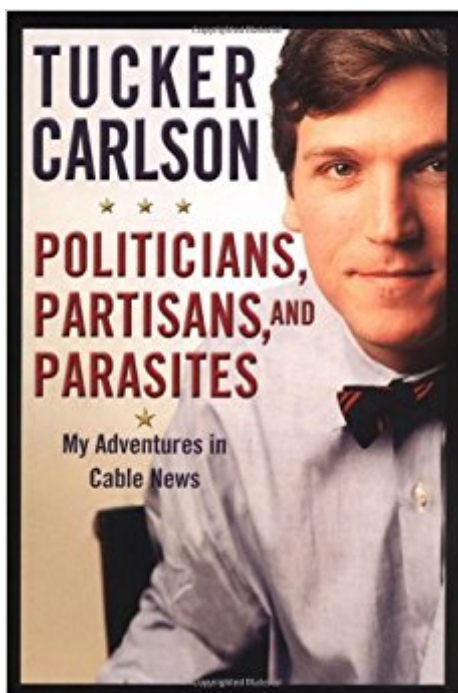


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Politicians, Partisans, And Parasites: My Adventures In Cable News



Synopsis

Political pundit Tucker Carlson cracks sharp and wise on all things Wash- ington with the acerbic wit and razor-sharp insight that have made him a beloved conservative commentator. Proclaimed by NewYork magazine as the pundit most likely to succeed in these Bushian years, Tucker Carlson anchors the right side of CNN's Crossfire aisle. An unabashed beltway insider whose profile is unmatched, Carlson stands ready to pounce on anyone and everyone who dares enter the political fray. Now, he applies his deft and amusing perspective to the goings-on in our nation's capital. Whether it's the towel-snapping prowess of the President or the dumbfounding exploits of his predecessor, there is no sacred ground. A wild and informative ride behind the scenes of a cable newsman, Carlson's debut covers his beat with equal parts hilarity and insight in a jocular review that both exposes and defends the absurdity that underlies the world of politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In his first book, the genial cohost ("from the right") of CNN's popular Crossfire details his adventures in the political business and in television, from the enlightening to the downright hilarious. Given Carlson's conservative label, some readers may be wary. That would be a mistake. *Politicians* is not about bashing liberals (indeed, Carlson admits that his Ober-liberal cohost James Carville is "one of my favorite people"), but about the colorful and at times irreverent people who make politics so interesting-and entertaining. The author reserves his criticism for stuffy politicians who take themselves too seriously, and he lavishes praise on those who make good on-air guests.

Among these is the convicted former Ohio congressman, James Traficant, "because he was willing to appear on television drunk." Carlson's montage is packed with golden political nuggets ("if you're going to be shallow, I've always thought you'd better be amusing") as well as the secret to his success (just let people talk and they will tell you everything you need to know) and funny glimpses behind the scenes at live TV, including the producer from hell, the "seven forbidden words" on television and "easy turns," the "publicity hounds" without whom, he says, talk shows could not exist. At times, it's difficult to tell if Carlson is being serious or pulling your leg, but that is part of his charm. Anyone with a sense of humor will find this chronicle thoroughly enjoyable, and political junkies will likely laugh out loud more than once. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Carlson is the conservative team member, the guy in the bow tie, on CNN's political-debate program Crossfire. His book is both memoir and commentary on current politics and the media--all with a slant, of course. Although many readers will disagree with his attitudes and precepts, everyone has to admit he is a good storyteller, intelligent and witty and sure of himself. He recalls his climb to his current TV position, which included formative time spent on the CNN show Spin Room. In the process, we certainly learn how cutthroat the television world is. Never averse to expressing an opinion, Carlson offers his own interesting philosophy on how to behave in front of a camera, which includes the maxim that "arguing a position you don't really support is a sure way to wind up loathing yourself. Plus, genuine conviction makes for a good debate. Phoniness is easy to spot." And this, too: "As the host, it's up to you to decide what happens on the show. And no matter what the producer says, you have the power to do it." The bottom line is, of course, that readers' gut-level responses will depend on which side of the liberal-conservative spectrum they find themselves. Librarians should expect demand. Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Tucker is smart, funny, and quick and I love him so much that I had to get this book even though it's old. I am happy for the excellent ratings his new show is receiving and even happier I bought this book. I'd love to have him write a new one after all these years.

I LOVE Tucker Carlson!

Tucker moves along at a brisk pace with plenty of humor and insight. Not afraid to name names and offer details. Conservative but fair.

Enjoyed the book, tho written years ago, can see and understand how Tucker became the great commentator he is today, appreciate his humor in many confrontations, looking foreword to future books written by him.

You never realize who the people you think you know really are. The book may make you think a little bit.

One of the most fascinating memoirs I've read, and very funny to boot.

Fantastic, amusing book.

Super fast shipment! Love the book!

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