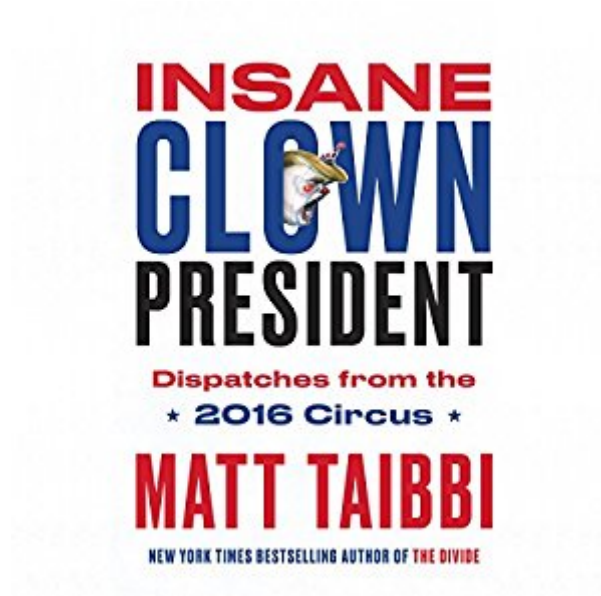




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Insane Clown President



Synopsis

Dispatches from the 2016 election that provide an eerily prescient take on our democracy's uncertain future, by the country's most perceptive and fearless political journalist. The 2016 presidential contest as told by Matt Taibbi, from its tragicomic beginnings to its apocalyptic conclusion, is in fact the story of Western civilization's very own train wreck. Years before the clown car of candidates was fully loaded, Taibbi grasped the essential themes of the story: the power of spectacle over substance or even truth; the absence of a shared reality; the nihilistic rebellion of the white working class; the death of the political establishment; and the emergence of a new explicit form of white nationalism that would destroy what was left of the Kingian dream of a successful pluralistic society. Taibbi captures, with dead-on, real-time analysis, the failures of the right and the left, from the thwarted Bernie Sanders insurgency to the flawed and aimless Hillary Clinton campaign; the rise of the "dangerously bright" alt-right with its wall-loving identity politics and its rapturous view of the racial "holy war" to come; and the giant fail of a flailing, reactive political media that fed a ravenous news cycle not with reporting on political ideology but with undigested propaganda served straight from the campaign bubble. At the center of it all stands Donald J. Trump, leading a historic revolt against his own party, "bloviating and farting his way" through the campaign, "saying outrageous things, acting like Hitler one minute and Andrew Dice Clay the next." For Taibbi, the stunning rise of Trump marks the apotheosis of the new postfactual movement. Taibbi frames the reporting with original essays that explore the seismic shift in how we perceive our national institutions, the democratic process, and the future of the country. Insane Clown President is not just a postmortem on the collapse and failure of American democracy. It offers the riveting, surreal, unique, and essential experience of seeing the future in hindsight.

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Customer Reviews

Matt Taibbi is my number one favorite campaigning journalist and political commentator, never afraid to expose chicanery, hypocrisy and sleaze under every rock he kicks over. His writing just gets better and better: most of ICP is not just laugh-out-loud funny, but is so on-the-money it occasionally had me rolling on the floor with laughter and crying "Yes! Yes! He's nailed it!" At the center of Taibbi's insightful series of essays on the 2016 election campaign and its aftermath is the larger-than-life figure of Donald Trump (a figure of almost supernatural shallowness destined to be buried under a mountain of outlandish promises, in the process leading thousands of hoodwinked followers off the cliff of history), but the book is not just about the new POTUS. Taibbi absolutely nails the cast of characters in the GOP's "Clown Car" the 2016 prospective candidates including Trump - but also under scrutiny are the Bernie Sanders phenomenon, HRC's insipid, uninspiring campaign (an overconfident and incompetent ruling class that was ten miles up its own backside when it should have been listening to the anger percolating in the population), the political beltway bubble and how it works within unwritten boundaries now shattered by Trump, and the US news media to which Taibbi belongs which is becoming more and more indistinguishable from entertainment media and at whose door, above all, Taibbi lays the responsibility for getting Trump elected in November. One caution: if you're a RS reader and follow Taibbi's regular pieces, you may have read many of these essays during 2015 & 2016 in print or on the RS website. However, there's new stuff here as well. The long introduction and shorter epilogue for example offer a prescient if depressing summing-up of our current political landscape, how we got here and where we might be headed. So despite the fact that much of ICP has already been published as RS articles by Taibbi, the book as a whole tells a story so coherent, so concise and so entertaining, all in Taibbi's inimitable literate and comic style, that it can be unreservedly recommended.

Taibbi skewers both sides of this insane campaign, but spends a good amount of time trying to figure out the Trump phenomenon. In his previous book, he predicted a fact-challenged society

would rise up, and Trump tapped into that. He also spent the last few pages dissecting the catastrophic Clinton campaign. They remain defiantly short sighted even in the end. How this campaign was won and lost will generate many books, and this is one of the first written by one who covered it.

Enjoyed the book. It's prophetic in an ominous sense. Author seems very much in touch with what led to the election results of 2016. Doesn't mince words in describing political events and people.

I am a fan of the author, This book was informative if a bit harsh on the Trump campaign.

'Taibbi does it again. Taking up where Hunter left off!

Great insight into how we got here. Love his writing style

A collection of Rolling Stone Trump related articles with new introduction. If you're a Taibbi fan, you probably already have this. If you're not a fan, start with Divide. That book will make you a Taibbi fan.

If you want to know how, this is your book. While the focus is on Trump the beginning and ending analysis includes democrats, journalists and an understanding of the bubble in which most resided. After completing just 10% of the book I stopped to recommend it to friends. Taibbi's style of writing caused me to howl with laughter often. But equally engaging was his month by month detailed summary of the progress of this insanity. This is the most pleasurable yet profound analysis we are likely to find of what occurred. While shocked at the outcome, as most of us were including the "clown" I feel vindicated that in retrospect I saw the rationale described in these pages. Whether you agree with this rationale or not you'll enjoy the ride that takes you on the journey.

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