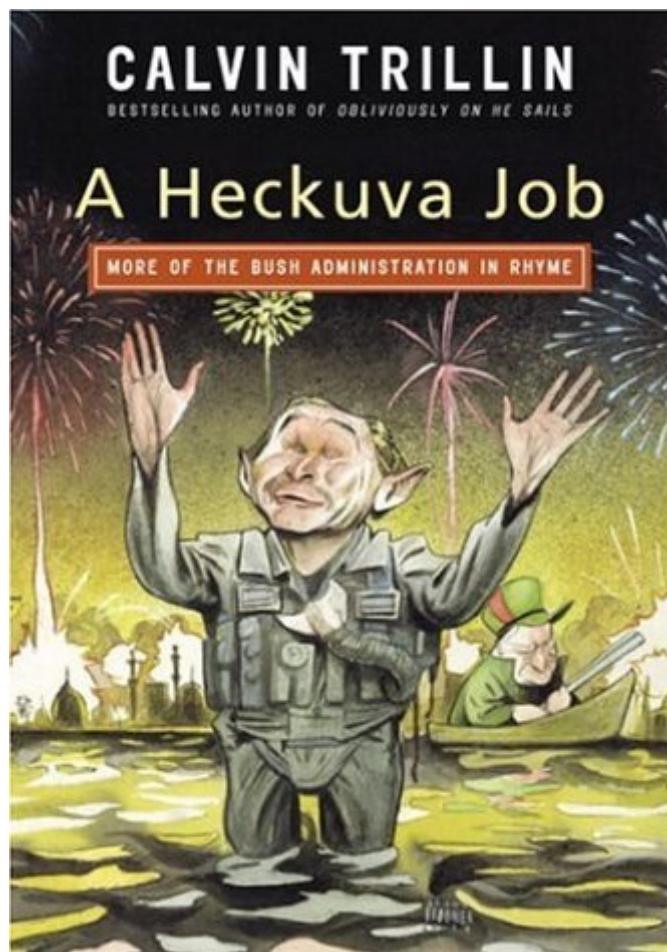


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A Heckuva Job: More Of The Bush Administration In Rhyme



Synopsis

BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Calvin Trillin's Quite Enough of Calvin Trillin. Somehow, despite everything Calvin Trillin wrote about the Bush Administration in *Obliviously On He Sails*, his 2004 bestseller in verse, George W. Bush is still in the White House. Taking a philosophical view, Trillin has said, "We weren't going to know whether you could bring down a presidency with iambic pentameter until somebody tried it." Now Trillin is trying again, back at his pithy and hilarious best to comment on the President's decision to go to war in Iraq ("Then terrorists could count on what we'd do: / Attack us, we'll strike back, though not at you"), his religiosity ("He treats his critics in the press / As if they're yapping Pekinesees. / Reporters deal in mundane facts; / This man has got the word from Jesus"), and whether he was wearing a transmitting device in the first presidential debate ("Could this explain his odd expressions? Is there proof he / Was being told, 'If you can hear me now, look goofy?'"). Trillin deals with the people around Bush, such as Nanny Dick Cheney and Mushroom Cloud Rice and Orange John Ashcroft and Orange John's successor, Alberto Gonzales ("The A.G."s to be one Alberto Gonzales" / Dependable, actually loyal — ber alles"). He tries to predict the behavior of the famously intemperate John Bolton as ambassador to the United Nations in poems with titles like "Bolton Chases French Ambassador Up Tree" and "White House Says Bolton Can Do Job Even While in Straitjacket." Finally, in dealing with whether the entire Bush Administration, like the unfortunate Brownie, has done a heckuva job, he composes a small-government sea chantey for the Republicans: "Cause government's the problem, lads, Americans would all do well to shun it. Yes, government's the problem, lads. At least it is when we're the ones who run it."

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Customer Reviews

In A HECKUVA JOB Calvin Trillin continues his rhymed assessments of the current Bush administration that he began in OBLIVIOUSLY ON HE SAILS. His title is obvious to anyone who owned a radio or television set during the Katrina debacle. For the two Americans who missed Bush's comment, he informed FEMA Chief Michael Brown that he was doing a "heckuva job" as some New Orleans citizens were stranded on housetops as they held signs begging for help while others lay floating in the waters caused by Katrina. All the usual suspects are back; actually most of them never went away although the country did lose Paul Wolfowitz to the World Bank and John Ashcroft and a couple of others resigned as Mr. Bush began the second four years of his reign. Mr. Trillin takes aim at Mushroom Cloud Rice and Five Deferments Dick-- or if you prefer-- Nanny Dick-- as well as a host of other Bush accomplices. Here are some of Mr Trillin's gems: About Cheney's statements of Iraq's role in 9/11; "If you say it enough, then it's true." About Bush's current abysmal approval rating: "But those pols don't have Jesus on their side." Condoleezza Rice is described as "cold as ice," but "precise with her advice." George Bush may be remembered by historians as "the Great Conflater." And Trillin on Colin Powell: "It's sad to see, as we remember when/Some thought he was the president-elect to be,/How easily is done a Colineotomy." The most devastating "poem" by far has to be "A Short History Of Someone Who Failed To Get Into The Champagne Unit of The Texas Air National Guard In 1958." Historians may not recall My name, now chiseled on that wall.

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