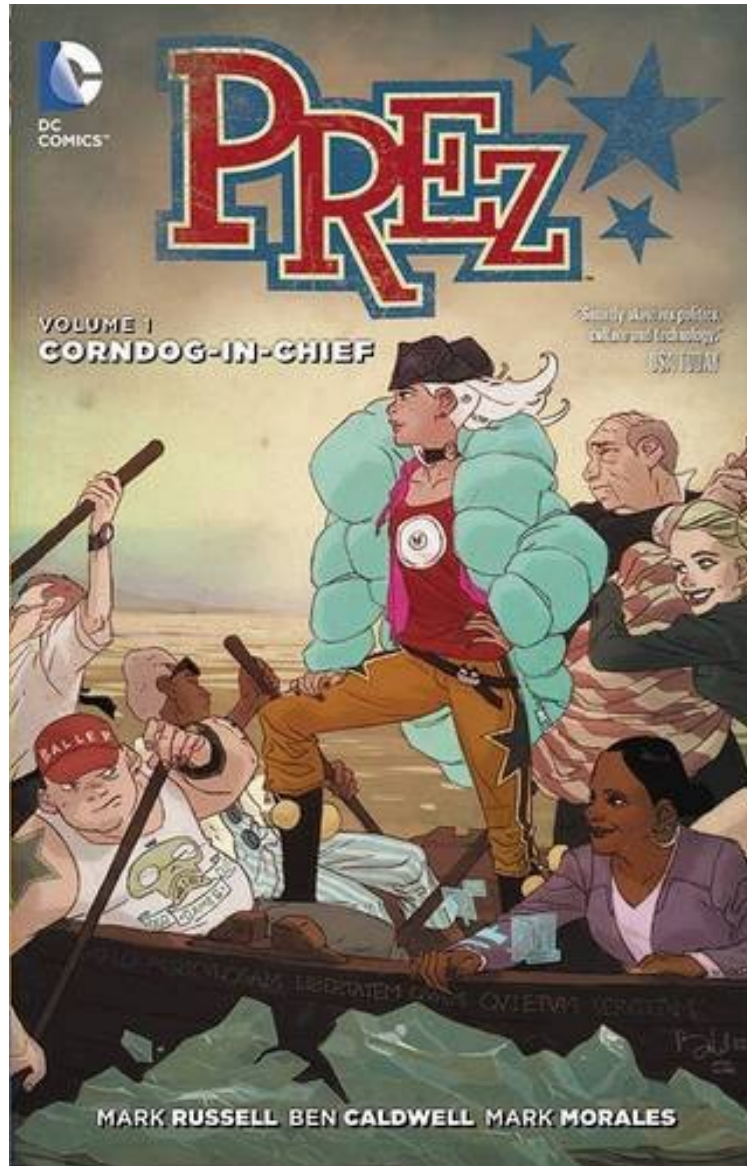


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Prez Vol. 1

Mark Russell

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Mark Russell : Prez Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prez Vol. 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A cautionary fable of a road America ought not to take By Lee Kirby There are those who will fault "Prez Vol. 1: Corndog-in-Chief" for clumsy plot mechanics. In this collection of a six-issue DC Comics miniseries which writer Mark Russell originally intended as a 12-issue maxiseries (hence the

cliffhanger ending), it takes teenager and viral video star Beth Ross the equivalent of two issues to be elected America's first teen president via Twitter. Russell ties the plight of Tina, a "war beast" robot who flees the army in despair over the people she's killed to work for Ross, into Ross' own tale abruptly at story's end (or abrupt halt, as the case may be). And Beth scores her initial political win over the corporate shadow government which really controls America in just one page. So, one may ask, why am I awarding "Prez Vol. 1: Corndog-in-Chief" five stars? I think Russell is much less interested in plot mechanics than he is in creating an America that will be coming if we're not careful. Russell employs the same method the creators of the classic TV series "Get Smart" used to satirize James Bond: "Do what they did except stretch it half an inch," co-creator Mel Brooks said. Russell stretches our present day and creates a world where people shoot themselves on television "reality" shows in hopes of a better life. A world where vacuous news anchors more concerned with their appearance provide any crank who can string sentences together a platform, no matter how radical their beliefs may be. A world saddled with a "caring" healthcare system (in the person of recurring character "Carl, the End-of-Life Bear") that doesn't care at all. A world where corrupt corporate executives can copyright the world's DNA as a bargaining chip in order to create a life-saving vaccine for a "cat flu" that's ravaging the nation. (Beth, in turn, patents the executives' own DNA to gain the upper hand on them.) A world where President Ross is protected by a nuclear warhead phone app. In brief, the world of "Prez" is a bleak, terrifying place I would hope no one wants to live in. It's intended as satire, but Russell's world hit too close to the here and now for me to do anything more than chuckle occasionally-and nervously. Lightening the dystopian mood Russell creates is Ben Caldwell's artwork, which for me hits the sweet spot between illustration and cartooning that is best left to newspaper political cartoonists. And he draws a teenage girl who actually looks like a teenage girl (Supergirl, by contrast, is supposed to be a teenager but usually looks like a young adult woman) and avoids the trap of sexualizing her that too many of today's artists fall into. I'd be happy to see Caldwell drive the pencil on another DC title. "Prez" might have worked better for DC as a Vertigo title, save for the company's push to keep Vertigo exclusively for creator-owned properties. (This "Prez" is a reboot of a short-lived early 70s series co-created by writer Joe Simon and artist Jerry Grandenetti.) Whether or not "Prez Vol. 1: Corndog-in-Chief" works as satire is an exercise best left to individual readers. For me, it worked as a chilling cautionary fable of a road America ought not to take. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Comic! By J ZimPackaging quality issue: Dog-eared bottom front corner of issue. However, Love the new Prez! When they talk about an unliked prez staying alive by choosing an even more disliked VP....damn. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Corporate Personhood By Barry Hammock I'd vote for Corndog girl in a heartbeat. This is social and political commentary at its finest. A humorous, yet sometimes frightening look at the over digitalization of the modern age, where every body is jacked into the system and privacy is a near illusion.

One of the YALSA Top Ten Graphic Novels for Teens from 2016! America's first teenaged president is on the job in this contemporary twist on a DC classic! Oregon teen Beth Ross has just been elected President of the United States of America. Age restrictions were abolished when corporations gained the right to run for office and voting booths have been replaced by Twitter, making just about anyone eligible for the nation's top job, including the viral-video-famous Corndog Girl! Now the eyes of the nation are on Beth. But in a world so out of control that the poor are willing to shoot themselves on TV for a chance at a better life, will even the new president have the power needed to overthrow the nation's true leaders Boss Smiley and his corporate shadow government? Writer Mark Russell (God Is Disappointed in You) teams with artists Ben Caldwell (JUSTICE LEAGUE BEYOND) and Mark Morales (X-Force, Secret Invasion) to revive and reinvent a classic! Collects PREZ #1-6 and SNEAK PEEK: PREZ #1.

From School Library Journal Gr 10 Up The future of the United States is here, and it is a mess. After corporations are granted the right to vote, voting age is abolished. Now, younger citizens cast ballots through Twitter and campaigning occurs via vlogs; the Facebook like functions as political approval ratings; and hospitals advertise products to patients on their sickbeds. The presidential election is a circus, with corporations bribing politicians left and right. It's a recipe for disaster and 19-year-old Beth Ross, aka YouTube celebrity Corndog Girl, ends up accidentally elected president of the United States. Beth, a levelheaded girl with a punk-rock haircut and a quick wit, establishes an inner cabinet of educated everymen and selects an older, established vice president to guide her. Beth's first course of action? To end the country's global surveillance program and find a cure for the cat flu that's ravaging the population. Both are noble goals, but they put her directly at odds with the corporations. This satire of American culture is outright scathing. It pulls no punches in its sociopolitical commentary. Caldwell uses vivid colors and pointed, occasionally anime-influenced line work, giving it more similarities with The Unbeatable Squirrel-Girl than with the muscular DC comics heroes. VERDICT Recommended for teens who are tired of the superhero craze but can appreciate a no-holds-barred spoof of the world around them. Matisse Mozer, Santa Monica Public Library, CA "Very sharp political commentary." - Mike Roe from Off-Ramp on National Public Radio Its just perfect. Its better than perfect; its now. What Russell and Caldwell have created is the impossible, unlikely, and interminable now; the world as it is, hyperrealized in the kind of tomorrow we dare not believe, yet secretly fear will come. PopMatters Prez has become a

standout title with its sharp political commentary, bold sense of humor, and intricate world building in both the writing and art. A.V. Club/The Onion About the Author Mark Russell is an American author, best known for his satirical graphic novel *God Is Disappointed In You*, an irreverent retelling of the Bible. He is also the writer of *PREZ* for DC Comics.