

Review of: "The Unavoidable Order of Things': Fabricated Resistance in George Orwell's 1984"

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One must fully disclose a bias against supernatural interpretations of mimetic literature. Nevertheless, Jan-Boje Frauen does much more than challenge recent commentary attempting to identify *1984* as some sort of dream vision. While Winston Smith's orphan status, and especially his absent father, might seem like a fairy-tale trope to some, Frauen offers a more pertinent understanding. Mercifully, he dispenses with such notions quickly and proceeds to read deeply into what *1984* is. What is more, he does so with erudition and élan. Most interesting is his discussion of Orwell's encounter with Henry Miller and Orwell's review of *Tropic of Cancer*: "Inside the Whale." Frauen uses these to provide insights into Oceania's cognitive dystopia. Frauen also queries the idea of dreaming and its validity as a means of seeing into the past. He ponders on O'Brien's knowledge of Smith's deepest fear. Did O'Brien intuit it or did he know?

By drawing on the dread that Henry Miller inspired in Orwell, especially after Miller predicted the extinction of humanity as we know it, I believe Frauen would have us agree that O'Brien knew what was on Smith's mind. Frauen's intriguing assessment of cognition reaffirms the prescience of Orwell's novel.

Frauen's discussion recognizes recent developments in fake news, and how millions unblinkingly accept a demagogue's relentless fabrications as the only truth while rejecting facts or information that conflict with their preconceptions.