



The Establishment

Howard Fast

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In The Establishment, Howard Fast pulls the listener into the turbulent and passionate lives of the Dan Lavette family story begun in The Immigrants and continued in Second Generation.

Howard Fast again brings to life a cast of characters whose lives become a portrait of their time. Listeners will witness the events in the lives of the children of Dan Lavette: Follow daughter Barbara Lavette, a strong and magnetic personality, from tragedy to final fulfillment; observe the elder son, Tom, as he quests for and finally succumbs to his own unscrupulous drive for power; and feel the conflict as the younger son, Joe, struggles between dedication to his medical work to the poor and having no emotional strength left for his beautiful wife left alone.

The Establishment Details

Date : Published October 5th 1979 by Houghton Mifflin (first published 1979)

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Author : Howard Fast

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From Reader Review The Establishment for online ebook

Francyy says

Forse meno coinvolgente dei primi due, ma la saga Lavette resta sempre una piacevole lettura

Susan says

The saga of the Lavette Family continues in the late 1940s. Most of "The Establishment," the third in Fast's series, takes place in 1948. Barbara Lavette is the strong female centerpiece while other females in the family get their share of character development.

World War II is over. The McCarthy hearings are underway. Israel has become a state. The Korean War is on the horizon along with a presidential election.

Each of these plays a role in "The Establishment."

This series is for anyone who enjoys a family saga filled with strong, unforgettable characters.

Next in the series: "The Legacy." But first, I'm detouring to read "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty.

Linda K. says

I found the personal affront on Barbara very enlightening. The McCarthy era became very real. Another concept, that of buying politicians, was also presented in a cold hearted mentality that sparked some deeper cynicism in me.

L. (Excelsior!) says

A marriage is crumbling.

People die.

Someone is sent to a minimum security prison for a couple of months and the worst that happens is toilet cleaning detail.

Gail R. Sanders says

Another winner

The depth of feeling and examination of the truly important things in one's life make this 3rd book of the series thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking.

Terri Hardy says

Still giving this addition to the series a 5 star rating although I'm not quite sure if the stars are for this individual book or the series as a whole. Historical fiction is so informative in such an entertaining way and showed me aspects of the McCarthy era and war mongering in Korea and Viet Nam that I never would have looked at besides the history books of my youth. You can clearly see the author's positions on many of these events by the way Barbara Lavette embraces them. Once again, can't wait for the next book in the continuing saga.

CJ Web says

Great book

What can I say? The book or books of this saga are hard for me to put down. The sweeping history in the book pulls me along, but characters emotions and challenges make it real.

LauraT says

?cause I LOVE "pipponi"!!!!

Tanja says

As in the first two books, I was fascinated about how well Howard Fast brings his characters to life. Again, historical events like the Civil War in Mandatory Palestine and the Korean War, are creatively woven into the fabric of the story. I definitely liked the light hearted ending much better than in the second book.

Carolyn Pina says

I enjoyed Book 3 very much, even though I didn't really expect to. So, I was glad to learn there are (three) more books, and I'll soon have Book 4 from the library.

Graceann says

As this third entry in the Lavette Family Saga begins, Barbara and her new husband Bernie are navigating difficult married waters. His heart is in Israel, and she resents the competition. Where the story goes from here is, as always, an energetic journey.

The largest part of the novel is given to Barbara's testimony before HUAC, and the repercussions of that testimony. As Howard Fast lived through this period, he clearly used his own painful experiences to give life to these sequences, and the prose crackles as a consequence.

Tom Lavette and his first wife, Jean, are beautifully drawn and continue to grow. I'm so sorry that they are aging - I know it won't be long before I'll be saying goodbye to these characters, and I'm dreading it.

My only disappointment, and the only reason the book has been reduced to four stars rather than five, is the disappointing subplot regarding Sally Lavette. It made the story drag. I really didn't care much about what was happening to this spoiled brat; I was anxious to get back to Barbara and the others. Likewise, Barbara's brother Tom does not have much to recommend him, but I realize that the stage has to be set for his further adventures in the remaining three books.

Peter T. Tomaras says

Certainly rewarding as the story of Fast's immigrants progresses through the second generation, and steps into the third. Believable, finely-drawn characters keep the story moving. Original characters coming full circle near the ends of their lives is satisfying. We're getting used to the author's excellent writing and plotting, so it's hard to be as excited as we get from segments one and two. Still, this installment is more than good enough to make me download the next--The Legacy.

Ruby Emam says

I was not as impressed with this book as his masterpiece Citizen Tom Pain. There is less historic fact and more propaganda in the book and if I were to recommend Howard Fast, I would definitely go with Citizen Tom Pain.

Sara Cantoni says

Il mio preferito dopo Il Vento di San Francisco, che mi ha fatta innamorare della storia della Famiglia Lavette. Ancora una volta Fast da una grande prova: non uno stile inimitabile, non una scrittura magistrale ma un rapidissimo page turner che incolla il lettore alla pagina e lo trascina nel vortice delle vicende di questa famiglia allargata che non smette mai di riservare sorprese.

Il passo della narrazione è davvero veloce: non si perde tempo in descrizioni inutili, pur essendo i personaggi

delineati alla perfezione, non c'è tempo per giri di parole e parabole che deviano dalla storia principale. Troppe sono le cose che succedono, i twist di trama, i richiami alla storia mondiale per perdere tempo con pagine in cui non avviene qualcosa di fondamentale.

Solo per darvi una rapida idea di quello che succede in queste 400 pagine: viene fondato lo stato di Israele, si vive la guerra di corea, la caccia al comunista negli Stati Uniti prende sempre più piede e raggiunge pieghe inquietanti, qualcuno muore, qualcuno si sposa, qualcuno nasce, qualcuno divorzia, qualcuno viene condannato ingiustamente, c'è chi si innamora e chi decide che è meglio stare da soli.

Questo terzo volume è forse il più "sentito" dall'autore, che ha vissuto in prima persona la persecuzione dei "rossi" da parte della commissione McCarthy e che si è visto inserire nella famosa lista nera. Quale miglior scelta quindi di far vivere ad uno dei suoi personaggi quello stesso difficile periodo?

Che dire ancora? Cosa aspettate a tuffarvi nel vertiginoso universo della famiglia Lavette?

Seba Alcoverro says

A waste of time
