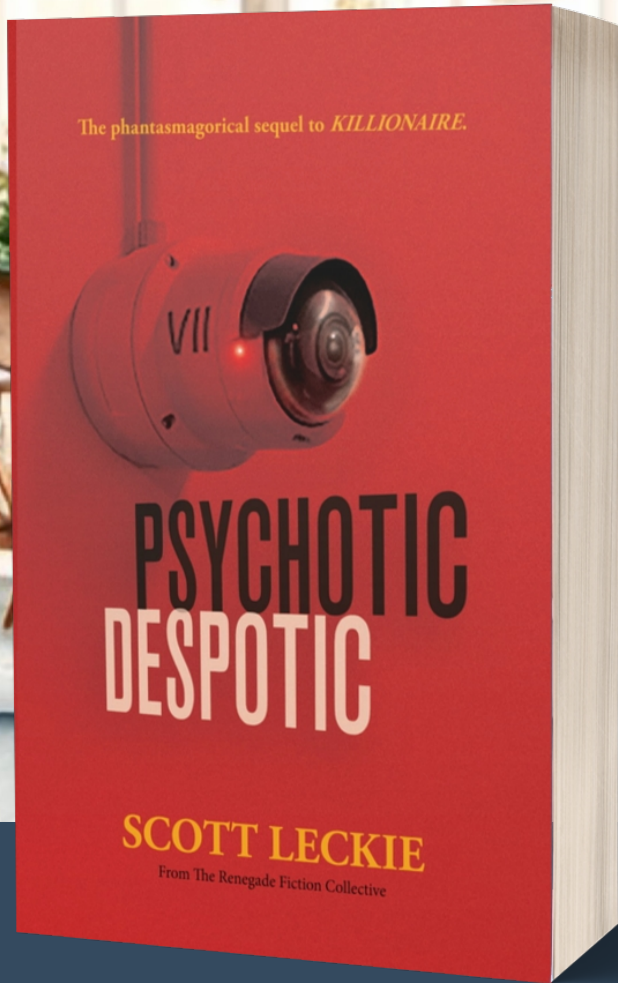
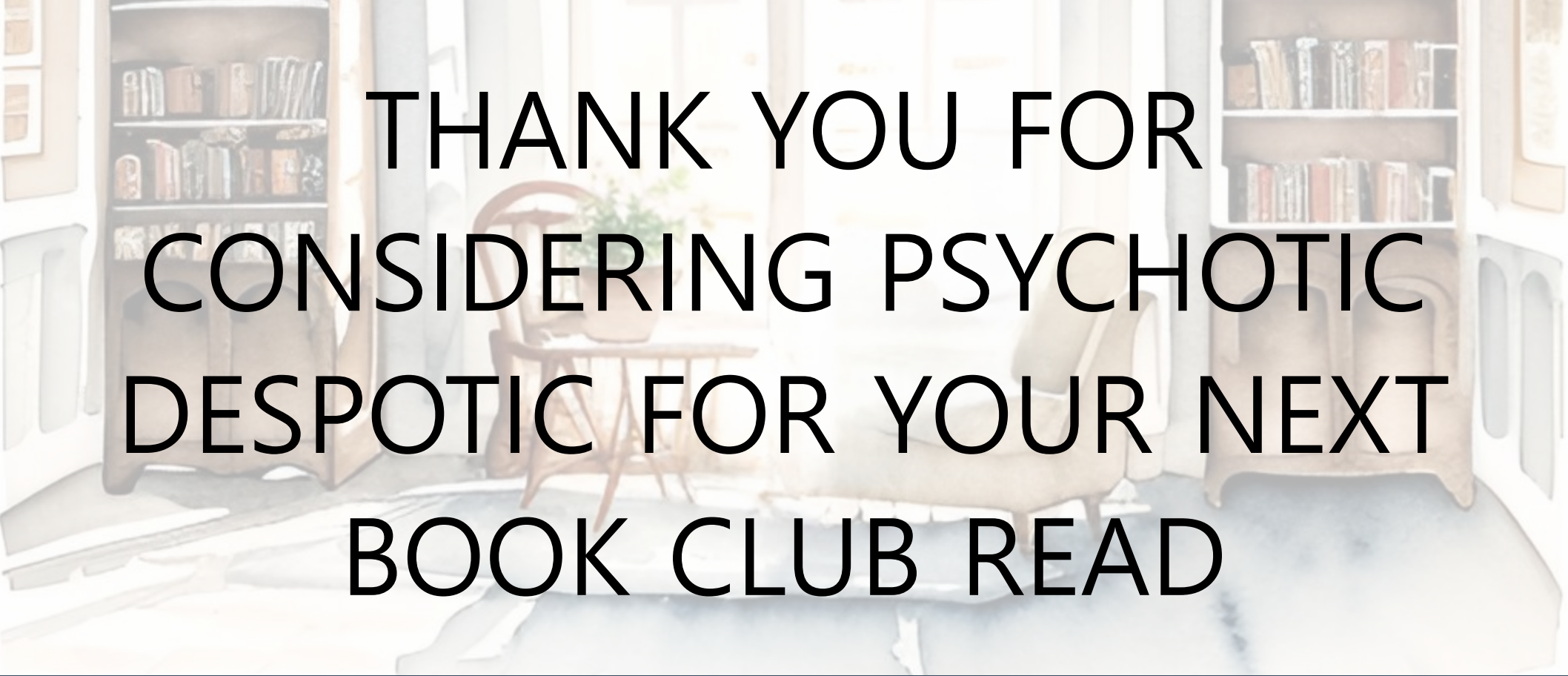




BOOK CLUB RESOURCE GUIDE

Speculative Political
Thriller



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING PSYCHOTIC
DESPOTIC FOR YOUR NEXT
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

Scott Leckie

Pacifica ended the billionaires. It should have felt like enough. Instead, Nathan Green, Jason Mooi, and Amber Ness watch a new tyranny rise to fill the vacuum: seventy-nine dictators, ruling half the world's population through fear, torture, and total control. Determined to finish what they started, Nathan runs a global campaign that carries him all the way to the post of United Nations Secretary-General, where he and fearless human rights lawyer Kalmo Breedlove set out to remake the UN into a true voice for democracy. Diplomacy is the plan — until it isn't enough. Waiting in the shadows is Plan B: a secret so dramatic it could either liberate half the planet or ignite a crisis worse than the dictators themselves. *Psychotic Despotism* is a fast, provocative political thriller that asks the question its predecessor never had to: once you've torn down one form of tyranny, how far are you willing to go to tear down the next?

WORD COUNT: 84,000

PAGE COUNT: 282

KEY WORDS: Political satire, Speculative thriller, Anti-dictator uprising, Utopian idealism
Global conspiracy

DEMOGRAPHICS: Readers who love speculative political fiction with real teeth

COMP BOOKS: The Ministry for the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson | Jennifer Government by Max Barry | Walkaway by Cory Doctorow

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Setting the mood

- Warm string lights
- Tropical greenery
- Palm leaves as centerpieces

Fun, easy props

- A world map as a centerpiece or wall decoration
- a "UN Secretary-General" nameplate or gavel for photos
- Tie-dye or brightly patterned fabric scraps as table runners (a nod to the Pacifican plane's tie-dye seatbelts)
- A countdown sign reading "79" for the entryway.

Clothing suggestions

- Tropical, breezy, Pacifica-inspired
 - linen, bright prints, sandals
- With an optional "UN delegate" blazer or lanyard for guests who want to lean into the political-thriller half of the book.

Music

- Play Spotify Playlist

THEMED ACTIVITIES - Pacifica Nights

Name That Dictator

Give each guest a card with an absurdly over-the-top fictional dictator title (borrowed loosely from the book's satirical style — "God-For-Life," "The Chosen One," etc.); the group guesses which guest got which title based on playful hints.

Plan A or Plan B

Present the group with a series of escalating hypothetical ethical dilemmas (kept light and fun, not heavy) and have guests vote on whether they'd stick to the diplomatic "Plan A" or go straight to a drastic "Plan B."

World Map Trivia

A quick round of geography or current-events trivia, playing on the book's global scope.

THEMED ACTIVITIES - Pacifica Nights

A bright, globally inspired spread that nods to both Pacifica's tropical, plant-forward lifestyle and the book's sweeping, worldwide scope.

Tofu Teriyaki Skewers

Serves 6–8 (a nod to Nathan's go-to in-flight meal)

- 2 blocks firm tofu, cubed
- 1/2 cup teriyaki sauce (store-bought or homemade)
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 1 pineapple, cut into chunks
- Skewers (wooden, soaked in water for 30 minutes, or metal)

Toss the tofu cubes in teriyaki sauce and sesame oil, and let marinate for at least 20 minutes. Thread tofu, bell pepper, and pineapple onto skewers. Grill or broil for 10–12 minutes, turning occasionally, until lightly charred, basting with extra teriyaki sauce as needed.

Frangipani Coconut Rice

Serves 6–8

- 2 cups jasmine rice
- 1 can (13.5 oz) coconut milk
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Fresh mint or basil, for garnish

Combine rice, coconut milk, water, and salt in a pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 18–20 minutes until the liquid is absorbed. Fluff with a fork and garnish with fresh herbs before serving.

THEMED MENU - The Pacifica Feast

Global Buckwheat Pancakes with Pacifica Blueberries

Makes about 12 (a nod to Jason's in-flight meal choice)

- 1 cup buckwheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
 - 2 tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups milk (or plant-based milk)
- 2 eggs (or flax egg for a plant-based version)
 - 2 tbsp melted butter or oil
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries¹

Whisk together dry ingredients, then whisk in milk, eggs, and melted butter until just combined. Fold in the blueberries. Cook on a lightly greased griddle over medium heat, about 2–3 minutes per side, until golden.

THEMED MENU - The Pacifica Feast



A bright, tropical cocktail marking the count coming down

Ingredients:

- 2 oz white rum
- 1 oz fresh pineapple juice
- 1/2 oz fresh lime juice
- 1/2 oz simple syrup
- Splash of grenadine
- Fresh mint sprig and pineapple wedge, for garnish

Instructions:

Combine rum, pineapple juice, lime juice, and simple syrup in a shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a glass filled with fresh ice. Slowly pour a splash of grenadine down the side so it settles at the bottom, creating a sunset effect. Garnish with a fresh mint sprig and a pineapple wedge. Serve while counting down from seventy-nine, one sip at a time.

SIGNATURE DRINK Tropical Uprising

Sympathy for the Devil By The Rolling Stones
Revolution By The Beatles
Fight the Power By Public Enemy
American Idiot By Green Day
Killing in the Name By Rage Against the Machine
Interstellar Overdrive By Pink Floyd
Sunday Bloody Sunday By U2
Get Up, Stand Up By Bob Marley & The Wailers
One Love By Bob Marley & The Wailers
Brothers in Arms By Dire Straits
The Times They Are A-Changin' By Bob Dylan
Zombie By The Cranberries
Clint Eastwood By Gorillaz
Money By Pink Floyd
Won't Get Fooled Again By The Who



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A soft, watercolor-style illustration of a 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, plush sofa. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

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

WARNING

- The Pacificans succeed at ending billionaireism only to find a new form of tyranny — dictatorship — has taken its place. What do you think the book is saying about the limits of any single fix for entrenched global inequality?
- Nathan and his allies move from grassroots idealists to holding real institutional power (Nathan becoming UN Secretary-General). Did that shift change how you felt about their methods or their mission?
- The novel spends real time inside the perspective of a fictional dictator early on. What effect did that portrayal have on you, and why do you think the author chose to show that side so vividly?
- Diplomacy is presented as "Plan A," with something much more drastic waiting as "Plan B." Without spoiling specifics, how do you feel about a story that takes that kind of ends-justify-the-means path?
- Spittoon Duplicité ends up taking the public blame for events he didn't fully orchestrate alone. What did you make of how the book handles accountability, scapegoating, and public narrative?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Kalmo Breedlove is introduced as a champion of human rights and due process working within existing legal systems. How does his arc sit alongside the more radical methods Pacifica ultimately turns to?
- The book blends sharp political satire with a genuinely fast-paced thriller plot. Did that combination work for you, and did one register (satire or thriller) feel stronger than the other?
- Pacifica itself is depicted as a near-utopian community throughout the book. Did it feel like a believable ideal to you, or did you notice any cracks in that vision?
- The novel ends with a pivot toward climate change as the next great crisis. Knowing that's where the series may be headed, what do you hope (or fear) the next book does with Nathan and his allies?
- If you were in Nathan's position — having already ended one global injustice and facing down a second — how far would you personally be willing to go, and where would your own line be?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Scott Leckie is a global human rights advocate who has lived and worked across more than a dozen countries since leaving the United States in the mid-1980s. He has addressed housing and displacement issues in over 80 nations, helping protect hundreds of thousands from forced evictions and supporting refugees and IDPs in reclaiming their homes. He founded and directs Displacement Solutions, Oneness World Foundation, and the One House, One Family initiative in Bangladesh. A leading expert on climate displacement and housing rights, he has taught internationally and authored 28 books and more than 300 publications on human rights and global governance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: www.scottleckie.com.au

OTHER BOOKS: Shrewd Little Sleuth | The Pinheiro Principles: A Commentary | Land Solutions to Climate | Housing, Land and Property Restitution Rights of Refugees and Displaced Persons | Displacement | Home | Killionaire