

# Thank god its over

by Jens Andersen

NOW A MAJOR SEI EL PICTURES  
INTERNATIONAL RELEASE  
CANADA'S #1  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
**CHARLES  
TEMPLETON**  
"A THRILLER! SOLID AND CONVINCING...  
YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT IT DOWN"  
—TORONTO STAR



Arthur Hailey made it all the way through this book. To use his own words: I had to know how it ended.

Well, after reading 136 of the book's 276 pages, I decided I had to know too; but I'd be damned if I was going to postpone the literary orgasm while I waded through 140 more pages of clunky dialogue, unlikely situations, and characters so flat you would swear they had been scraped off a TV screen. So I skipped to the last page and, guess what? The President escaped from the kidnappers and foiled their nefarious plot.

In the middle of the book the President was locked inside a Brink's armored truck with a load of nitroglycerin set to go off in 13 hours, and also set to

blow up if a rescue was attempted. The only way to save him was to pay a ransom of \$50 million in gold to a South American revolutionary group. Yet somehow he escaped.

Simply amazing.  
What is even more unbelievable is that the general public gobbles this stuff up like beer and pizza. I mean, political thrillers are an exhausted vein; after you have read *Seven Days in May* reading another such melodrama is as redundant as reading the 1,557th *Gateway* feature flogging the ruling classes.

So why don't writers like Templeton turn out something besides conventional potboilers?

Why not, for instance, a novel about an intelligent seagull who kidnaps a right-wing presidential candidate and flies him to a remote island and initiates him into the mysteries of eastern religion (suggested title: *Zentime for Ronathan Livingston Bonzo*)

Or why not a novel about a frustrated zoology student who becomes totally unhinged when he discovers that the university library has seven copies of Thomas Huxley's *Evolution and Ethics* but not a single copy of his *On the Theory of the Vertebrate Skull*; and who therefore kidnaps the zoology department chairman and the education minister till the provincial government coughs up the money for the book.

Or why not a short story about an Arts editor who is fed up with the digressions of one of this book reviewers and punts him off the High Level Bridge.

Maybe Charles Templeton just doesn't have what it takes to pull it off.

## Voices in Time

*Voices in Time*, Hugh MacLennan's seventh novel — and his first in thirteen years — has just been published. Set in the twenty-first century in a world devastated by the final war, it is the story of the fall of the old civilization and the struggles of the remnant society to rebuild. John Wellfleet, an old man who lived through the holocaust, seeks to understand how it came to happen by sifting some rare documents concerning two members of his family and his own memories; a large part of the story is found in the flashbacks to the present which make up the stories of Timothy Wellfleet and Conrad Dehmel, stories which contain the 1970 Hostage Crisis in

Quebec as well as the rise of Hitler in Germany. *Voices in Time* is clearly and deliberately a work meant to enlarge our sense of our place in the world. Although there is much in it with which an individual reader might disagree, there are also characters, scenes, encounters and insights which will haunt the attentive reader long after he has put the book down.

One of Canada's best known writers, Hugh MacLennan has the unique distinction of having won the Governor-General's Award five times.

The reading will be held in AVL-3 at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5.



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