

Les Mandible ou l'apocalypse monétaire selon Shriver

ALEXANDRE PÉRAUD

Université Bordeaux Montaigne – TELEM

Abstract

The Mandibles or the Monetary Apocalypse According to Shriver

*The Mandibles is a dystopian tale that depicts a violent inflationary crisis affecting the United States by 2029. While painting the setbacks of a family, the novel does not stop at describing poverty and the social crisis, but it offers a dramatized reflection on the relationship of individuals to the economy. It thus constitutes a disturbing laboratory that studies the economic existence of individuals, except that no economic happiness is now possible. This disenchanted narrative of behavioral economics is quite representative of those “novels of the crisis” which reject any heroicization of economics. However, given the reflection the author develops on the role and status of money, we could not confine the novel in this pessimistic vision. Indeed, despite the author’s libertarian credo, *The Mandibles* somehow reinforces the heterodox theories of a currency conceived as a social link.*

Keywords: fiction; monetary theory; economics; dystopia.