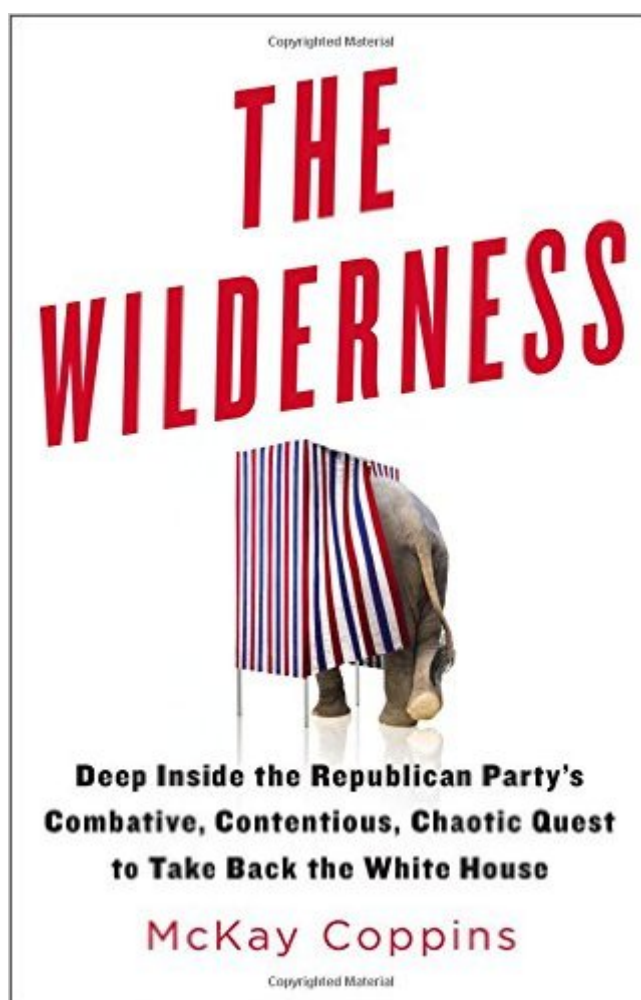


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# The Wilderness: Deep Inside The Republican Party's Combative, Contentious, Chaotic Quest To Take Back The White House



## Synopsis

The explosive story of the Republican Party's intensely dramatic and fractious efforts to find its way back to unity and national dominance. After the 2012 election, the GOP was in the wilderness. Lost and in disarray. And doggedly determined to do whatever it took to get back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. McKay Coppins has had unparalleled access to Republican presidential candidates, power brokers, lawmakers, and Tea Party leaders. Based on more than 300 interviews, *The Wilderness* is the book that opens up the party like never before: the deep passions, larger-than-life personalities, and dagger-sharp power plays behind the scenes. In wildly colorful scenes, this exclusive look into the Republican Party at a pivotal moment in its history follows a cast of its rising stars, establishment figures, and loudmouthed insurgents--Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Paul Ryan, Donald Trump, Scott Walker, and dozens of others--as they battle over the future of the party and its path to the presidency.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had looked forward to this book since seeing the author on Morning Joe. I got up this morning knowing it would be waiting on my Kindle.....I have spent the entire day reading. Very hard to put down! It is very well written. Obviously well researched. Most of all, after working on Republican campaigns for decades from 1968-2008, I thought I knew quite a lot. My big , perhaps, disappointment was not the book, but discovering some of my favorites do indeed have feet of

clay.....and that much of that clay is being sculpted by others in the party. Sad that I have only one more day of reading! I feel like I am really educated now about these men and the Republican party.

Couldn't put this book down once we received it. Both my husband and I are avid students of politics. We love books like *Game Change*, *Double Down*, etc. This lived up to our expectations. It was every bit as well-written, well-researched, and entertaining as our favorite political books. For anyone interested in an insider look at the current state of the Republican Party, this book couldn't be better. Definitely a big recommend from us.

I didn't know quite what to expect when I opened this book to begin reading, but I have been so pleasantly surprised by the manner with which Coppins tells his stories. *The Wilderness* is both entertaining and insightful, a perfect blend of fact and narrative. I would not only recommend this read to political junkies (conservatives and liberals alike) but also to those seeking a well told, well written, well researched page-turner.

Forget the nightly back and forth on cable, the real news is here. McKay Coppins' deep dive into the 2016 Republican field reveals more in a few hundred pages than months of campaigning has. Most of all, he shows - with clear-eyed sympathy - just how strange and how driven these men are. Weirdly, I ended up more kindly disposed towards the candidates - they're very human, as it turns out. And the image of Ted Cruz sitting in a dorm playing *Sonic The Hedgehog* will stay with me for a long time. Coppins is an engaging writer, and while the book is filled with inside dope, you never get the feeling that the point of the book is the new stuff he's learned - Coppins doesn't show off. He wears his reporting chops lightly, and let me echo what others have noted; he does not condescend. It's easy for reporters to make fun of the modern day Republican party and conservative movement and the people in it. It's much harder to listen to those folks carefully, write about them well, and with respect. He succeeds on all counts.

Can all this be true? This book dishes out all sorts of information on most of the 2016 Republican candidates. Most notably missing is any background on Dr. Ben Carson. But all in all I enjoyed reading this book. Obviously you need to be an egomaniac to run for President. And boy do these people have egos. But what I found most interesting is all the tidbits of things the candidates probably don't want the rest of us to know about them. For example, how Jeb Bush hired all the consultants he could and more than he needed, just to prevent his competitors from hiring them.

And how Trump had to hire paid extras to fill in the crowd when he announced his candidacy. I am not sure this book will stand the test of time but with is sure a fun read right now.

McKay Coppins did some terrific reporting for *The Wilderness*. It is an excellent look at some of the top men of the 2016 GOP: Bobby Jindal, Ted Cruz, Paul Ryan, Rand Paul, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, etc. Coppins did his homework and his reporting did an excellent job of shedding light on their personalities (Paul Ryan is the only one who comes off well). But this book needed one of two things: either it needed to be a 700 page book like R.B. Cramer's *What It Takes* and really go in-depth with each man OR it needed a real narrative. As it is, it reads like a series of vignettes, like Coppins created a compilation of his 2016 stories for BuzzFeed and slapped a cover on it. Coppins is an excellent reporter and I suspect that if he waited until 2017 to write this book, he could have written the definitive book about the race for the GOP nomination. By getting the book out now, Coppins' book reads like a first draft and not an especially engaging one.

The title says it all. It's easy to get lost in (and bored with) the wilderness of politics, particularly when trying to keep up with the characters who have thrown their hats into the ring to become the next POTUS. Within the first few pages of his book, Coppins captivates my attention and rejuvenates my interest in the very important quest to elect the best next leader of our great country. I very much appreciate the author's candor, research, and writing style. Well done. Educate yourselves America... read this book.

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