

Book Reading Group Discussion

Debt Reckoning Book Discussion

By Jack Meyer

U.S. Senator Rick Taylor wages a lonely battle to sound the alarm on America's unsustainable national debt, only to face fierce resistance from colleagues, angry constituents, government contractors and a media that paints him as the enemy of popular programs like Social Security.

1. Senator Rick Taylor is portrayed as a voice of fiscal truth amid political toxicity. What strengths and flaws make him compelling, and how realistic is his struggle against colleagues, constituents, and the media?
2. How does the novel use personal threats (blackmail, swatting, assassination attempts) to heighten the stakes of the national debt crisis? Rick's personal peril and the national peril develop side by side. In what ways do they compliment one another or distract from one another?
3. In what ways do the book's description of the human and economic costs of ignoring the national debt feel real or feel like an exciting tale of fiction?
4. How believable were the portrayed consequences of fiscal collapse (spiking rates, empty shelves, high inflation)? In what ways does the thriller genre accurately depict this book and in what ways does it not?
5. How satisfied were you with the book's ending, both in terms of the national crisis and Rick and Cindy's lives?
6. After reading *Debt Reckoning*, what lingering questions or takeaways do you have about America's debt situation and whether we are truly "teetering on the brink"? Were you motivated to study the topic or did you chalk it up to another book read and turn your attention to the next book on your list?
7. **Wayward Patriot:** What character(s) would you place in the category of a Wayward Patriot, a patriot who has lost their way?