



## Hystopia (Hardback)

By David Means

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, United States, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Brilliant. Nothing but. Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* At the bitter end of the 1960s, after surviving multiple assassination attempts, President John F. Kennedy has created a vast federal agency, the Psych Corps, dedicated to maintaining the nation's mental hygiene by any means necessary. Soldiers returning from Vietnam have their battlefield traumas enfolded --wiped from their memories through drugs and therapy--while veterans too damaged to be enfolded roam at will in Michigan, evading the Psych Corps and reenacting atrocities on civilians. This destabilized, alternate version of American history is the vision of the twenty-two-year-old veteran Eugene Allen, who has returned from Vietnam to write the book at the center of *Hystopia*, the long-awaited first novel by David Means. The critic James Wood has written that Means's language offers an exquisitely precise and sensuous register of an often crazy American reality. In *Hystopia*, Means brings his full talent to bear on the crazy reality of trauma, both national and personal. Outlandish and tender, funny and violent, timely and historical, *Hystopia* invites us to consider...



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