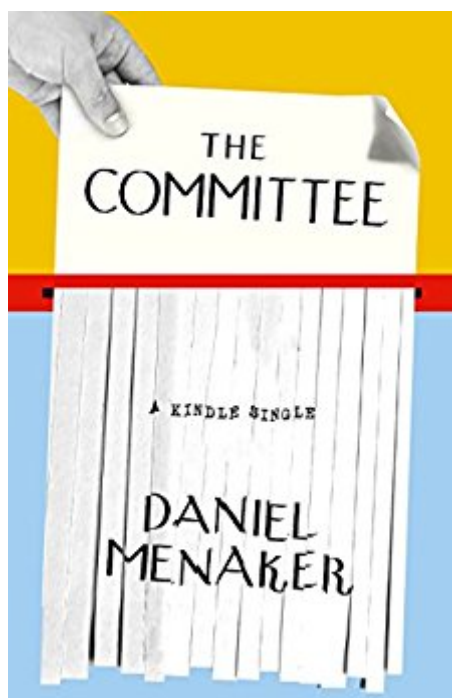


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The Committee: The Story Of The 1976 Union Drive At The New Yorker Magazine (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

In 1976, following years of harsh cutbacks to salaries and benefits at the New Yorker, editorial workers—the fact-checkers, copy editors, and other paraprofessionals—finally took a stand and began a drive to unionize the storied magazine. But strong-willed longtime editor William Shawn's fierce resistance to unionization kicked off a stalemate between management and their subordinates. Daniel Menaker, author of the acclaimed *My Mistake* and former fiction editor of the New Yorker and executive editor in chief of Random House, documents that conflict through humorous personal recollections and previously unpublished letters by Shawn himself, providing a revelatory window into the mind of one of the great editors of our time. *The Committee*, which previously appeared in *n+1*, is a story of hypocrisy, outrage, courage, cowardice, dental benefits—all within the offices of the world's greatest magazine. Daniel Menaker worked at the New Yorker for twenty-six years, twenty of them as an editor of fiction and nonfiction, working with such writers as Alice Munro, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Pauline Kael, George Saunders, Michael Chabon, Elizabeth Strout, and David Foster Wallace. He moved to Random House in 1995 and eventually was named Executive Editor In Chief, working with Colum McCann, Janet Malcolm, Azar Nafisi, Sister Helen Prejean, and Billy Collins. He is also the author of six books, three of them New York Times notable titles, and has twice won the O. Henry Award for short stories. He is currently a professor in the MFA program at Stony Brook University and the editor of the online humor feature *Grin & Tonic*. Cover design by Adil Dara.

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Customer Reviews

Any regular New Yorker reader or publishing pro will enjoy reading this. It's well written and interesting, but a short history of a specific time period and not an overall history of the magazine.

Detailed history of behind the scenes efforts to unionize writers at the New Yorker when William Shawn was editor.

A Rare, sophisticated and valuable look behind-the scenes at the New Yorker, at a moment when aesthetic, cultural and political values came up against each other.

Delicious, un-malicious, and litericious! A wonderful portrait of the zeitgeist of The New Yorker during the heady 1970s, when the magazine was reaching new heights as America's foremost post-war liberal and literary institution.

It was surprising to learn that The New Yorker was such a piss-poor place to work in many respects. It was not surprising to learn that, particularly in 1970's, it was such a dynamic place to be.

Reflects Menaker's insights into gifted and deeply flawed leaders. I was also reminded of Menaker's neurasthenic but lovely young protagonist from The Treatment.

This was an inter waste of time unless perhaps you knew some of the people involved. Labor disputes are incredibly unpleasant and I'm sure that management made it very difficult on well-intentioned that deserves to be paid more money. That said, this was a massive disappointment.

This long-form piece was surprisingly devoid of any narrative drive or character.

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