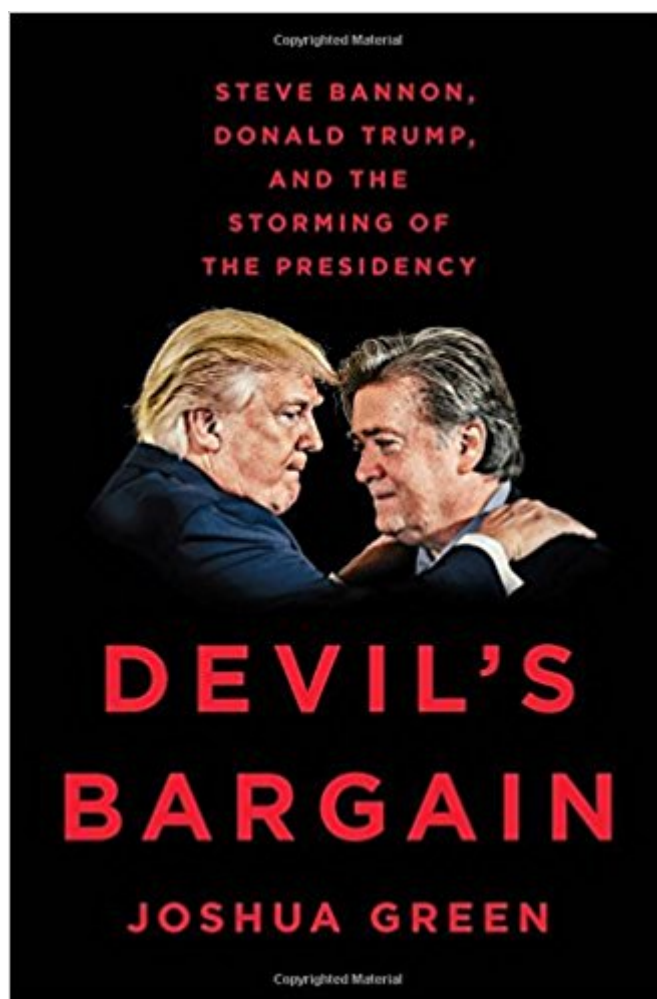


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Devil's Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, And The Storming Of The Presidency



Synopsis

The instant #1 New York Times bestseller. From the reporter who was there at the very beginning comes the revealing inside story of the partnership between Steve Bannon and Donald Trump — the key to understanding the rise of the alt-right, the fall of Hillary Clinton, and the hidden forces that drove the greatest upset in American political history. Based on dozens of interviews conducted over six years, Green spins the master narrative of the 2016 campaign from its origins in the far fringes of right-wing politics and reality television to its culmination inside Trump's penthouse on election night. The shocking elevation of Bannon to head Trump's flagging presidential campaign on August 17, 2016, hit political Washington like a thunderclap and seemed to signal the meltdown of the Republican Party. Bannon was a bomb-throwing pugilist who'd never run a campaign and was despised by Democrats and Republicans alike. Yet Bannon's hard-edged ethno-nationalism and his elaborate, years-long plot to destroy Hillary Clinton paved the way for Trump's unlikely victory. Trump became the avatar of a dark but powerful worldview that dominated the airwaves and spoke to voters whom others couldn't see. Trump's campaign was the final phase of a populist insurgency that had been building up in America for years, and Bannon, its inscrutable mastermind, believed it was the culmination of a hard-right global uprising that would change the world. Any study of Trump's rise to the presidency is unavoidably a study of Bannon. *Devil's Bargain* is a tour-de-force telling of the remarkable confluence of circumstances that decided the election, many of them orchestrated by Bannon and his allies, who really did plot a vast, right-wing conspiracy to stop Clinton. To understand Trump's extraordinary rise and Clinton's fall, you have to weave Trump's story together with Bannon's, or else it doesn't make sense.

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Customer Reviews

"The first deeply insightful political narrative of the Trump era" —David Leonhardt, *The New York Times*
"Indispensable." —Jeffrey Toobin, *The New Yorker*
"Deeply reported and compulsively readable" —Green is consistently interesting on the subject of Trump. But the real value of *Devil's Bargain* is the story it tells about Bannon, some of which has been previously reported (not least by Green himself) but never so well synthesized or explained as it is here. —Bret Stephens, *The New York Times*
"Mr. Green is a talented reporter and a gifted storyteller. The anecdotes he records from the chaotic 2016 Trump campaign are both well chosen (they're there for thematic reasons, not as gratuitous gossip) and brilliantly told." —*Wall Street Journal*
"You won't be able to put it down. I certainly couldn't, surrendering a weekend I should have rightly spent with the kids. I spent it instead with a 63-year-old nationalist whom *Time* magazine all but called the shadow President of the United States . . . Addictive."
—*Newsweek*
"Tremendous." —*Q*
"Vividly pulls back the curtain on the symbiotic relationship between two of America's most polarizing figures. . . . Green is nothing but prescient." —*The Guardian*

Joshua Green is a senior national correspondent for Bloomberg Businessweek, focusing on political coverage for the magazine and Bloomberg News. Previously, Green was a senior editor of the *Atlantic*, a weekly political columnist for the *Boston Globe*, and an editor at the *Washington Monthly*. He has also written for the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, and other publications. Green regularly appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, NBC's *Meet the Press*, HBO's *Real Time* with Bill Maher, and PBS's *Washington Week*.

Couldn't put it down. I love that, while the author obviously doesn't share Bannon's worldview, to put it mildly, the book isn't polemical -- it gets out of the way of the story. And what a story. My goodness. I suspect that if you hate Trump you'll be horrified and entertained, and if you love Trump you'll be delighted and entertained, and that's very high praise. I didn't know that the wall wasn't

Trump's idea; that's sort of ironic.

I dislike politically-focused books written by authors with a slant. This is not one of those. Instead, it is balanced and quite timely. Green characterizes Bannon as a brilliant ideologue from the outer-fringe of American politics, and an opportunistic businessman with a great distaste for Hillary. Green contends that DJT's being embarrassed at the 2011 White House Correspondent's Dinner by President Obama and Seth Meyers was the catalyst that put Trump on the path to the White House. Obama zeroed in on the birth-certificate controversy that Trump had endorsed, produced a copy several days prior to the dinner, and then joking proposed to also release a movie of his birth (a Disney jungle tiger cartoon film). Soon afterwards Trump met with a few long-time Clinton haters - one of whom was David Bossie. Bossie asked Bannon to provide informal counsel on a potential Trump presidential bid. Bannon didn't think Trump would run, but this didn't stop Bannon from imparting his hostility to illegal immigration and Hillary. Bannon had been a Naval officer during Carter's disastrous effort to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran. That disgusted Bannon, who went from being a Democrat like the rest of his family, to becoming a hard right Republican, avid Reagan fan, and Islamaphobe. He also realized that it would take forever for him to gain major influence as a Naval officer --> resigned to attend Harvard Business School, then join Goldman Sachs. Trump thought of running for New York governor in 2014, vs. Cuomo. Kellyann Conway put together a paper suggesting he'd do well, contrary to what the poll data actually showed. Meanwhile, Trump learned from his appearances that anti-immigration provided a strong position. At the time, Bannon was chairman of Breitbart news (lots of Clinton stories, also immigration - including the child migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2014, killing any chance of immigration reform at the time, ISIS, race riots, and 'the collapse of traditional values - drawing about 21 million viewers/month), an alt-right site that would help clear out Trump's 16 Republican competitors. He'd taken that role after the site's founder (Andrew Breitbart, a former Matt Drudge apprentice) unexpectedly died in 2012. Bannon's biggest success to-date had been acquiring a stake in the 'Seinfeld' show. One of Bannon's biggest contributions to the Trump campaign was pitching the 'Clinton Cash' revelations (he'd helped nurture the book's writing) to the mainstream media. Bannon then encouraged Trump to visit the U.S.-Mexico border, created a mutinous frenzy among house conservatives that led to Boehner's resignation, paid trackers to follow Anthony Weiner's Twitter account and eventually intercepted a crotch shot Weiner inadvertently had made public. In 2012 he became founding chairman of Government Accountability Institute, a nonpartisan research organization staffed with lawyers, data scientists, and forensic investigators that helped bring about the 'Clinton Cash' uproar.

The focus is on providing rigorous, fact-based indictments against major politicians, then partnering with mainstream media outlets conservatives typically despise to disseminate those findings to the broadest audience. Bannon had previously learned that building stories on facts motivated professional investigative reporters, even though they might have been personally liberal. Their access to the liberal New York Times and Washington Post was seen as invaluable by Bannon. Prior conservative efforts to impugn Hillary (eg. House Oversight Chairman Dan Burton's portrayal of Vince Foster's 1993 suicide as a murder) were seen as killing conservatives' credibility and influence. GAI published an e-book 'Bush Bucks: How Public Service and Corporations Helped Made Jeb Rich' oo- Florida land deals, corporate board sinecures, and a seven-figure salary with Lehman Brothers. (He'd raked in nearly \$30 million in the eight years after leaving the governor's mansion.) In 1990, Bannon and a couple of Goldman colleagues launched Bannon & Co., an investment bank specializing in media. They used VHSs cassette sales and TV ratings to value intellectual property. Then, while serving as the go-between Westinghouse (seeking to unload Castle Rock Entertainment) and Ted Turner, Bannon took an ownership stake in five shows, including Seinfeld. .Hillary added to her problems by refusing to list foreign donors, or release her Wall Street speeches. Various people had been attacking the Clinton's for years, with limited success - Bannon's secret was sticking to what could be documented, and avoiding unnamed sources. Turns out that the set of characters donating to the Clinton Foundation was nothing one would want publicized. When Trump ran into the problem with his off-color comments about women, Bannon countered by having Bill Clinton's former rape accusers sit on the stage with Trump during a rally. Green ends by posing his sense of why Trump has had so many problems as President: 1) Trump assumed that Congress needed him; in fact, they have their own constituencies. 2) He ran against Republicans in general, Wall Street, and Paul Ryan - then adopted their agendas. 3) His 'agenda' is constantly changing.

I could not put this down--the characters, the humor, the intensity. If you still don't understand how Trump became president against all odds, simply read this book. You may not like the folks you meet in Joshua Green's epic, but you will not soon forget them.

Devil's Bargain is a quick and fascinating read. It is really refreshing as you do not get the sense of a bias from Green as he writes really objectively. This is probably why Bannon has agreed to give him unprecedented access and interviews over the years (As well as his ability to write very, very well). Green reports events without injecting an opinion and he does it in a way that helped me

answer a lot of lingering questions I had about the election. Also Green introduces many new nuggets of "behind the scenes" information that were previously unreported by the media. I could not put this book down. Regardless of your political affiliation I highly recommend this read as it will change your perspective on the events that transpired, especially as it relates to Trump's decision making as he clearly knew what he was doing in hiring Bannon and he pulled off an incredible upset that no one saw coming.

When I finished it, I felt a bit like I was waiting for more. Not thrilled with the presentation of the author in terms of style and the way these men formed a bond, but more I didn't feel it truly explained why or how Bannon targeted Trump to be his mouthpiece. If you know the emptiness of Trump, it's easy to understand how a cynical Bannon pushed all the right buttons to turn on his new toy, but there wasn't the insight and depth I expected. I finished with the feeling that Green rushed it to publication before enough facts were uncovered to tell the story. It's sort of like an appetizer. Now I'm ready to find something that probes deeper, and for that, I may have to wait until this whole Trump fiasco explodes.

Cogent, near-term history and a step beyond daily or investigative journalism - and scary-as-hell to read a few days after Steve Bannon's dismissal from the White House staff.

Mr. Green points out exactly what Trump's ambition is: not to lead our nation, but to rule our nation. The Washington Post predicted Trump to be a unique threat to American Democracy and that is evidently a truism as the days pass.

This is a wonderful book, which I have read and turned over to my landlord so he can read it. I am no great fan of either Trump or of Bannon or any of the people in their circle, but I do like to read about what goes into their administration.

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