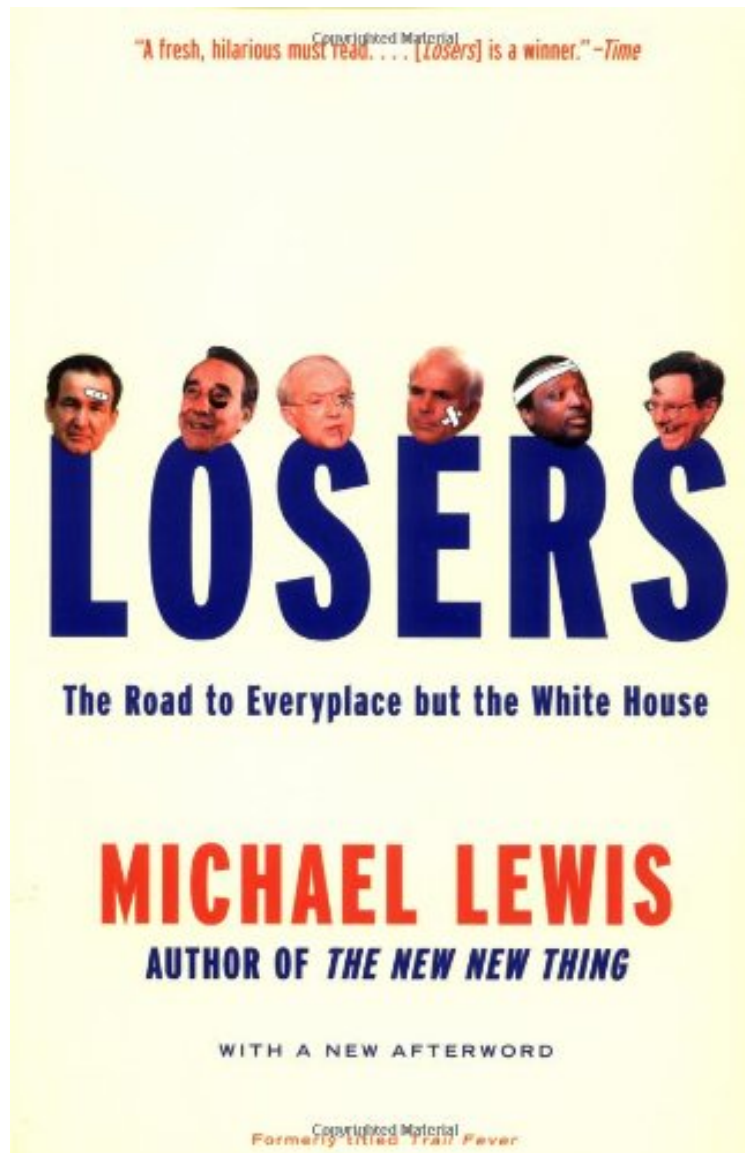


(Mobile book) Losers: The Road to Everyplace but the White House

## Losers: The Road to Everyplace but the White House

*Michael Lewis*

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#597677 in Books Random House Inc 1998-07-28 1998-07-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .90 x 5.20l, .62 #File Name: 0679768092324 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Michael Lewis : Losers: The Road to Everyplace but the White House** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Losers: The Road to Everyplace but the White House:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. an exceptional book on the 1996 Presidential primaries and general election By Frank L. Greenagel III If you liked Game Change, Double Down and/or Primary Colors, you will find this to be a fascinating look into Presidential campaign politics. Game Change (2008), Double Down (2012), and Primary

Colors (a fictionalized 1992) all showed the behind-the-scenes action, conflicts, and non-TV ready quotes of their respective races. Those books were all best sellers and wildly reviewed, praised and discussed. Mr. Lewis wrote this book about the 1996 Republican primary and general election. Clinton won in a rout, partly by moving to the right and taking away much of the GOP's positions. Combined with a robust economy, peace and general world stability, the '96 election was met with a terrible amount of voter apathy. Mr. Lewis also suggests that both Dole and Clinton were both very stale politicians in 1996, mostly because they (a) trusted TV ads to communicate to the public over meeting them in person (b) allowed consultants and "hired strangers" to advise them, polish them, neuter them and shield them from the public (c) agreed on major issues (Clinton's move right) and disagreed on only very wonky, minor details. Despite the boring nature of the two major candidates, Mr. Lewis wrote a riveting book that is far more fascinating 21 years later. Mr. Lewis wrote a great deal about Pat Buchanan's populist campaign (which partly predicted the rise of Trump), as well as Steve Forbes's awkwardness, and Keyes's intensity. The two major stars of the story are Morry Taylor (a self made tire magnant who like Buchanan, also predicts the rise of Trump) and John McCain, who comes across to Lewis as an amazingly refreshing and honest politician. An incredibly number of political figures that dominate the next 20 years appear here, as well as a number who were quite significant in 2016 (John Kasich makes an appearance, as does Al Franken). Lewis interviews losers of Presidential races as well, and their stories are quite interesting (McGovern, Dukakis). If you like Presidential politics, you will love this. Beyond belief. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful book on politics Michael Lewis style. By ADI accidentally read Liar's Poker a few years back and realized Lewis is pretty good story teller and kept reading his later books, big short and boomerang and then decided should read all his books out of admiration for his writing skill and decided if I don't gain any new insights I sure will be entertained. I must say he didn't disappoint at all. He is in a category of his own considering the breath of subjects he has covered in his writing granted he wrote all the books after Liar's Poker from a journalistic view point but still I admire his ability to cover such breath of subjects and his ability to get motivated and tell story from a vantage point which most talking heads miss out. Losers, with 2012 election looming decided I must read this to get that different vantage point and see what he saw. I am sure all the books he has written involved lot of work but somehow I feel this one he must have spent lot of time and I would imagine it being an exhausting endeavor considering politics can get way more personal than, bonds and Internet start ups. Well it's a book by Michael Lewis I think that alone warrants a reading. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It's even better after 2008. By Don McGowan You can't review a product without, a little bit, reviewing yourself at the same time. If you've read 20 books in the same genre you're not just reviewing the one, you're reviewing it in context of the others. I give that digression to introduce that I bought this book and read it in October 2008. This was the very end of the election campaign. As you'll see from other reviewers, Lewis spends a fair amount of the book talking about one Republican who wasn't afraid to speak his mind: John McCain. One of the central thrusts of this book is that the mainline candidates couldn't say anything interesting or controversial because you can't say anything interesting or controversial if you want to win a nomination or an election. That's why he stays with the "Losers" - because to Lewis' mind one reason they can't win is they say what they think, and that makes them more interesting as a result. Lewis' McCain says what he thinks, and Lewis respects him for it. This book therefore provided an interesting bit of longitudinal analysis of the life and political career of John McCain. I won't get into a discussion of whether McCain stayed "true to himself" during the election - some say he did, some say he didn't, and what does that matter anyway for this. I'll say that if you read this book, you'll look back at the 2008 election in a whole new light. Not a bad feat for a book written 12 years before.

Michael Lewis is a master at dissecting the absurd: after skewering Wall Street in his national bestseller *Liar's Poker*, he packed his mighty pen and set out on the 1996 campaign trail. As he follows the men who aspire to the Oval Office, Lewis discovers an absurd mix of bravery and backpedaling, heroic possibility and mealy-mouthed sound bytes, and a process so ridiculous and unsavory that it leaves him wondering if everyone involved—from the journalists to the candidates to the people who voted—isn't ultimately a loser. The contenders: Pat Buchanan: becomes the first politician ever to choose a black hat over a white one. Phil Gramm: spends twenty million dollars to convince voters of his fiscal responsibility. John McCain: makes the fatal mistake of actually speaking his mind. Alan Keyes: checks out of a New Hampshire hotel and tells the manager another candidate will be paying his bill. Steve Forbes: refuses to answer questions about his father's motorcycles. Bob Dole: marches through the campaign without ever seeming to care. *Losers* is a wickedly funny, unflinching look at how America really goes about choosing a President.

.com Michael Lewis, the author of *Liar's Poker*, which Tom Wolfe called "the funniest book on Wall Street I have ever read," now turns his eye to the peculiar method Americans use to choose their president. Beginning with the 1996 New Hampshire primary, Lewis tagged along with players both major and minor. Keeping his eyes open to the nuances of how campaigns are so carefully managed today, Lewis is able to make some insightful, damning, and often hysterically funny observations. The reporting technique is eccentric--who else would spend so much time with Morry Taylor, a rich man who ran for president in what amounted to a vanity campaign--but it works. Lewis has written a very good book that could be shelved under both humor and public affairs. From Library Journal Journalist Lewis's

(Liar's Poker, LJ 9/1/89) chronicle of the 1996 presidential campaign examines the battle for the Republican Party nomination and the following general election. It differs from most campaign books in that its perspective is "from the bottom of the political food chain." Lewis argues that the leading candidates were so preoccupied with risk avoidance that they failed to address important concerns of the electorate. This meant that to the extent such matters were addressed at all, it was by the lesser candidates. Therefore, Lewis devotes more attention to such minor Republican candidates as Alan Keyes and Morry Taylor and to Green Party candidate Ralph Nader than to Clinton and Dole. His book is not comprehensive, but it provides a frequently humorous and occasionally insightful look into contemporary electoral politics for lay readers. Thomas H. Ferrell, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Tired of the conventional campaign postmortem cranked out by the likes of Elizabeth Drew or Bob Woodward? Lewis criticizes their sort of books for taking a top-down view of campaigns and politics, so he adopts a from-the-fringe perspective on the 1996 presidential extravaganza. Because the only question in doubt was who would lose to Clinton, Lewis started out following the Republicans, most closely the candidates without even the proverbial snowball's chance: Morry "the Grizz" Taylor and Alan Keyes. Something about their amateurishness (Taylor) or intense moralizing (Keyes) attracted Lewis, not to mention their disdain for hired political pros--the "rented strangers" of the subtitle. Lewis dislikes the artifice of PR-and poll-propelled politicians, and his antic journal is largely a poking at the thick protection that overlays most serious candidates, as well as a pricking of the pomposity of the bigfoot journalists who tail them. Vignettes, all telling and pointed, are the name of Lewis' game, and they unroll from Iowa to New Hampshire to San Diego to Chicago in a rich, sardonic sequence that easily makes this the most fun campaign book since Richard Ben Cramer's *What It Takes* (1992). The innumerable acid asides give Lewis' story a delightful digging tone that captures the zaniness, phoniness, and earnestness of a process that, in the end, was a battle for 17 percent: that, believe it or not, was the percentage of all eligible voters who voted for the 1996 winner. Gilbert Taylor