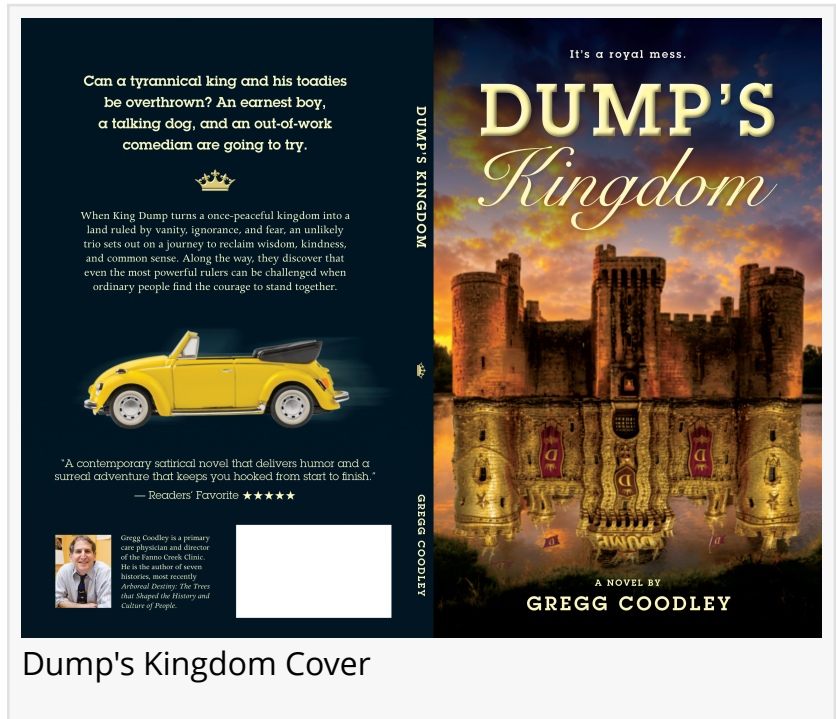


Portland physician's new satirical novel imagines a comedian exiled for making people laugh — then real life followed

Satire Is the Best Medicine

PORTLAND, OR, UNITED STATES, August 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- When Joe's teachers start dismissing education as obsolete in the era of AI, something has gone deeply wrong with the world he knows.

[Gregg Coodley, M.D.](#)'s *Dump's Kingdom* sends Joe tumbling into a dystopian nation ruled by the vain and vindictive King Dump, where wisdom is disdained, laughter is outlawed, and blind loyalty is the only currency that matters. What begins as a whimsical fairy-tale road trip quickly becomes a high-stakes mission to liberate an entire nation from the grip of tyranny and hatred.



Dump's Kingdom Cover

Accompanied by Digital, a talking, philosophizing dog, and Stephen Goodbert, an out-of-work late-night comedian exiled for making people laugh, Joe travels through a kingdom of savage satirical set pieces: a Department of War that replaces decorated generals with professional wrestlers, a market in Dump City where tariffs make some letters unaffordable, and a scenic overlook where only King Dump's "views" are permitted. They pass through Fantasy, a city where every factory worker is a white man and real estate developers are the heroes. Dump's Color Board has restricted black and brown as "too suggestive of minorities" while promoting white and gold.

“

Joe's journey is really about what we lose when we stop valuing knowledge, kindness, and honor, and what it takes to get those things back.”

Dr. Coodley

At Dump's Verbal Conflict, the left and right stand in opposite lines, screaming insults at each other. The great jewel mines deliver 99 percent of the wealth to five billionaires while the poor

pawn their possessions for food and medicine.

The comedian at the center of that satire has since had an unplanned real-world sequel: CBS canceled *The Late Show* in 2025, and it aired its final episode in May 2026 amid public controversy over the network's settlement with Donald Trump. Coodley wrote Stephen Goodbert's exile before that story broke — a coincidence that gives the book's fictional silencing of a late-night comedian an uncomfortable new resonance.

At its heart, the book is about ordinary people deciding that enough is enough. Led by Joe, Digital, and Stephen, they march out of exile and prison, the image of decency and competence organizing a quiet, determined comeback.

"Joe's journey is really about what we lose when we stop valuing knowledge, kindness, and honor, and what it takes to get those things back," says Dr. Coodley.



Dr. Gregg Coodley

About the Author

Gregg Coodley, M.D. is an internal medicine physician and [Medical Director of Fanno Creek Clinic](#) in Southwest Portland, Oregon, where he has treated tens of thousands of patients over his career. He has taught at Oregon Health & Science University and received humanism-in-medicine teaching honors. *Dump's Kingdom* is his eighth book, following *American Salvation*, *The Magnificent Losers*, *Taming Infection*, *The Good Monarchs*, *The Green Years 1964–1976*, *Patients in Peril*, and *Arboreal Destiny*. He lives in Portland with his family.

Praise for *Dump's Kingdom*

"A contemporary satirical novel that delivers humor and a surreal adventure that keeps you hooked from start to finish... a rewarding and thought-provoking read for anyone who appreciates smart social commentary wrapped in a fun journey." — Eric Ferrar, *Readers' Favorite* (5 stars)

Availability

Dump's Kingdom (Bendrogo Publishing; ISBN 978-0-9990770-9-2; 82 pages) is available now in paperback on Amazon, with additional retailers via IngramSpark.

Liz Dubelman

The Write Kit

liz@vidlit.com

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