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The Road To Ruin: How Tony Abbott And Peta Credlin Destroyed Their Own Government



Synopsis

WINNER OF THE 2017 AUSTRALIAN BOOK INDUSTRY AWARDS, GENERAL NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNER OF THE 2016 MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

“There will be no wrecking, no undermining, and no sniping.”

“Tony Abbott, 15 September 2015

Abbott’s performances in the party-room debates on education and climate change had ranged between woeful and pathetic. He sounded desperate, he was inconsistent, and his colleagues thought slightly ridiculous. They knew he would never stop going after cheap headlines during soft interviews where he sucked up the oxygen, with revision and division as his calling cards. All they could hope was that people would soon grow tired of listening to him. Normal people might have, but the media grew more and more hysterical, as if a challenge were imminent. In the original edition of *The Road to Ruin*, prominent political commentator, author, and columnist for *The Australian* Niki Savva revealed the ruinous behaviour of former prime minister Tony Abbott and his chief of staff, Peta Credlin. Based on her unrivalled access to their colleagues, and devastating first-person accounts of what went on behind the scenes, Savva painted an unforgettable picture of a unique duo who wielded power ruthlessly but not well. That edition became a major bestseller, and went on to win an Australian book industry award for the best general non-fiction book of the year. Now Savva continues where she left off. This updated edition contains a new, 13,500-word final chapter, in which Savva reveals the inner state of the Turnbull government and the behind-the-scenes jockeying of friends and foes alike. From Christopher Pyne’s career-stalling own goal, to Peter Dutton’s post-Turnbull leadership ambitions, to Tony Abbott’s ramped-up destabilisation campaign, it is, as usual, an unputdownable and impeccably sourced account.

PRAISE FOR NIKI SAVVA

“This is what you have to remember about Savva’s controversial book, *The Road to Ruin*: she was onto this story early and she ran with it in her weekly column | her account of the coup is both suspenseful and full of fascinating, granular detail.”

The Sydney Morning Herald

“[W]ell researched and well written, with a sharp eye albeit with an occasional, serrated edge. Savva has written a book in which it is easy to be immersed. The narrative unfolds in a convincing flow, sourced directly from the words of many of the players: the bruised and battered; the disillusioned and disaffected; and ultimately in the triumphant voices of the Coalition plotters | [A] compelling book that has established an indelible and influential benchmark for explaining the turbulent rise and tumultuous fall of the Abbott government.”

The Weekend Australian

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Customer Reviews

There's more than just a faint tinge of Schadenfreude running through this book - even if you'd never seen her inveigh against Credlin during many an episode of *Insiders*, Savva's prose leaves you in no doubt that there was never any love was lost between her and Abbott's imposing Chief of Staff. That said, *The Road to Ruin* is best when it's delving into the stories of MPs and Ministers surrounding Abbott, who desperately tried to get him to see sense, and then inevitably jumped ship when they realised they could not. The insight into Abbott's decisions (those he made, and those he refused to make) were revealing - you come away with a picture of a man hopelessly unsuited to the role of Prime Minister, clinging to an aide equally as unsuited to the high pressure task of covering his arse 24/7. There's a gossipy undertone to Savva's writing that irritated me in parts, and she's not likely to win many awards for dashing wordplay, but nonetheless her book was a fascinating insight into a wildly dysfunctional political pairing.

Although parts of the book tend to ramble a bit, there were some very interesting and poignant

messages that we can all draw from it. Those messages include ones of the importance of sensible, strong leadership, consultation, consensus and respect, not only in the political sphere, but also in business and personal life. The downfall of Abbott shows how pear shaped things can go in any situation when leadership isn't strong and when vested interests override common sense and sound advice.

This book was obviously rushed and badly put together. There did not seem to be a coherent structure to the chapters and the mobile kindle version did not even have paragraphs laid out correctly. As for the content, I expected more from a journalist that writes for The Australian. If I wanted gossip I would have bought the latest copy of New Idea.

This book started well. The reader could commence by reading the first to chapters and save time by skipping to the last two chapters. That which is in between is mostly filler to make a book. Surprisingly, there are some grammatical errors which do not detract from content but indicate a rush job of editing. My three rating has to do with "the in between fill" and the cost for basically four chapters. When the price is ultimately reduced it may be better value for money.

Good and Interesting read. While quite detailed, its obvious that Peta Credlin and Nikki Savva did not get along. Therefore objectivity of the author can be questioned. Otherwise a good read and interesting view into the internal workings of the Abbott office. More importantly, a lesson for every leader - ensure that you have a good circle of people who can provide honest and direct feedback. When they give you feedback, listen and act.

Thoroughly interesting read from start to finish. The sheer volume of named (and unnamed) sources that Savva mentions makes me believe that this narrative isn't too far away from the truth. It's well-crafted in parts, but overly repetitive in others. Ultimately, the lack of a right of reply from Credlin or Abbott and the lack of any iota of a divergent viewpoint, douses any merits the book deserves.

A good book, very readable revealing the behind the scenes goings on in the Parliament during the time of Tony Abbot. If read in conjunction with the book "The Short and Excruciating Reign of Captain Abbot" the reader gains a very comprehensive look at the inner workings of parliament during that tumultuous time in Australian governance.

I found this book fascinating as I had no idea just how much "back stabbing" and "white anting " went on in Federal politics. Nor could I believe that Tony Abbott could become ensnared in Credlin's power play. Nor could I see why Abbott stayed as long as he did when all around him realised he should go.

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