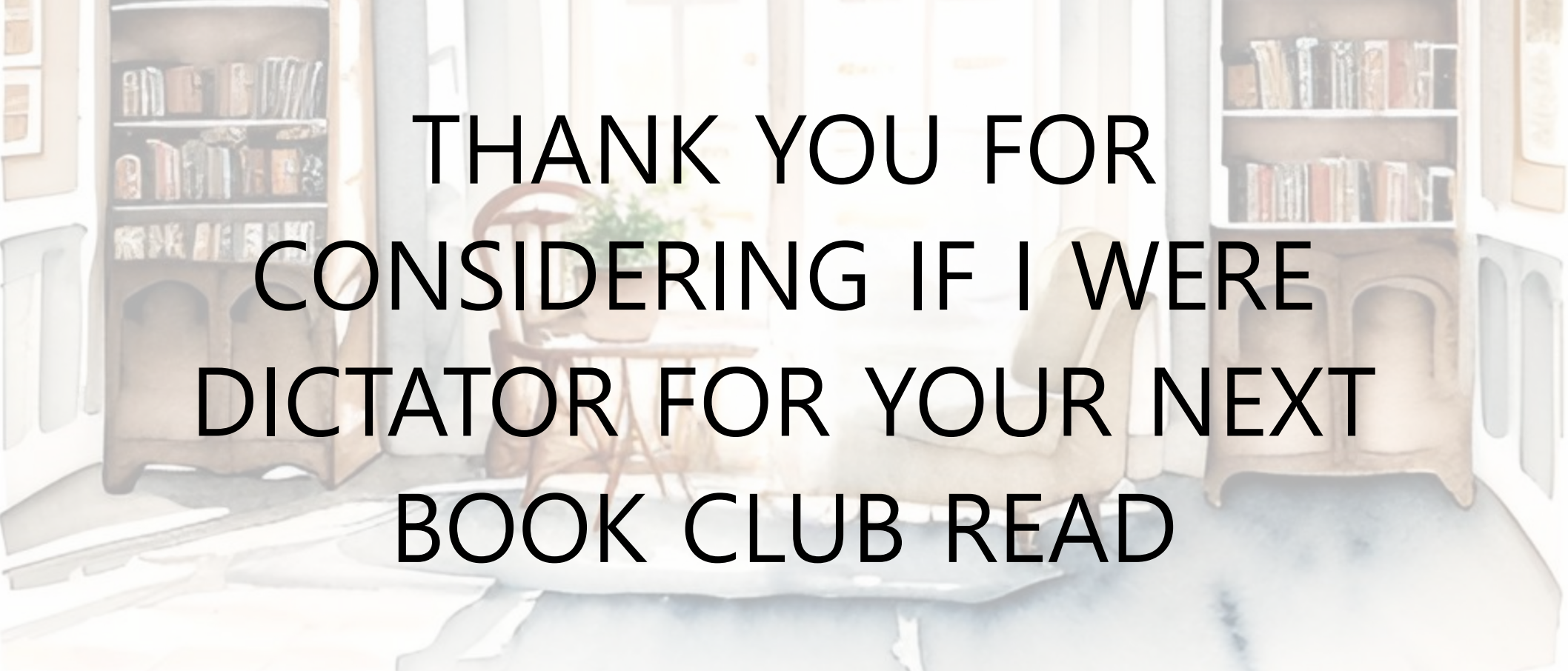




BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

POLITICAL SATIRE



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING IF I WERE
DICTATOR FOR YOUR NEXT
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

LISA M. ORBAN

What would you change if you were in charge? In *If I Were Dictator*, Lisa Orban takes readers on a hilarious tour through the world as it is—and the world as it could be if common sense and humor ruled the land. With sharp wit and playful insight, she reimagines everything from politics to daily life, offering solutions that are both ridiculous and strangely reasonable. If you love satire, smart humor, and books that make you laugh while secretly nodding along, this is your next must-read. Step into a world where the rules make sense, the jokes land, and the dictator is benevolent... mostly.

WORD COUNT: 58,961

PAGE COUNT: 208

KEY WORDS: Political Satire | Humorous Nonfiction | Social Commentary

DEMOGRAPHICS: Readers ages 25–65 who enjoy Jon Stewart–style commentary

COMP BOOKS: *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris | *America (The Book)* by Jon Stewart & The Daily Show | *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* by Sloane Crosley | *The Year of Living Biblically* by A.J. Jacobs

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Setting the Mood

A Room Layout That Encourages Collaboration

- Circular seating
- Small clusters
- No “front of the room”
- Everyone equal, everyone included

The Coffee & Clipboard Aesthetic

Lean into your benevolent-dictator-with-a-coffee energy:

- Clipboards on tables (real or decorative)
- Pens in little jars labeled “Tools of Sanity”
- Name badges with titles like “Minister of Common Sense” or “Department of Calm Down”

A Sanity Toast to Start the Night

Something like: “Here’s to common sense, shared laughter, and the radical idea that we’re not actually enemies.”

A Fake Agenda That’s Too Honest

Print a small “Sanity Summit Agenda” and place it at each seat:

6:00 — Snacks & Sanity

6:15 — Untangling the Charade

6:45 — Collaborative Solutions

(Optional: Throw Book Across Room)

7:15 — Breakout Session: Dessert

7:30 — Restoring Hope in Humanity

THEMED ACTIVITIES – The Sanity Summit

If I Were Dictator Roundtable

Objective

Each person creates one humorous “dictator decree” and presents it to the group. The goal is to be clever, ridiculous, or surprisingly reasonable — all in the tone of the book.

Setup

- Everyone gets a small notepad or index card
- A “decree bell” or any object you can tap to signal turns
- Optional: a tiny crown for the best decree each round

How to Play

- The host rings the bell.
- Everyone writes down one decree they would make if *they* were dictator.
- One by one, players read their decree aloud in their most dramatic “benevolent dictator” voice.
- After all decrees are read, the group votes (by show of hands or secret ballot) on:
 - Funniest decree
 - Most practical decree
 - Most unhinged but still somehow brilliant decree

Winners get a sticker or a tiny crown).

THEMED ACTIVITIES – The Sanity Summit

Common Sense Court

A satirical courtroom where absurd real-world problems get “fixed” by the group.

Objective

Solve ridiculous everyday problems using logic, humor, and the kind of common sense the world desperately needs.

Setup

- A “Judge’s Seat” (chair, pillow, or throne)
- A gavel (or wooden spoon)
- A stack of “cases” (you can pre-write them or let players create them)

Examples of Cases

- “People who block the grocery aisle with their cart.”
- “Drivers who don’t use turn signals.”
- “People who reply ‘k’ to long messages.”

How to Play

- One player becomes the Judge for the round.
- The Judge draws or selects a “case.”
- The remaining players become the Council of Common Sense.
- Each council member proposes a humorous or practical solution.
- The Judge chooses the “official ruling” — the best solution.
- The winning council member earns a point and becomes the next Judge.

THEMED ACTIVITIES – The Sanity Summit

The People's Platter

A charcuterie board arranged in perfect, orderly rows.

- **Ingredients:** assorted cheeses, cured meats, crackers, olives, grapes.
- **Recipe:** Slice everything evenly. Arrange with military precision. Laugh at yourself while doing it.

Mandatory Fun Mini-Tacos

Ingredients:

- Small tortillas
- Seasoned chicken or beef
- Shredded lettuce
- Cheese
- Salsa

Instructions:

- Assemble taco units. Serve in straight lines. Declare them delicious by decree.

Edict-Issued Fruit Salad

- Ingredients: pineapple, mango, strawberries, blueberries, mint
- Instructions: Chop fruit into equal-sized pieces. Mix with lime juice and honey. Serve in bowls labeled Rations.

Decree-Approved Dessert Cups

- Ingredients: vanilla pudding, crushed cookies, whipped cream, cherries
- Instructions:
Layer pudding and cookies like stratified government departments.
Top with whipped cream and a cherry seal of approval.

THEMED MENU - The Sanity Summit



Ingredients

- 1 oz coconut rum
- 1 oz vanilla vodka
- ½ oz amaretto
- ½ oz grenadine
- 2 oz pineapple juice
- 1 oz orange juice
- Splash of cream of coconut (optional for extra smoothness)
- Ice cubes

Garnish

- Pineapple wedge
- Two maraschino cherries (because one is never enough for a dictator)
- Tiny edible gold crown or gold sugar rim for flair

Instructions

- Fill a shaker halfway with ice.
- Add coconut rum, vanilla vodka, amaretto, grenadine, pineapple juice, and orange juice.
- Shake vigorously — like you're trying to overthrow the status quo.
- Strain into a tall glass filled with fresh ice.
- Optional: swirl in a splash of cream of coconut for a velvety finish.
- Garnish with pineapple, cherries, and that gold crown touch.

SIGNATURE DRINK - The Dictator's Delight

Everybody Wants to Rule the World by Tears for Fears
It's Good to Be King by Tom Petty
Uprising by Muse
I'm Still Standing by Elton John
Take Me to Church (Parody: Take Me to Work) by Postmodern Jukebox
Walking on Sunshine by Katrina & The Waves
The Man by Taylor Swift
Tubthumping by Chumbawamba
Don't Stop Me Now by Queen
Dog Days Are Over by Florence + The Machine
Shake It Off by Taylor Swift
Brave by Sara Bareilles
Unwritten by Natasha Bedingfield
Hall of Fame by The Script
I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. On the left is a tall wooden bookshelf filled with books. In the center background is a fireplace with a mantel. To the right is another wooden bookshelf, also filled with books. In the foreground, there is a light-colored sofa and a wooden chair. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a warm color palette.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- What part of the book made you laugh the hardest, and why?
- Which dictator decree did you secretly agree with?
- Did any section make you rethink how society handles certain issues?
- How does humor change the way we talk about politics or social systems?
- Which idea felt the most practical, despite being satirical?
- What surprised you most about the author's perspective?
- If you could add one decree to the book, what would it be?
- How does the book balance humor with genuine insight?
- Which chapter would spark the most debate in your group?
- What does the book say about leadership, responsibility, and common sense?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Lisa Orban was born in Galesburg, Illinois, and immediately began collecting the kind of life experiences that would later make excellent memoir material. After a childhood marked by frequent moves, family shenanigans, and an unexpected detour through foster care, she bolted to Arizona at eighteen, gathered more stories, and eventually found her way back to Quincy, where she's been ever since.

Along the way, she raised five kids, earned a degree in psychology, survived several marriages, bought a house, and built the life she always wanted: part circus ringmaster, part author, part soft-hearted rescuer of stray humans. In 2015 she published her first memoir, *It'll Feel Better When It Quits Hurting*, and she hasn't stopped writing since. She founded Indies United Publishing House in 2018, a cooperative press dedicated to ethical, community-driven publishing. These days she writes, mentors authors, runs a madhouse of creative anarchy, and does exactly what she wants—happily.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <https://pandra411.wixsite.com/lisaorban>

OTHER BOOKS: Okay, Picture this... Series | I'd rather Starve than Cook! A Cookbook for people who hate to cook | 404: Apocalypse Not Found