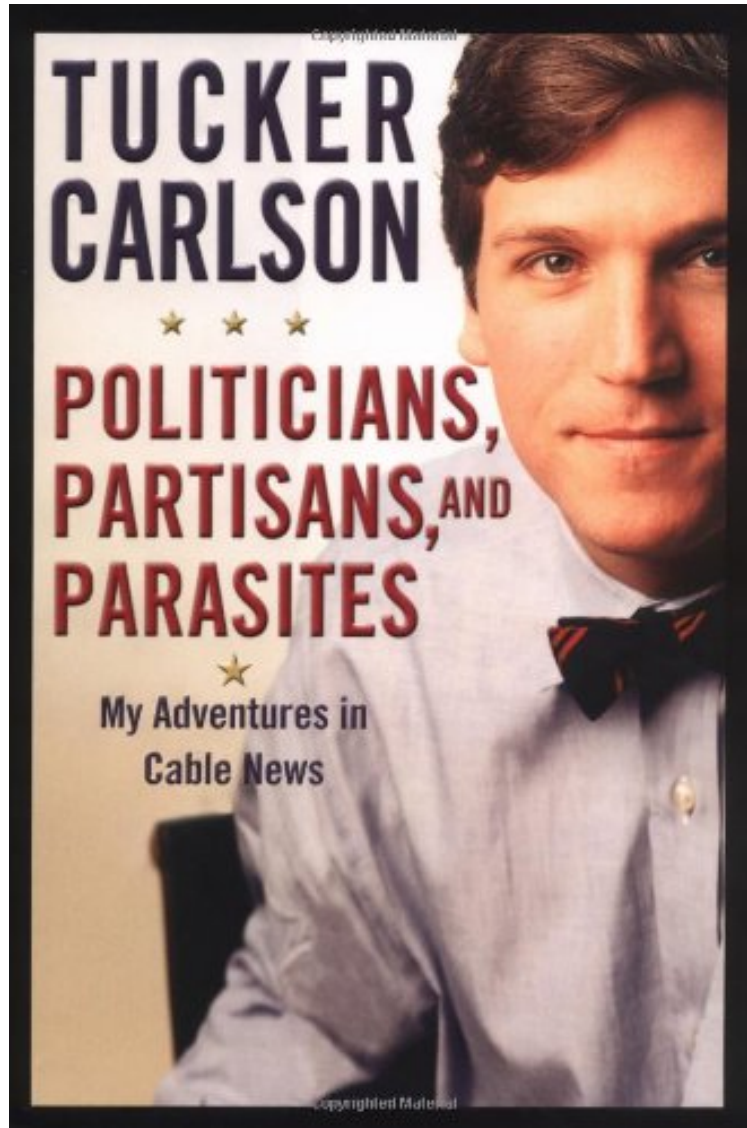


[Ebook pdf] Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News

## Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News

*Tucker Carlson*

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**Tucker Carlson : Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News:

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not interestingBy ducky1313I was excited to purchase this book as I was a big fan of Tucker's during his CNN crossfire days. After reading the book I really regret having purchased it. Most of the remarks in it are negative and not particularly interesting. There was a lot about his personal animosity

towards various individuals, but very little about politics or any other kind of useful insight. There was also a complete lack of self analysis and not a lot of humor. Oh well. I would not recommend this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insights and the inside scoop on American politics

By Paul Mastin

I have recently become a fan of Tucker Carlson. His interviews on Fox News are contentious and often hilarious. Carlson was a print journalist, but got into TV as co-host of CNN's "The Spin Room" in 2000, then on "Crossfire." During his tenure at CNN, he wrote *Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites: My Adventures in Cable News*, which is as funny and insightful as Carlson himself. Carlson's politics are on the right, and his positions on TV has consistently been so. If you've ever seen him do an interview, that much is clear. But *Politicians, Partisans, and Parasites* does not spend much time on issues. His concern is experiences and personalities. The business itself is weird. He says "I became a talk show host in about twelve hours." Of course, as he learned, it takes much, much less than that to stop being a talk show host! Weirder than the business itself is the people. With politicians, he learned that sanity is often only skin deep. With TV networks, he learned that ratings are the only barometer of a show's success. With show guests, he learned that there are plenty of people willing to drop everything to be a guest on a TV interview show, but that the quality of the guests is sometimes in inverse proportion to their availability. Whatever your political inclinations, you will enjoy Carlson's insights and insider stories. He's had a front row seat and a backstage pass to political events and personalities of the last couple of decades. As much as I continue to enjoy his segments on Fox News, I hope he has another book or two up his sleeve.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Unbelievably funny.

By aehtorod

Tears of laughter rolled down my cheeks through most of the read. The really wonderful thing about Tucker Carlson is that he says exactly what he thinks. And, he has such an incisive mind and such a quick wit, that what he thinks is frequently hilarious. Whether he's skewering Bill O'Reilly, Jesse Jackson, Karen Hughes and Jerry Falwell, or lauding Bill Maher, Alan Keyes and James Carville, Carlson's deftness of description is a pure delight. My very favorite line in the book describes Alan Keyes oratory perfection: "He routinely launches into sentences so complex, with so many independent clauses, that no ordinary person could complete them without a written diagram. Keyes does it every time. He never says 'um.' "

Having barely heard of Alan Keyes, I looked him up on YouTube. Carlson's characterization is dead on. Although I abhor almost every opinion I heard the guy express, Keyes' excellence as an orator and logician is, in my experience, unequalled in today's political arena. I would never have noticed this trait in him. I chalk it up to Tucker's brilliance that he thought on a dimension that allowed him to appreciate Keyes' gift. This book is a quick and easy read. It's incredibly funny. And, it gives fascinating insights into a number of the past few decades' worth of interesting characters in Washington politics. Definitely worth buying and definitely worth reading.

Political pundit Tucker Carlson cracks sharp and wise on all things Washington with the acerbic wit and razor-sharp insight that have made him a beloved conservative commentator. Proclaimed by *New York 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 newsmen, 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.

From *Publishers Weekly*

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.

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From *Booklist*

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 "An exciting book by an exciting author...his stature, impact and candor provide a must read for Americans of any party." -- Rev. Al Sharpton "I begged Tucker not to abandon print for TV...but it turns out he can still write!" -- Christopher Hitchens