

# Tweacher

The Series

Book Four

Stand By:

The Trouble is NOT in Your Set



By Perez Shillito Lazarus Macy

## Stand By – The Trouble is Not in Your Set

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I am upset, and my interior decorator, Robin, is very agitated as well. I know you are thinking - why is Perez acting like a diva. It is so unlike Perez.

I don't know if you are a follower of reality TV. I am. My closest BFF's have shows. Kimmie, Paris, Nicole, Brett. But there is nothing that matches the high drama that you can catch on local cable channel 15 every other Monday night. I am, of course, talking about the "Bored" of Education meetings.

This last Monday should have been one of the best. The school community came to the Mayerson Auditorium. *Surprise!!!* The room had been reconfigured – without Robin's help. The podium where speakers address the "Bored" had been moved further from the audience. The district's mismanagement team now faces the "Bored" on a raised level. And there are smart boards set up so the "Bored" members don't need to turn around to see what is being projected on the big screen. (I love big screens.)

Robin thinks that there is nothing tying these design elements together. People will mistakenly believe that "Bored" meetings are a place where havoc rules. But they showed everyone in the community differently this Monday – or rather they didn't show it.

You see, there was no reality TV this past Monday. Keeping it as quiet as possible, the "Bored's" President, Eileen Cooper Reed concurred with Terry Elfers' recommendation to pull the broadcast from cable. According to the *Inquisitor*, there was concern for "order and security." By pulling the broadcast, they could prevent the speakers from playing to the camera.

But this logic is tortured at best. No one told anyone that the meeting was not on cable. So why would anyone behave differently?

It also appears that most of Cooper Reed's colleagues were kept out of the loop too.

So, once again, the "Bored" has managed to enrage a large percentage of their constituency. Besides not being transparent about the issue of racial diversity and compliance in letting construction contracts, they compound the problem by denying access for citizens to even observe others talking about it.

Perez wants to be funny or ironic or cynical. But there is little even I can conjure that hides my sadness at what is happening. It is as if CPS leadership is trying to invent new ways to alienate voters. New means to guarantee that no levy will ever pass again. New approaches to leave our district in tatters and our students, at least those who remain in our schools, underserved. Too many victims.