, especially one who has been in the army as I have.

I have the feeling the author is son or grandson of the Lucian Truscott who served with Patten.

JOIN

I've read this book over again and it never fails to me just want to turn the pages.

Xar

Dress Gray, ISBN 9781937957643, Premier Digital Publishing e-book by Lucien K. Truscott IV . Accepting the disclaimer that this is entirely a work of fiction, it still gives the appearance of a cathartic exposé of life for cadets at West Point in the '60's along with some questionable activity by its Commanders and other governmental officials.

The story opens with the protagonist, Ry Slight, being informed guardedly (talking is forbidden) by another cadet, who simultaneously is marching disciplinary tours in the Central Area of the compound, that a plebe's (first year student) body had been found in the nearby lake. The body turns out to be that of one of the plebes under Ry's command. The cause of death is discovered on autopsy to be murder with suspected homosexual involvement. Surreptitious suggestions are passed down by persons in high station to alter reports to accidental drowning and the plot expands with inclusion of large amounts of background material about personal histories and relationships along with dissemination of misinformation, threats, attempts at bribery, and attempted and actual perpetration of injustices. Further, much of this activity extends all of the way to the central government in Washington, D.C.

As previously remarked, the disclaimer at the beginning of this book clearly provides notice that the story is entirely a work of fiction, as are the characters. However, much of the physical activity, as well as the mental stress factors for persons involved in these military training environments generally are well known. Furthermore, today's never ending TV and news reports about the lying, misinformation, finger pointing, hidden agendas, 'backbiting' and injustices promulgated by persons in high governmental position and their minions certainly elevates the plot to a high level of conjecture with respect to possible extension beyond fiction.

With this most credible background of plot and material therefore, I find it to be unfortunate that the presentation leaves me a little ambivalent. At times the story is riveting, at others, parts of the large masses of background material seem of only questionable relevance, causing me to lose interest. I am sure that a good editor would be able to cull out this less necessary material to avoid these inconsistencies.

In summary: the author has presented a tale that is most thought provoking, especially with a background of today's chaotic news stories about activities of some governmental employees. As a result, it is a most interesting read whose enjoyment is marred only by the aforementioned difficult, at times even boring, masses of material that often are only marginally relevant. Reviewed by John H. Manhold, award winning fiction/non-fiction author.

I purchased this book because my son is a cadet at West Point. I found the descriptions of the campus to be spot on. The book is a murder mystery but the plot was strained. They never really come out and tell you WHY the victim was murdered. The plot kept building and building but it never seemed to climax. In the end, I was disappointed.

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