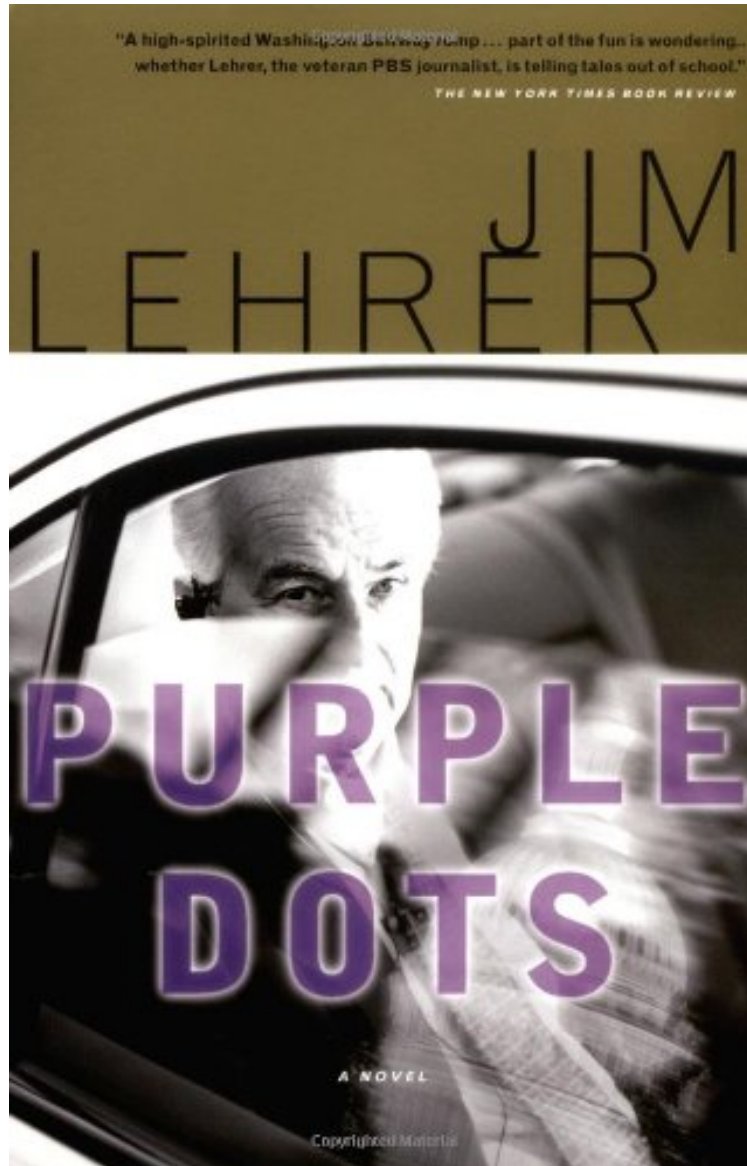


(Free pdf) Purple Dots: A Novel

Purple Dots: A Novel

Jim Lehrer

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Jim Lehrer : Purple Dots: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Purple Dots: A Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Clancy, It's notBy A CustomerThis COULD have been a good read. It is probably the most unsatisfying book I have read in a long time. The only reason I bought it was I have great respect for the Author as a journalist and Don Imus hawking it on his show. Mr. Lehrer could have served the reader

by including the menu's from all the restaurants instead the wasted page after page of what they ate. I am not aware of fresh water fish having sex- I thought females spewed eggs on a bed and the males did their things to the eggs. I suggest that Mr. Lehrer read Stein on Writing and Zuckerman Writing the blockbuster novel. The characters in this book are flat and the only one I liked was the fat lawyer. Mr. Lehrer should keep his day - night job. Steve Roberts 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth Reading, did not like the ending. By A Customer This book give a great window into the workings of Washington's political world (very realistic). It also does a fabulous job at giving a taste of non-political life outside the beltway and can almost be used as a tour book of VA, WV, MD. It's a short book, great to read on a long flight! It kept me in suspense almost to the end. Worth reading, although I did not like the ending! 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well done until the end. By A Customer This novel of political intrigue surrounds the attempts of friends and enemies to confirm or deny the appointment of a man to be the director of CIA. The book starts out with the point of view of an aging CIA warrior who is friends with the nominee and your sympathies are drawn to him as he is made aware of a plot to smear his friend. His political opponent is made to look fairly smarmy until about 1/3 of the way through the book it switches point of view to the smarmy character and we find that he is just as sympathetic in his own way as the CIA man. This is well done as we can see both sides have faults and ideals and the reader is intrigued as to what to believe. However it all falls apart at the end. A reference is made to a CIA experiment, which as an offhand remark, can be dismissed as unimportant to the story. When, later, this particular "device" is introduced to bring the story to a resolution it is both jarring to the story's "reality", ridiculous, and the readers suspension of disbelief is totally gone. In fact, if one was going to suppose for the purposes of fiction, that this particular device worked the way it's described, then that should have been the main focus of the story, because the possibilities it generates overwhelm the story of a petty political nomination and it would have world-wide history making reverberations. However, it doesn't. It just resolves the story here and makes think the author was stuck for an ending so just tacked it on.

Charles Avenue Henderson claims to want nothing more than to relax in rural West Virginia with his beloved wife Mary Jane and live the genteel life of a successful bed-and-breakfast proprietor. But readers of Lehrer's Blue Hearts will know that Henderson can turn at the drop of a hat from the lovely dinners of Rappahannock oysters with sweet potatoes allumettes to his old tricks as a CIA agent whenever he or someone he cares about is in trouble. In Purple Dots, it is Henderson's longtime friend and CIA protege Joshua Bennett who is threatened by a group of senators seeking to derail his nomination as director of the CIA. Purple Dots is both a page turning thriller and something of a spoof of the thriller genre. Henderson, our hero, gathers together all of his retired CIA friends in order to launch a counteroffensive against the senators and their efforts are sometimes ridiculously over the top. As with Blue Hearts and the Last Debate, Lehrer takes the reader on another tour of Washington with all of its vanities and local curiosities exposed. And the search for the famous and mysterious purple dot, the ultimate Washington perk, continues....

.com Charlie Henderson's favorite poet is Po Chu-i, a 9th-century Chinese who wrote, when he hit 60, "I have put behind me Love and Greed. I have done with Profit and Fame. I am still short of illness and decay and far from decrepit age." But Mary Jane, Charlie's wife, "sometimes saw Charlie's fondness for the words less a belief in a poetic creed than as proof that he had simply moved into his second childhood. Charlie claimed he had been lucky enough never to have had to end his first, having gone directly from high school to college to the U.S. Navy and then to the Central Intelligence Agency without missing a beat or being forced to do anything other than little-boy work." Charlie now helps his wife run a small, upscale West Virginia hotel where for \$450 a night guests get to eat turtle soup amontillado and hear about how George Washington once had a meal in the same room. He's also one of the two narrators of veteran PBS newsmen Jim Lehrer's sly and satisfying new political thriller. The other is a much tougher and more ambitious young Republican senatorial assistant named Marty Madigan, who works for a New Mexico conservative bent on keeping Henderson's best friend Josh Bennett from becoming the new CIA director. Lehrer mostly plays fair with both sides, poking fun at Washington/Langley treats and privileges--such as the purple dots on license plates, which warn off police tow trucks. But you might come away thinking he's more sympathetic to Charlie and his gang of past and present spooks, who cluster in the lovely country towns around Washington and run antique toy stores or restore old dairy trucks while hatching plans to make sure Bennett gets the top job. Purple Dots is a richly detailed, highly amusing, and even occasionally suspenseful story from the author of Crown Oklahoma, Kick the Can, The Sooner Spy, and White Widow. --Dick Adler From Publishers Weekly PBS newsmen and veteran novelist Lehrer (White Widow) neatly interweaves ruthlessness, hypocrisy and CIA intrigue in this disarming political thriller. Ex-CIA operative Charlie Henderson comes out of retirement to clear the name of his friend and fellow spy Josh Bennett, whose nomination for CIA chief has Republican Senator Marty Madigan frantically digging for dirt. It seems Madigan is following orders from Senator Lank Simmons of New Mexico, who is being blackmailed, in turn, by a Texas senator who has New Mexico's water supply under his thumb and happens to back a certain undesirable candidate for the Supreme Court. Lehrer gains satirical mileage by narrating the same events from the viewpoints of both Charlie and Marty. Although Marty comes off as a slick, aggressive opportunist in Charlie's version, he earns the reader's

sympathy in his own account as a young, ambitious politician caught in a complicated power struggle between his self-interested superiors. As the opponents wrestle their way toward a gratifying resolution, Lehrer deftly exposes duplicity and pettiness on both sides through smart (if occasionally overblown) dialogue that spoofs their simultaneous lack of communication and merciless competition for powers great and small (such as the "purple dots" on license plates, which prevent car towing in Washington). Lehrer maintains admirable objectivity: no character is ultimately sympathetic or completely tarred and feathered by the end of this pointed portrait of Capitol Hill. (Oct.) FYI: In October, Doubleday will publish *Breaking News*, the third novel by Lehrer's longtime (and now former) collaborator on *The News Hour*, Robert MacNeil. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Taking off some time from newscasting, Lehrer crafts a political thriller about the confirmation of a CIA director with a protagonist who's sharp, witty, and over 65. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.