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The Short And Excruciatingly Embarrassing Reign Of Captain Abbott

THE SHORT AND EXCRUCIATINGLY EMBARRASSING REIGN OF CAPTAIN ABBOTT



ANDREW P STREET



Synopsis

Poor people don't drive cars. People have the right to be bigots. I'm a fixer. Team Australia. Shirtfonting. Choppergate. Stop the boats. Coal is good for humanity. No cuts to health. Sir Prince Philip. The flags. It's all the fault of the febrile media. And that whole onion thing. In August 2013, Australia welcomed Tony Abbott as its new prime minister. This promised to be a marriage between responsible government and a nation tired of the endless drama of the Gillard-Rudd years. But then well Andrew P Street details the litany of gaffes, goofs and questionable captain's calls that characterised the subsequent reign of the Abbott government, following the trail from bold promises to questionable realities, unlikely recoveries to inexplicable own goals, Malcolm Turnbull's assurances of support to the day he pushed the Captain off his bike once and for all. And all this comes with a colourful cast of supporting characters and dangerous loons that only a nation unfamiliar with the concept of below- the-line voting could elect. Here is a unique take on a modern politics Australian style. If Game of Thrones was a deeply irreverent book about politics, then the TV series would probably not rate nearly as well. It would, however, look something like this.

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Customer Reviews

An undoubtedly partisan view of politics and I would not recommend it if you are a natural conservative. I read it because I was over the moon when Abbot was overturned and imagined this would be a more objective view. It turns out that Andrew's political views are on the Green left edge of politics. Nonetheless it reported the facts slanted to the writer's perspective. Nothing new came out and it was tedious at times.

This is one of four books published on the Abbott era. While Andrew Street has very little insider information in his book he comes to the same conclusion as the other three authors - that Tony Abbott was/is a buffoon who was certainly never equipped to be Prime Minister of Australia. Street reviews the performance of several key Cabinet ministers and finds that most were lacking. Australians were poorly served by the government 'led' by Abbott. Street has a laconic writing style that might not appeal to all readers.

Not much new here. We have all experienced the subject matter over the last few years. I am not a fan of Abbott (he is really a complete boofhead) but I would have preferred a less snide and sarcastic analysis than that presented here. I think it would have made the book less partisan and perhaps more believable to perhaps the odd supporter that might give it a go. I also don't like the numerous footnotes at the end of each chapter which in some instances are almost as long as the chapter itself. This practice is not unique to this author but I fail to see why the needed explanation or references cannot be incorporated into the text. I read the book in Kindle and going back and forth to check out the notes is not so convenient in e-books. Anyway if you are of the view that its good riddance to Abbott this is a good reminder of some of the atrocious things he has done and his generally hypercritical government. Thank goodness he has gone.

Andrew P Street is smarter and funnier than most of us can ever hope to be, but he generously shares his intellect and wit in this insightful, snarky book. Street manages to find a new angle on a story well known by Australians, and puts the follies of Captain Abbott in a cultural and historical context. He also makes some very good jokes. It's not all bitterness from a disappointed leftie, though: Street has great respect and hope for our system of government. Now that Abbott's gone, hopefully he'll be proved right.

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