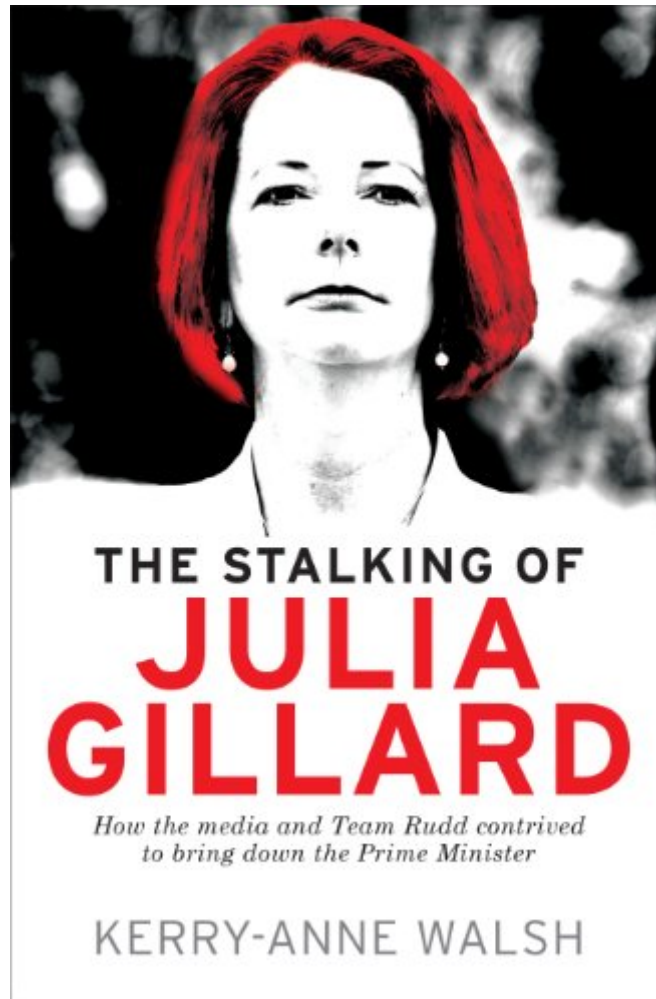


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The Stalking Of Julia Gillard: How The Media And Team Rudd Brought Down The Prime Minister



Synopsis

'Don't write crap. Can't be that hard. And when you have written complete crap, then I think you should correct it.' Julia Gillard

When Julia Gillard took the reins of the Australian Labor Party on 24 June 2010 she did so with the goodwill of the majority of her party and a fawning Canberra press gallery. The man she had supplanted, Kevin Rudd, led an isolated band of angry Labor voices at this surprising turn of events. The collective political and media verdict was that his time, short though it had been, was up. But when Gillard announced in February 2011 that her government would introduce a carbon pricing scheme, Rudd and his small team of malcontents were already in lock-step with key Canberra and interstate journalists in a drive to push her out of the prime ministerial chair. Never has a prime minister been so assiduously stalked. Cast as a political liar and policy charlatan, Julia Gillard was also mercilessly and relentlessly lampooned for her hair, clothes, accent, her arse, even the way she walks and talks. Rudd, on the other hand, could barely do any wrong. His antics were afforded benign, unquestioning prime-time media coverage. This is the story about one of the most extraordinary episodes in recent Australian political history. It focuses on Team Rudd and the media's treatment of its slow-death campaign of destabilisation, with its disastrous effect on Gillard and the government's functioning. It is about a politician who was never given a fair go; not in the media, not by Rudd, not by some in caucus.

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Customer Reviews

I had reasonable expectations for this book, having followed the Labor leadership wars closely over the past 3 years I was interested in hearing more on what happened behind the scenes.

Unfortunately this book contains no new developments or advancements, it is basically as the author has stated, a personal diary of hers of the events since Julia took over. Although I think it's fair to assess and analyze Kevin's behavior in undermining Julia for so long, it gets to the point where there is very little comment on some major mistakes Julia did in her time before and after the coup, just a timeline of Kevin's attempts to get the job back. It is also rather light, and I gave up about 60% of the way simply because I was learning nothing new. It is probably about time Julia had someone in her corner exposing Kevin's behaviour over the past term, but this authors attempt is lacking any real substance or noteworthiness, and anyone who has followed the political news will find nothing of much value.

I expected a run down of ex PM, PM again Kevin Rudd's plotting and scheming his revenge on the woman who unseated him in his first term after only 2.5 years in the job and after leading a landslide win for his party. But what I got was Ms Walsh's feminist rant about all of the 'horrible men' who schemed and plotted against her heroine. In a word disappointing and a waste of print.

I got the sensation that Kerry-Anne's account was a little one-sided. It seemed to be "blindly" supportive of Julia Gillard, while doing a "bucket job" on just about everyone else. A little bit hard to believe completely, but nevertheless gave some interesting insights into the machinations of the press which rang true.

Quite poorly written, with not the slightest attempt at objectivity. It is written in a heavily sarcastic style and riddled with colloquialisms and even the odd misspelling; you would think at her age the author should know that a wringer is a machine for wringing out wet laundry and that there is no such saying as "being put through the ringer." Poor writing aside, anyone expecting an in-depth expose of Kevin Rudd's alleged stalking is going to be disappointed. There's really nothing here that wasn't reported in the newspapers at the time. The author gives very little evidence of any stalking on the part of Rudd or his political allies; the main focus of her wrath is the heavy media criticism

Gillard attracted during her stint as Prime Minister. Apparently the book is taken from the author's private diary during the time period, and that is really where it should have stayed. It's a one sided rant, and anyone seeking any objectivity or any new information is in for a tedious read. I abandoned it at about the three-quarter mark.

Lots of claims and opinions, but this book is a classic case of don't let the facts get in the way of a good story. Readers will themselves find complete factual errors - the 'menu' that was supposedly circulated at a Liberal party fundraising dinner - being just one among many. Rudd may very well be as vindictive and deranged as this book indicates, but the authors claims lack credibility. Seriously, don't waste your money.

Boring repetitive. No depth. Little information. No background regarding the main protagonists. No insight of political situation at the time.

Well written and explained the role of the fourth estate and Rudd forces in the removal of an Australian Prime Minister. It demonstrated how an orchestrated campaign of fear and loathing by a few can sway other media outlets and through them the general public that the Prime Minister was a liar, an incompetent who lacked integrity and like Lady MacBeth - had blood on her hands. It documents for the first time the principal role that selected members of the media played in influencing their colleagues rather than reporting. The media bias (including especially the ABC) against Gillard has been manifest since shortly after she took office. This book explains why and how. The lack of policy analysis, the obsession with leadership challenges and with gossip have pre-occupied the press since 2010 - quite a frightening revelation of their role in shaping political events. without reform in the press we should all be very afraid.

I recommend this for anyone who followed Gillards progress, and couldn't reconcile media criticism with evidence of Gillards executive skills.

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