



## The Obama Inheritance: Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir

*Gary Phillips (Editor) , Walter Mosley (Contributor) , Christopher Chambers (Contributor) , Lise McClendon (Contributor) , Danny Gardner (Contributor) , Desiree Zamorano (Contributor) , L. Scott Jose (Contributor) , Eric Beetner (Contributor) , more... Andrew Nette (Contributor) , Anthony Neil Smith (Contributor) , Travis Richardson (Contributor) , Adam Lance Garcia (Contributor) , Nisi Shawl (Contributor) , Robert Silverberg (Contributor) , Kate Flora (Contributor) ...less*

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Noir meets diversity and transforms the genre into an over-the-top, transcendental psychedelic thriller ride of pulpy goodness in Three Rooms Press' upcoming THE OBAMA INHERITANCE, a collection of fifteen stories of conspiracy noir curated by editor and award-winning African-American crime novelist Gary Phillips.

In the tradition of satirical works of Swift and Twain, with nods to the likes of Asimov and Philip K. Dick, these tales contain time traveling secret agents, Supreme Court judges who can clone themselves, kung fu'ing androids out for justice, and a race of ancient lizard people and their true master plan ...and these are just the tame ones mashed up in the blender of fake news bots, climate change is but a hoax by the Chinese and humans roamed with dinosaurs.

In an era where the outlandish and fantastic has permeated our media 24/7, where mind-bending conspiracy theories shape our views, THE OBAMA INHERITANCE writers riff on the numerous fictions spun about the 44th president of the U.S. Although Obama himself does not appear in most of these stories, contributors spin deliberately outlandish and fantastic twists on many of the dozens of screwball, bizarro conspiracy theories floated about the president during his years in office and turn them on their heads.

THE OBAMA INHERITANCE editor Gary Phillips is a critically acclaimed author of mystery and graphic novels (The Darker Mask, Bangers, Violent Spring). Raised in South Central Los Angeles, Phillips draws on his experiences from anti-police abuse community organizing and anti-apartheid activism in his work. He was the chair of the Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color committee, and was president of the Private Eye Writers of America.

Contributors include famed African-American crime/detective author Walter Mosley, former author and Department of Justice attorney Christopher Chambers (Sympathy for the Devil), noir author and screenwriter Johnny Shaw (Dove Season), actor and novelist Danny Gardner (A Negro and an Ofay), former Maine assistant attorney general Kate Flora (Death in Paradise), and award-winning Latina playwright and novelist Desiree Zamorano.

## The Obama Inheritance: Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir Details

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# From Reader Review The Obama Inheritance: Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir for online ebook

## Betsy says

Somewhat uneven, but overall entertaining conceit and execution.

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## Trey Lane says

A mixed bag for sure, but brimming with ominous angles, and usually a hoot (to boot)

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## Erin says

Barack Obama is the greatest threat White America has ever faced.

For some reason I've always enjoyed watching SciFi shows like The Twilight Zone, Outer Limits, and Black Mirror but I've never been a fan of reading SciFi. I don't know why, Its just always been true.

When I first saw The Obama Inheritance, I assumed it was an Obama bashing book written by Republican lunatics. I was very happy to discover that it was in fact just the opposite. The Obama Inheritance is a collection of stories based off the wacky conspiracy theories that Republicans made up about President Obama. This collection includes stories about President Obama's "real" birthplace, Obama's ties to the "deep state", and the vast Left-Wing agenda.

I'm giving this collection 4 Stars because it was so entertaining and a really fast read, though I thought the best stories were at the beginning with the quality falling off towards the end.

Here are my top 2 stories and my bottom 2 stories: My absolute favorite story was ...The Continuing Mission, in which we discover the true birthplace of not only Barack Obama but his trusty sidekick Joe Biden. My second favorite story was Evens, in which we discover Obama's diabolical plan to ensure the Supreme Court stays the way it is. My least favorite story was Give Me Your Free, Your Brave, Your Proud Masses Yearning to Conquer, the least said the better. My second least favorite story was At the Conglimeroid Cocktail Party, I didn't think it had a plot.

Overall it was a fun read and if you enjoy your Science Fiction mixed with some Politics this collection is for you.

Popsugar 2018: A book you borrowed or that was given as a gift.

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## Joe Robles says

A fun, funny collection of stories that take on the right-wing conspiracy theories of the Obama era. Two

feature lizard people. I liked Obama as a Vulcan (or Vuhlk'n). The strongest story I feel is Brother's Keeper that also served as a critique of some of Obama's discourse on race. After reading *We Were Eight Years In Power*, I understood the message much better. As with any collection, some are better than others. Good read for anyone needing help getting through the current administration.

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### **John Clark says**

A book sure to be disparaged by dullards and alt-right folks. For everyone else, this is dystopia for big kids at its best. Stories like Kate Flora's *Michelle in Hot Water* and *Forked Tongue* by Lise McClendon, are smart and can get the reader into wishful thinking mode. Several, including *True Skin*, *A Different Frame of Reference* and *Sunburnt Country* are scary in their dark possibility as future realities. Then there's Nisi Shawl's *Evens*, a story everyone who felt gypped by the Republicans after the Supreme Court vacancy debacle, will relate to.

Some are straightforward reading, others, like *The Psalm of Bo*, require the reader's full attention in order to get rewarded at the end, but all in all, it's a darn good collection that will shock some, creep out many and leave most with fragments that will explode in their heads when they read or hear about political events in coming years.

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### **Robert says**

What a joy to discover this collection of short stories, all expertly crafted around the satirical premise: What if all the right-wing conspiracy theories about The Deep State are foundationally true? The 15 pulp-noir stories are all over the map and wrought by some of the finest authors alive, including Walter Mosley, Robert Silverberg and the collection's editor, Gary Phillips.

They're all first-rate, but among my favorites: "The Continuing Mission" by Adam Lance Garcia, "A Different Frame of Reference" by Walter Mosley, "Forked Tongue" by Lise McClendon, "I Know They're In There" by Travis Richardson and "Deep State" by Désirée Zamorano. "Give Me Your Free, Your Brave, Your Proud Masses Yearning to Conquer" by L. Scott Jose is a masterpiece of satire and Gary Phillips' "Thus Strikes the Black Pimpernel" is a tour de force that sticks the landing on the entire compendium.

Each piece packs a surprise and takes wild chances. If a couple of stories are overwrought? Well, that's the whole point. This book, right down to the amazing artwork on the cover is pure fun.

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### **Didi says**

My Video Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgJKW...>

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### **Andy says**

Consistently amazing loving homages to noir style  
PLUS

story concepts that are top top shelf!

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### **Elizabeth says**

This was a fun read. Authors dive into their favorite Obama conspiracy theories crafting ridiculous short stories. Some made me laugh, some made me mad, and some made me roll my eyes. Russian bots, white supremacists, lizard people, thought control, time travel, secret societies, government plots, aliens... these stories have it all. Great read.

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### **Dale says**

In this fun, wacky, mind-bending collection, top-notch writers play with the concept of conspiracy about the presidency of Obama. Some really far-out ideas make this an interesting grouping, and show how different stories can be despite a similar theme. You never know if you'll meet super-spies, lizard-people, or be thrust into an apocalyptic landscape.

Good writing and different ideas make this a book to be read, no matter what your political views, despite the negs from treason-trolls trying to pee on something which mocks their prejudices. Yeah, it's got echoes of Philip K. Dick, and that's a good thing.

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### **Martina says**

Surprise package from Andrew, Sandy, Max, Jolena and Carolina.... Right in my wheelhouse and a great 'other' anthology of stories based on some of the crazy conspiracy theories of the Obama Presidency. I'm really looking forward to the promised stories with LIZARD MEN!

I've ended up reading this in bits and pieces--what are short stories for if not that. Just picked it up again and read two of the wilder stories in the collection! Over halfway through now. This is just what the doctor ordered.

First up is "Michelle in Hot Water" by Kate Flora. Sums up her predicament with "She should have stuck to promoting children's nutrition."

Next "... The Continuing Mission" by Adam Lance Garcia, a Star Trekian riff starting with the Birther Conspiracy and beyond....

Then at last! Lizard Men! "True Skin" by Eric Beetner. The perils of talk radio.....

Next up, "Evens" by Nisi Shawl. Oh my! Planet Pizza, the Notorious RBG, and Barry's hand.... This story is insanely wonderful!

Fifth is "A Different Frame of Reference" by Walter Mosley. A twisty story about the WTW (Whiter than White) secret organization, Vanessa Shankforth Trammeling, George Brown, the children of the meteorite, and President Obama.

Next is "Brothers Keeper" by Danny Gardner. From the outset, the description of life during the third (!!!!) term of President Trump I, made me double crazy. As bizarre as it all was, you could believe it could be true.

The seventh story, "Forked Tongue" by Lise McClendon is definitely a favorite. Beginning in a saloon in Forked Tongue, Montana, the story careens off into insane and wonderful ways! I want the "Double O's" to swing into action NOW!!!

I seem to be using the word 'insane' in describing a number of the stories, but "Sunburnt Country" by Andrew Nette takes that to another level. Set in Australia, everything that can go wrong does. Maxine, the get-away driver for Johnny Boy's botched attempt at armed robbery is fleeing the scene when she comes across a flaming car by the side of the road with a small boy nearby. She picks up the boy and takes him with her. Cue the creepy music! Crazy experiments in genetics, a giant robot with a circular saw for one hand, men in black body armor.... helicopters, Hummers, someone who is really a lethal insect posing as a human, what more could you want? The end of the world is nigh....

I hadn't picked the book up in a while, but today I needed a boost and the ninth story was just what the doctor ordered. Which is a perfect phrase since it's about Lloyd and his ragtag group invading the Broken Arrow, OK, hospital demanding access to the Death Panel! He'd gone in the day before and told the receptionist he wanted to apply for a job on the panel and she said there weren't any but he knew that was a lie. He finally gets access to the panel and learns what these things are all about! What a lot of laughs. I really enjoyed this one.

Another day, another need.... Story #10 is "The Psalm of Bo" by Christopher Chambers. This one is a sort of post-apocalyptic tale written in Biblical style of the dogs hiding out in the Dome, and their fights with their enemies the apes led by 'their MAGA lord, Bird-Tail Mane Bulbous-Faced Ape. 'Verily I say unto you' this is how the leadership role is passed from one generation to another in order to keep the dog group viable. Not my favorite story, but it was an interesting approach.

#11--long time since I read #10 as the book got 'relocated' (lizard men in action?) and vanished from its normal resting place. Robert Silverberg's 'At the Conglomeroid Cocktail Party' is by far the weirdest story in the collection to this point. I can't even begin to describe the action, but have to say it includes one of the BEST use of a word practically at the beginning--harking back to my early introduction to French in junior high school. I love that moment absolutely.

#12 is "Deep State" by Desiree Zamorano. Loved this one. Two members of The Fellowship of Damocles are tasked with taking care of a truly difficult problem. Complications ensue....

#13 is "I will Haunt You" by Anthony Neil Smith.... I got the gist of the story, but this wasn't my favorite. Taking place in an almost post-apocalyptic earth. Devastated oceans, lands, contribute to the desperate situation....

#14 is "Give Me Your Free, Your Brave, Your Proud Masses Yearning To Conquer" by L. Scott Jose.

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**Amber says**

worth owning...

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## **Brad says**

These short stories were a great, mind-bending, imaginative trip, and the The Obama Inheritance book cover itself is worth the purchase price. Conspiracy theories conjured during Obama's terms as President, on their own, were nutty and off the rails of reality. The authors take the conspiracy theories and thrust them into another dimension, resulting in thought provoking tales of action, fear, comedy, despair and hope.

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## **Jeffrey P says**

The TRUTH about what the Deep State is doing against the MAGA Administration! Or perhaps a pleasant froth of science fiction, crime noir, and lizard men. Enjoyed Robert Silverberg's "At the Conglomeroid Cocktail Party" and "...The Continuing Mission" by Adam Lance Garcia (did you know that Obama and Biden were actually members of the Star Trek crew sent back in time??). Grossed out by L.Scott Jose's story. All in all a bit of fun and diversion from the depressing news.

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## **John Defrog says**

The pitch for this anthology sounded right up my street – 15 stories where the basic instruction for each writer was: “Pick any conservative conspiracy theory about President Barack Obama – no matter how loopy – and just run with it.”

The result – at least for me – is disappointing. For the most part, the stories here either aren't very well written or don't really follow the instructions – at least as far as I understood them. Maybe I misunderstood the overall premise, but it seems like at least half the stories here are less about exploring the fun fictional possibilities of Obama conspiracy theories and more wishful-thinking revenge tales where conservatives who badgered the Obamas for years finally get theirs – which is fine as far as it goes, but in my mind it isn't really in the spirit of the stated mandate. And what a Robert Silverberg story from 1982 is doing here is a mystery in itself.

To be sure, there are a quite a lot of good ideas here – Michelle Obama as covert operative, Barack Obama leading a secret resistance movement after Trump goes full fascist, the true secret of Ruth Bader Ginsberg's longevity, Obama and Biden as Star Trek time travellers – but not many develop into decent stories. Notable exceptions include Walter Mosley's “A Different Frame of Reference”, which riffs on that photo of Obama sneaking a smoke (or was he?), and Christopher Chambers' “The Psalm of Bo”, which gets points for coming up with the idea of Obama's dog leading an army of weaponized dogs against the last MAGA stronghold in post-apocalyptic America – written in semi-Biblical language, no less.

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