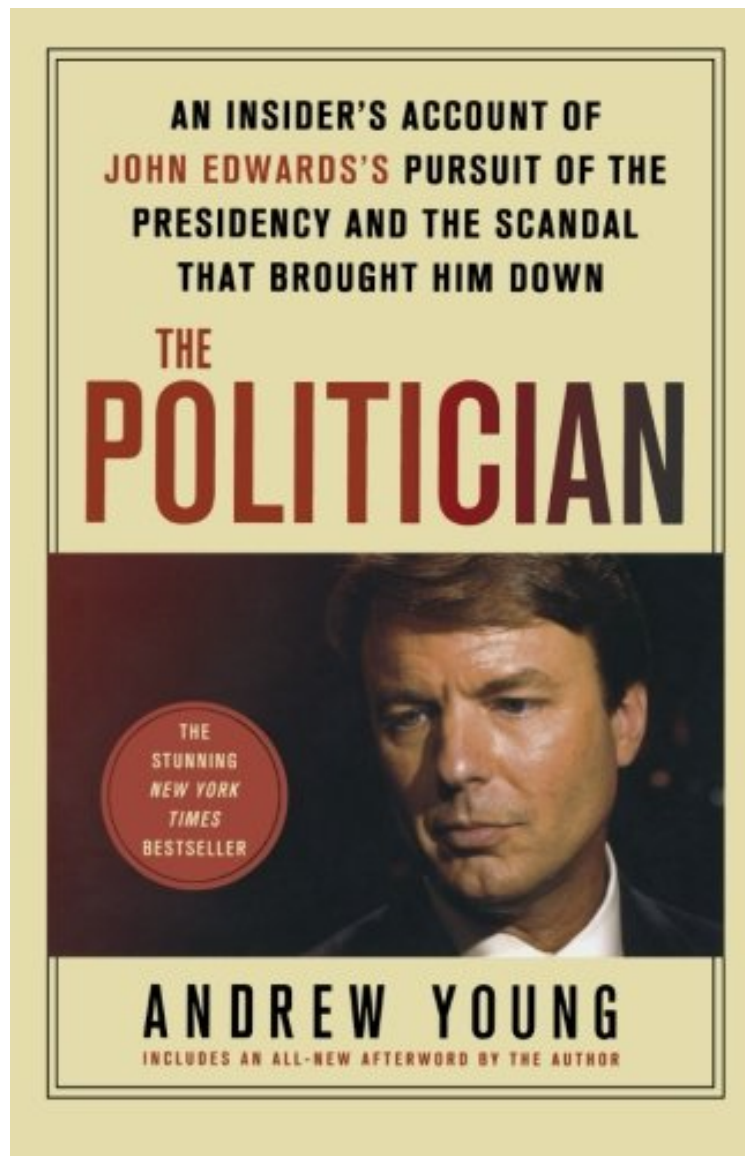


(Online library) The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down

The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down

Andrew Young

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Andrew Young : The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An important book By Gisela Hausmann Andrew Young's book 'The Politician' begins with a simple scene at a baseball field where he sees John Edwards last. He describes an idyllic All-American scene, kids playing a game, on a Spring Day. The beautiful scene is upset by the introduction of John Edwards, a man the author believed to have the brightest political future, a man, who could and would be president, and who as president would fix inequalities and U.S. healthcare. The way Young describes the scene forecasts that with the publication of his book U.S. voters' innocence will be lost forever. Reading the prologue, even a reader, who might have been on the proverbial island and who therefore never heard of John Edwards, would know that the tale to come cannot be a good one. 'The Politician' reveals a tragedy of epic proportions. Slowly but surely, Young gets sucked into a web of deception and drama, in which all participants but John Edward suffer. There are his cancer-stricken but equally ambitious wife, nervous campaign workers, misled and neglected donors, and young children; none of who matter to Edward's hunger for power. Also suffering is logic, simple and basic logic that the enacted and proposed schemes cannot work in the long run. This demonstrates a sign of disconnect, which is outright dangerous. Readers learn about the schemes of manipulation: Italian designer clothing labels being replaced with labels "Made in USA", \$ 500 haircuts, plastic surgery, and dental work are the least of it. We find out that Edwards called donors, who wanted to talk to him longer than he wanted to talk to them "ass kissers" and that he thought that people, who didn't make commitments were "wasting his time". John Edwards had "no time for this s****" because he was "going to be president". The politician with the boyish looks and smile ran a scheme, which would make mobsters blush. Andrew Young and (on a lesser scale) others around him have no playbook what to do other than to drop everything they have worked for. This is what makes "The Politician" an important book. It empowers every future campaign staffer and member of candidates' "inner circles" to make better and best decisions. Forewarned by the telling of Young's story, campaign helpers might want to think twice whether they want to find out how it really feels, walking Andrew Young' path, including expensive lawsuits. Luckily for Young, his family is still intact. Gisela Hausmann, author and blogger of 6 people found the following review helpful. Revealing (and sickening) on many levels By kaduzy I appreciated the candor in this book, right from the start. Even in the acknowledgements page, Andrew Young is forthright about his writing project, and he starts the book off by admitting that money played a big part in why he decided to write it. It also seems apparent that he wrote it himself, with no ghost writer to help him out. The style is frankly amateur-hour from the word go, and he makes a lot of rookie mistakes such as being repetitive, not always being clear and supplying tons of inane and useless information that should have been left out. Did I buy this book in order to read about him buying pet supplies for a turtle, or learn who he was rooting for in American Idol? Um, no. He even misspells words that his editor didn't catch, such as "regurgitated." At any rate, it's certainly NOT the "Great American Novel" that some idiot at Vanityfair.com called it, which naturally got quoted on the back of the book. But the reason I bought the book was to learn details about John Edwards and his total fall from political grace. As one of his earliest supporters back when he ran for Senate, I was amazed at how much of a liar he turned out to be, amazed that someone with such a bright political future who appeared to be so genuinely interested in helping the poor could be such a monster of self-interest and greed. I was more interested in learning about that than I was in hearing details about his sordid affair, and in that respect I got exactly what I paid for. Andrew Young spends a lot of time giving details about his family that I couldn't care less about, but even more time giving details about his experiences with the Edwards family, from start to finish. He paints a portrait of a man he initially almost worshipped and did anything for, but hindsight makes it clear even in these early stories that he was being used and taken advantage of. Young continually offers what he considers are plausible explanations for his decision to become a lackey for the Edwards family, even when John Edwards wasn't actively holding any political office or even running a campaign. But once he gets to the section where he absurdly agreed to name himself the father of Rielle Hunter's baby, any sympathy or understanding I might have had for his choices goes right out the window. What kind of a man drags his wife and three children around the country, disrupting their jobs, lives and education in order to be party to the year's biggest lie? How could he ever have POSSIBLY thought he was doing the right thing? He seems perfectly happy to make these sacrifices despite mounting evidence that he made the wrong choice until he learns from Edwards himself that he won't be compensated with a cushy job in a phony charity after all. My overall impression from reading this account is that Young and Edwards were perfect for each other. Both men are selfish enough to make big personal choices without regard for how it would impact their wives, their children and their careers. I know politicians are just people, but reading about exactly how Edwards ran his game from the very beginning of his political career was an eye-opening experience. It forced me to ask myself whether the act of accomplishing something good was enough. Does it also have to be accomplished for the right reasons? Edwards ended his own career without ever finding an answer to those questions. I see him in a new light now, not just as a bad husband and a bad person but as someone who would have been very destructive for the country if he'd ever attained any of the national offices he sought. A man who would accept \$55,000 payments to go lecture on poverty is not the kind of man who deserves political power on a national level, and Andrew Young was right to expose that. Edwards dug his own grave. This book is nothing more than a few shovelfuls of dirt to help seal him into it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tallywhacker Troubles By Franklin the Mouse Mr. Young's explanation of how John Edwards went from being the Democrat's political darling to pariah rings true when

compared to other versions; especially the cockamamie stories given by John Edwards and his late wife, Elizabeth. The author's confessional also doesn't exactly place him in a favorable light. He pulls no punches about how he was complicit in the Rielle Hunter cover-up and Edwards' other indiscretions. However, Mr. Young also takes pains to very plausibly explain how he got deeper and deeper into helping a narcissistic liar. The problem with reading any historical book is that a reader breezes through someone's life in a short period of time. We have the luxury of being able to analyze events or actions that spanned many years and shake our heads in holier-than-thou judgment that we wouldn't have done the same thing. And keep in mind, most of the characters in this political farce were highly intelligent people. How in God's creation could Senator Edwards risk it all for a space cadet like Rielle Hunter? How could Elizabeth Edwards stay so long with and blame others for her husband's sins? What the heck was Andrew Young thinking to go to such depths at the expense of his own family? The author makes a commendable attempt to explain without expecting exoneration from the reader. It is ultimately a story about power and how people can become corrupted by its influence. Mr. Young's narrative is straightforward and compelling. The reader gets a good feel of what it must be like to be a close assistant, known as a body man, to a powerful politician. The Founding Fathers were correct in distrusting power. None of us are immune to such forces. In the whole scheme of things, John and Elizabeth Edwards are small potatoes, but their implosion is a wonderful example of how power corrupts. Mr. Young's memoir depicts the Beltway's continual ability to easily strip a person of their humanity in the pursuit of power. And what is it with powerful men and their pee pees? Be it politicians, business executives, religious leaders, you name it, and they frequently seem to have problems keeping their "little hombres" in their pants. I swear, speaking as a guy, I sometimes think eunuchs should be the only males allowed to run for office. Mr. Young's memoir is a sad, shocking, entertaining but important story well worth reading.

"The greatest political saga, the one that has it all, that gets to the real heart of American politics, is the John Edwards story... This isn't just politics, it's literature. It's the great American novel, the kind that isn't written anymore." -- Michael Wolff on John Edwards's trajectory, on VanityFair.com
The underside of modern American politics -- raw ambition, manipulation, and deception -- are revealed in detail by Andrew Young's riveting account of a presidential hopeful's meteoric rise and scandalous fall. Like a non-fiction version of *All the King's Men*, *The Politician* offers a truly disturbing, even shocking perspective on the risks taken and tactics employed by a man determined to rule the most powerful nation on earth. Idealistic and ambitious, Andrew Young volunteered for the John Edwards campaign for Senate in 1998 and quickly became the candidate's right hand man. As the senator became a national star, Young's responsibilities grew. For a decade he was this politician's confidant and he was assured he was like family." In time, however, Young was drawn into a series of questionable assignments that culminated with Edwards asking him to help conceal the Senator's ongoing adultery. Days before the 2008 presidential primaries began, Young gained international notoriety when he told the world that he was the father of a child being carried by a woman named Rielle Hunter, who was actually the senator's mistress. While Young began a life on the run, hiding from the press with his family and alleged mistress, John Edwards continued to pursue the presidency and then the Vice Presidency in the future Obama administration. Young had been the senator's closest aide and most trusted friend. He believed that John Edwards could be a great president, and was assured throughout the cover-up that his boss and friend would ultimately step forward to both tell the truth and protect his aide's career. Neither promise was kept. Not only a moving personal account of Andrew Young's political education, *THE POLITICIAN* offers a look at the trajectory which made John Edwards the ideal Democratic candidate for president, and the hubris which brought him down, leaving his career, his marriage and his dreams in ashes.

A book worth reading for its larger drama. With a title that ultimately works like a shiv in the ribs, Mr. Young's book examines what a politician really is: the value of his words... the extent of his feelings of entitlement, the outrageousness of his ego...and the gap between his public convictions and private behavior Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*
Mesmerizing...This is not a political memoir. It's a morality tale with the chill of Hitchcock. Tina Brown, *The Daily Beast*
Replete with colorful anecdotes and vignettes, this forceful memoir offers a familiar, if a bit slippery, tale of lost youthful innocence. *The New York Times*
Book How often does the quest for the White House become an unhealthy obsession, not just for a candidate and his spouse, but for the people around them? *The Boston Globe*
From the Back Cover
John Edwards's longest-serving former aide gives us the inside story in shocking, explosive detail about the meteoric rise and scandalous fall of *THE POLITICIAN*
Andrew Young volunteered for the Edwards campaign for U.S. Senate in 1998 and soon became the Democratic candidate's right-hand man and most trusted friend. As Edwards became a national star, Young's responsibilities grew to include a series of questionable assignments that culminated with being asked to conceal the Senator's ongoing adultery. Then, days before his run in the 2008 presidential primaries began, Edwards was faced with a publicity nightmare: Rielle Hunter, the campaign videographer with whom he had been having an affair, was pregnant. Edwards insisted that Young claim paternity but America would eventually learn the truth
A book worth reading for its larger drama. Mr. Young's book examines what a politician really is. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*
Young believed that Edwards could be a great president, and was assured throughout the

cover-up that one day Edwards would come clean to his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth and the rest of the country and take responsibility for his actions. Instead, Young watched as his own career and family life fell apart. With this memoir, he finally has the chance to share his account of what really happened and go beyond the headlines to show who John Edwards really is. Mesmerizing... This is not a political memoir. It's a morality tale with the chill of Hitchcock. Tina Brown, *The Daily Beast*