

Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72 Study Guide

**Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72 by
Hunter S. Thompson**

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Contents

Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72 Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Introduction, December & January.....	4
Chapter 2, January, February, into March.....	5
Chapter 3, February & March.....	6
Chapter 4, April.....	7
Chapter 5, May.....	8
Chapter 6, June.....	9
Chapter 7, July.....	10
Chapter 8, August.....	11
Chapter 9, September.....	12
Chapter 10, October.....	13
Chapter 11, November.....	14
Chapter 12, November Continued.....	15
Chapter 13, November Continued.....	16
Chapter 14, November Concluded.....	17
Epilogue.....	18
Characters.....	19
Objects/Places.....	23
Themes.....	26
Style.....	29
Quotes.....	32
Topics for Discussion.....	34

Plot Summary

This is an account written by a journalist. Hunter S. Thompson managed to make a name for himself as a successful journalist despite what could have been an almost crippling handicap - his intimacy with "counter culture." Instead, he managed to make the unruly aspects of his nature and behavior an asset within the field of journalism. This man made himself famous by writing a book based on his experiences with one of USA's most prevalent criminal organizations - the Hell's Angels. The man is a journalist: he could not spend too much time with them. At the same time, he somehow managed to keep up with the others. He made himself famous with *Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas* and through writing for *Rolling Stone* magazine. Many "sins" which might have gone unforgiven were rapidly excused if only because, well, "It's rock-n-roll."

Hunter introduces himself to readers as a bit of a misfit Hippie figure. He has imbibed the drug culture and has found himself caught between actual gentlemen and the rougher working class people. This comes in early in the book when he describes Washington D.C.. On his way there he picks up a pair of men who were stranded. While befriending them he discovers that not only would they like him to get intoxicated with them, but they begin to hack away at government officials and rail against the city of Washington D.C. and everyone in it. Then, when Hunter does get to D. C., he has a bizarre impression based too much in the truth that every adult in the city is either involved with the government or is a crook. He describes the condition of the go-betweens as rife with fear and trembling. This is almost thematic of conditions in American culture's lower socio-economic classes.

Luckily, Hunter S. Thompson is a doberman pincher type of man. It may not be fair to judge a man by his dogs, but everyone knows there is something about this sleek sensitive sort of guard dog. Vicious, but still able to claim ribbons at dog shows for their beauty, Thompson brings an extra doberman with him to D.C.. The book is a nonfiction account of an American political campaign of the early 1970s. He begins by supporting an underdog candidate who does very well in the end. Readers will delight or snicker when they read this highly subjective, openly-biased account of the people and events surrounding the campaign. The truth is, that's just the sort of information the author and target audience want.



Introduction, December & January

Introduction, December & January Summary and Analysis

The author provides a brief description of himself. It is not particularly flattering. Perhaps this is what makes it so great. People in power can feel that it is okay for them to look down on him and those who feel short of political, financial or social power readily identify. Those on the straight and narrow will see what a maniac he is. The first chapters of the book are: "The Author's Note" - in this Hunter S. Thompson describes himself as a freak of some kind. "December 1971" is next. During this section he readily admits to being prone to intoxication. In fact, at some point early on he explains that he has either stopped or drastically reduced his intake of drugs but is still getting drunk and smoking reefer. Even so, he explains to readers that to take someone who was getting high a lot and then making it so that he or she does not have consequences. The individual is affected and there may be some behavioral aberrations at times. He then explains his other main behavioral quirk. He normally writes the bulk of his work while under the intense pressure of deadlines. He observes that many of his peers do their work sooner and turn it in without the distress through which he puts himself.

January begins in this first chapter summary section but does not conclude until the next. Here he introduces readers to basic aspects of the political terrain. There is a youth vote. Politicians have a specific attitude towards this; in truth, it isn't that good. They were generally dismissive about the youth vote, as they figured that it would simply be divided up in like manner as the older vote. Hunter S. Thompson gives a schematic of the voting populace. So far, most of the time, the younger generation's voting habits followed the same course as those of the previous generation. For politicians, learning to seek the youth vote for themselves instead of assuming the parents would dictate the voting was actually a major change. In addition to the Youth Vote there is also "the Nigger vote". Thompson informs readers through anecdote of a vote that counts. "It was the people who voted for McCarthy in New Hampshire that beat Johnson...and it wasn't George Meany who got shot with Bobby Kennedy in Los Angeles; it was a renegade 'radical' organizer from the UAW," (p. 34). [Note to the editor: in this instance, the grammatically correct method was used. Otherwise I would have removed the ' around the word radical - please alert Mark and I if you want me to do it another way].

The author's style is evident. Readers who are already familiar with this author will recognize him immediately. Anyone who is reading his work for the first time will find the style to be clear, fresh and a bit strange. There is colorful language obviously based on his ability to work with Rolling Stone magazine.



Chapter 2, January, February, into March

Chapter 2, January, February, into March Summary and Analysis

Here, Hunter S. Thompson takes readers deeper into the reality of politics and American society. Part of this is his sense of social awkwardness when he runs into the fact that politicians, journalists and some of the working people don't mix well. While helping stranded strangers get their vehicle back on the road, his new friends cheerfully tell him of how much they despise politicians. Later, during January, he explains to readers that his attire wasn't right for the milieu. Journalists in Washington, D.C. dress, he writes, "like bank tellers," (p.42). There in his Levi denim trousers - blue jeans especially drunk or hung over, Hunter had the feeling of not fitting in. He had tried to feel at home with those men on the road. Now he was trying to fit in with the other journalists at the Capital.

During this section he admits to his affection for McCarthy. He describes it as a rather impersonal affection but very real somehow. He tells of something particularly difficult that happened to Gene McCarthy in Chicago, Illinois. It was so bad, Thompson writes, that for two weeks he could not even speak of it without starting to cry. Then again, if he weren't so emotional maybe he never would have been so drunk in the first place. Severely hung over, Hunter S. Thompson is famous for having made himself a journalistic reputation as the somehow acceptable bad boy- it is this class-mixing, this interbreeding of the educated and astute with the banal. Thompson writes that he made a lot of people angry with him for failing to remove his hat once. Not everyone would even understand this. Others would be angry because of how wrong it was of him to just leave his hat on. The author makes a career of working these class conflicts. Thompson represents features of the middle classes. He wants to become more sublime like a gentleman. At the same time, he loves where he comes from. He does not want to abandon the earthy workaday world.

When he gets there he meets with peers who respect his ability to get the job done but on other occasions he can feel the snickers of these same peers. Here is just facing the normal competition amongst journalists. He is just like them in that he wants to be taken seriously. How he seeks to get the best writing assignments comes up later on in the book.



Chapter 3, February & March

Chapter 3, February & March Summary and Analysis

Thompson acknowledges that his own biases show during this portion of the work. He reminds or informs readers that the Democratic Nomination campaign was harder than ordinary people might think, particularly when the murders are included. That's just one salient point where it is easier to not get worked up over it when you're not the one sticking your neck out there like the politicians are. In another important scene from this part of the book, Hunter describes a scene where Gene McCarthy goes to a factory at dawn and tries to shake hands with the factory workers who are leaving. "Shake hands with Senator McCarthy" they call this one. Thompson writes that it was a grim scene, as most of the workers just ignored the strange man with the weird behavior. Here and there, someone would be impressed, shake hands and determine to vote for him. What makes Thompson so charming is that his style of journalism makes the biases so clear that an objectivity that comes through is also plain. Hunter's writing is wonderful in both its blatant subjectivity and evident objectivity.

March begins with the author telling readers that Kennedy ghosts seem to be lingering over the current campaign. Thompson views one of the candidates as "running scared" but assures readers that the real reasons are not immediately present. They were going to need to see if they could bring a Kennedy into the campaign, probably Ted. They felt a Kennedy was needed if they wanted to consolidate the black vote. He was viewed as being able to win the city of Atlanta, even if he could not secure victory throughout Georgia unanimously. John Lindsay is the starring politician in this chapter. Hunter Thompson once again draws lines in the sand. Journalists view the most successful politicians with awe and respect, but the other politicians are condescended to as a pack of thieves and liars. Likewise, the politicians view the Press in a way the police departments are often viewed as nothing but a bunch of pigs, hungry for whatever news they can print regardless of its truth or falsity. Hunter doesn't really correct this opinion with his hang overs and his multitude of intentional snide remarks and frantic writing. He explains how he has some writing to do and a plane to catch, and which plane he catches will affect where he meets up with John Lindsay.



Chapter 4, April

Chapter 4, April Summary and Analysis

Hunter S Thompson describes for readers simple facets of exclusion and inclusion. He applies to become officially recognized as part of the Press for the federal government - the White House Press Corps. People scoff at this affront. Then he follows up on a similar application to be part of what he was - the Press. Again, he is mocked. It was pointed out to him that he wrote for Rolling Stone magazine, and however prestigious within its own realm, it was nothing but a music magazine and didn't have what it takes for White House Press Corps. He pursued this nevertheless.

Hunter's work style makes it so that, after a little while at an office, the others shoo him away, back to a hotel room where he can "behave that way and still get his work done." At about page 100 of the book, the author explains that Lindsay's campaign is at the same point that McCarthy's was at the same point in 1968. By April, this has come up twice. Thompson's reputation worsens when he is impersonated by a bully. Some man, literally wearing Hunter's ID tags, got drunk and openly belligerent. Only after he tormented other men did he get even more drunk and then began to hassle women. March takes on a deeper meaning when there are rumors that "10,000 naked hippies" intend to nonviolently arrive and be present at a political convention.

May begins with an impressively intense description. "One of my clearest memories of the Nebraska primary...sudden burst of song from a room...I had heard it before...A very frightening song under any circumstances - but especially frightening if you happen to be a politician...it is something like camping out in the North Woods and suddenly coming awake in your tent around midnight to the horrible snarling and screaming sounds of a Werewolf killing your guard dog somewhere out in the trees beyond the campfire" (p. 183).



Chapter 5, May

Chapter 5, May Summary and Analysis

This book is organized by months of the campaign trail. The author has selected colorful phrases to partially describe various moments of the journey. By May, readers have developed a sense for Hunter's style. The book also has a style of its own. During the chapters, little icons are used to separate once group of paragraphs from another. He uses diverse forms to do this. By this time in the campaign, Thompson has a sense of routine about the campaign and the politician with whom he is the most closely associated. The morning begins by attending one of the aforementioned meetings for shaking hands with factory workers - constituents. Then is the journey through traffic to a slaughterhouse where there is another meeting. After that, there is a visit to a home for the wealthy elderly. Hunter writes that they really do this on the campaign trail for 18 hours every day for a year and a half. He writes of George Wallace, who is more of a performer than a hand-shaker.

Thompson writes of boredom. Many of the journalists, himself included, are often bored. This manifests in diverse forms of fussiness. Thompson, having learned the campaign drill has grown bored with it and has begun to find it tiresome. He explains that those who have done the research have found that this method, of getting out there touring and shaking hands is really the only way to win the campaign. Many of the journalists complain about portions of their labors during such down time.

Hunter S. Thompson is working decades after both radio and television had began to make their marks on popular culture. However, he begins working before the era of the Internet and the extensive use of broadcasting that is available for people today. The most recent American election, which permitted Internet usage and early voting, and the further advances of television and TV united with the Internet cultural forces may have created a change in what is actually required for successful political campaigns.



Chapter 6, June

Chapter 6, June Summary and Analysis

June begins with Hunter commenting about writers. Readers who are writers will obviously feel differently about this from those who are not. He writes of a bizarre behavior that is symptomatic of a much greater problem: taking material from one's own work, to use it for another part of one's own work. Upon reflection this is the kind of thing that happens when someone is so hungry that he or she becomes "self-consuming," or else in the medical field when surgeons take parts from one location to use as skin grafts elsewhere on the same person. Both cases show that Hunter is probably on to something when he admits it may be a sign something is wrong.

Next, Hunter reports that drug use and abuse is being progressively uncovered as the campaign continues. The journalists succumb to a variety of artificial means of keeping themselves going. In truth, they may have just been goofing around or badly coping with how cooped up they have been. Hunter confesses that his toenails have been growing at an alarming rate. While interested mothers would inspect what he has been eating, the author is just mildly astounded that the whiskey he's been drinking has had this result. He gets into finding out how imperfect the others are as well. Readers sense a kind of self-gratification to his discovery that there are other members of the press popping pills a year into the campaign and the impact upon their lifestyle that this has had. Later, he recounts how a politician nonviolently kicked his butt by tricking him in an old fashioned, sordid way. Hunter was genuinely upset, but what does one expect? The author's experience shows something else. He is able to draw from realms of experience that readers imagine don't intersect. Here, their ways have crossed paths. He writes that after a year on the campaign trail, the journalists have been reduced to the same condition as he found the Hell's Angels in after two days at their Labor Day Picnic.



Chapter 7, July

Chapter 7, July Summary and Analysis

July begins with Hunter S. Thompson providing readers with an analysis of what makes George Wallace a successful politician. He declares that it is Wallace's ability to whip beer-drinking factory workers into a frenzy. The author also describes how this same man spoke to a ballroom crowd. Many people did not like hearing what Wallace had to say. Thompson then explains that Wallace was not doing what it may have at first appeared. He wasn't really directing his speech to those immediately present as much as they are inclined to believe. In reality, Wallace wanted to or by default did, pitch potential votes. "Pitch" in this context means that Wallace was targeting voters and had a goal in mind. In this regard, the term comes more from sales than from baseball and softball. There's still a big difference between an overhand pitch and an underhand one, but a pitch is a pitch nonetheless. This is one of the few terms specific to journalism that the author introduces to readers in the book.

He then expounds upon a few facts about Southern attitudes. Since the region really was largely settled by criminals, Hunter claims this shows today in how Southerners actually respect highly-accomplished con men when others do not. McGovern won the state of Wisconsin in the 1972 election trail Hunter is covering for Rolling Stone magazine. Earlier in the book Thompson used one analogy to describe politicians that still makes sense at this stage of the game and the book. He called politicians "tight ends" from American football. This is an important position, but it doesn't resemble the whole team. This unique metaphor may prove to be a better way of explaining the role of politicians in America than readers might imagine.

Later in the same chapter there is a brief letter exchange. Hunter calls another man a number of dirty names over the course of two paragraphs. He calls his colleague, and possibly even friend, a "filthy bastard," (p.324) and that's just for starters. Then there is an entire section titled "Dark Interlude." During this, it comes to light that Mr. Eagleton suffered bouts of depression for which he had been treated. He was hospitalized three times for the condition. McGovern uses this against Eagleton; there was probably fear that this would be used against Eagleton. Thompson explains that this shows that McGovern is a politician, since, the office actually received tremendous support for Mr. Eagleton, even knowing about his history. However, McGovern chose to suppress this information to secure a victory for himself. Thompson flaunts his abilities when he writes, "...the way to fit in here, you want to look like someone who just paid a scalper \$200 for a front row seat at the Johnny Carson show," (p. 340). Part of the problem here was that the politicians had not been entirely honest with one another in the first place.



Chapter 8, August

Chapter 8, August Summary and Analysis

The author describes convention events and then comments on his sense of déjà vu. After this, he pinpoints the memories that served as the precedent for his current moment. He makes his way through a demonstration during the campaign. There is a crowd, and the cops are armed for riot control. The situation was so bad that the police used noxious gasses to thwart the mob. The police, like most disciplinarians, are feared, respected and frowned upon with condescension. Thompson writes of how he was able to find a way to clear the gas from his burning eyes. When he got it back together and looked around he made another important observation. He noticed that the cops loitering around hadn't really helped him. Then he recalls how in the city where he first experienced something like this they would probably have beaten him so badly he would have needed to be hospitalized. The cause in both cases was the same. He was a member of the Press at a demonstration during a political campaign. He notes that these events in Miami, Florida were mild by comparison. He also observed that most of the similarities between demonstrations were mainly found on the surface. What had brought this on might not have been the same. This thing about being left to wash the gas from his eyes instead of being trounced for being part of the Press made a big difference.

During this chapter the fact that Frank Mankiewicz might not conform to presumptions is furthered. Here again, the reader's own background has a major effect upon his or her own interpretation of Frank's behavior. For being a nonviolent gentleman, Frank gets rough sometimes. In fact, in this chapter, Frank assaults Hunter S. Thompson. There is an entire portion of the chapter devoted to how another man works through this scene. Hunter describes how he is writing "with his one remaining good eye." His comrade, out to deescalate the situation, points out that they should probably go. In fact, they discuss the best way to handle the situation and size up this politician. Frank, they conclude, will come back around for another try to pulverize the journalist unless they get out of there. As a consequence, they remove themselves. Those who fight, or who's Dad's were fighters won't find this odd. For the gentlemen and the ladies, however, it turns out our politician was "tougher than readers might have thought...Sorry, thought that white collar man was either a gentleman, a coward or a pansy, but I guess not."



Chapter 9, September

Chapter 9, September Summary and Analysis

The author brings readers into contact with another aspect of reality. In this case, it is the use of professional speech writers in politics. For some, this is a means of enhancing their performance. For others, this just shows how far gone politics is. This is just how much politics is actually theater, masquerading now as if it were still real life unless being "honest artwork" like they make in Hollywood. Hunter S. Thompson informs readers that if McGovern had had a superior speech writer, McGovern would be doing much better in the polls in September 1972. The wild journalist then compares Sitting Bull to the current situation in 1972. Ultimately, Hunter concludes that Sitting Bull would support McGovern. Thompson then writes about a change in America. He refers to "the American Dream" - which is essentially a middle-class dream. The secret, by the way, is that laws make or break the middle-class. This vital information has been swept under the carpet and so the shrinking middle class has been erroneously blamed on everything but public policy, which is the real demon. Thompson writes about "fallout" from the American Dream, and begins to rant about how in the 1972 election, "...we seem to be ratifying the fallout and forgetting the dream itself" (p. 394).

At this juncture, there are only two months left on the campaign trail, and the journalist writes from a beleaguered condition. He indicates here that he foresees McGovern is going to lose and it is going to be another 4 years of Richard Nixon, like it or not. Then he brings up something that may or may not touch nerves. He writes about something Bobby Kennedy happened to say about Richard Nixon just a few weeks before Kennedy was murdered. "Richard Nixon represents the dark side of the American spirit" (p. 397). This statement is quoted from Hunter S. Thompson and not from newspapers or copies of the speechwriter who came up with this zinger. There is a major breakthrough at this point. Hunter Thompson is finally granted Presidential Press Corps status. Thompson explains that Nixon did not do well with the press. In fact, he recounts an anecdote about how Nixon told the press off in no uncertain terms and without remorse in 1962. Thompson next shows how that led to Ron Ziegler. Ron Ziegler was a 33 year old trained for this position by having worked as a PR man. Ron's job was to run interference - to make sure that the press only ever reached as far as him.



Chapter 10, October

Chapter 10, October Summary and Analysis

Hunter S. Thompson writes from a bleak position in this extremely brief, 3-page chapter. He feels his man is a goner, and he knows who is going to win. He writes about what he plans to do on election day, which is vote and hide. There is a sense in which no one can blame him. Having lost his morale but not his commitment to his values, this is where he is left. Thompson then paints a brief picture of Nixon and McGovern. He writes that their differences are well described in terms of the ancient Yin / Yang symbolism. The yin is the more subtle, perhaps dark; whereas, the yang is typically the more forthright and direct. Often these forces complement one another. In extreme cases, this could be said to demarcate the brute from the liar. The liar fears the brute and turns to ways governed by "yin." The more direct person is prone to represent the yang. Violence and deceit are not always so married or opposed to one another, but this relationship of yielding and subtlety as the emptiness created to dodge the thrown fist does characterize the difference perfectly.

McGovern is the one Bobby Kennedy had called "...the most decent man in the Senate," (p. 417). Readers of today may get flashbacks to Bob Dole, whose name for some reason, travels through the nation like a whisper...like the sensitivity to justice among school children who feel they are living under repressive conditions at school. McGovern should really win, shouldn't he? Then why is there such a problem with it, people wonder. Thompson doesn't ever quite explain what really happened. He admits that somehow, the Nixon people made great strides. In fact, he writes that somehow, Richard Nixon was coming to be viewed as some kind of a folk hero. Thompson raises Nixon to this level but insists that it isn't his own writing that is doing it. The fact of the time of this chapter - October of 1972, is that Richard Nixon is riding a wave of public popularity. This, according to Thompson, is unprecedented. The Rolling Stone magazine journalist draws this short chapter to a close. He is suspicious of the Nixon people. He attributes Nixon's success to what he calls "Nazi-moves" taking place within the closed circle of his organization. For readers, this American use of the term "Nazi" is known to be at times frighteningly close to the truth. At the same time, there is a good fifty percent chance that the term has been used as a high speed unit of propaganda, what contemporary readers would call a "sound byte of propaganda" .



Chapter 11, November

Chapter 11, November Summary and Analysis

The chapter's subheadings are included at the top of this chapter. They are typical of Hunter S. Thompson in that they are phrases, emotional, dramatic incomplete sentences. "At the Midnight Hour...Stoned on the Zoo Plane; Stomped in Sioux Falls," (p. 419). This chapter runs from page 419 to 458. This makes it more typical of the chapter lengths found in this book. There are a few photographs in this chapter in addition to the miniature icons that continue to be used to separate one piece from another. Hunter continues to act as a "rock-n-roll emissary" into the political arena. His writing style, while ill-fitted to the Times effectively causes otherwise disinterested parties to be willing to read about politics. At the very least, they feel they are able to learn about this from one of their own. The most salient point about this first section is how Hunter points out that some of the basic rules for passengers are being broken. Some of them have been broken beyond repair. The author is intoxicated, combining marijuana with whiskey, which tells readers a lot about his biology since a lot of people cannot take this combination. His behavior at first seems terribly out of place. Then, he suddenly reveals that everyone except those driving and the flight attendants are acting like this on the aircraft. They probably only broke the rules to get a thrill; after all, these are journalists, not 'gator wrestlers. If they were the latter, they would have had far more thrills without needing to get drunk and be out of their seats during the lift-off of an aircraft. This is a portrait of "rebellion amongst the docile".. It isn't exactly white water rafting.

There is a real problem. In November, the author actually collapsed into seizures. Fortunately, he was checked out by physicians. There is an Editor's Note on page 422. Obviously, there was great pressure to actually get the work done. To give it added flavor this is capitalized, "The Work", (p. 422). They had contract agreements. They had a schedule that was in some ways grueling but in other ways dull. The bouts of intoxication mainly to either alleviate the boredom or to make them feel somehow wild despite the sanctity of their inhibitions, may have helped part of the time and yet were the cause of a lot of the trouble. As a direct result of this, the rest of the book is done in the form of a conversation or at times a monologue. This is obviously out of the ordinary, but then again, the whole mystique of Hunter S. Thompson is precisely that: he is out of the ordinary.



Chapter 12, November Continued

Chapter 12, November Continued Summary and Analysis

The new dialogue format is presented next. Here, the author embarks on another important differentiation. This case is about the two aircraft that go along with the political campaign. This has bifurcated the attendant personnel. One of the airplanes carries the reserve personnel. Thompson explains that when things get intense, these people grow increasingly self-contained and uncommunicative. The name of this aircraft is the Dakota Queen II. Thompson describes them as having won the reputation as being "serious people...responsible journalists" (p. 424).

Meanwhile, Thompson explains how the atmosphere on the Zoo Plane suited him better. He described it as having been more comfortable. People were more relaxed, rude, intoxicated, willing to fight over their seats and to smoke during take off. He writes that, "...the atmosphere on the Zoo Plane became crazier and crazier as the atmosphere on the Dakota Queen became more reserved and more somber" (p. 424).

After freely admitting to the presence of multiple types of illegal drugs on the Zoo Plane, Thompson goes on to explain that there were only Press on board. Ed asks him about McGovern politicians and Hunter reveals a surprising, hard truth. There were a few who tried to get on the Zoo plane, but the journalists would not let them. He reiterates the way that those on board would stake a claim to a certain seat and were willing to "get weird" to hold their place. This added to barring the actual political personnel from staying with them. Such personnel were forced onto the reserved aircraft regardless of their wishes. For these people, being on the Dakota Queen 2 was a type of disappointment.



Chapter 13, November Continued

Chapter 13, November Continued Summary and Analysis

Later in the chapter, Thompson discusses the difference between perception and reality. Hunter writes that there has been a major transformation in American politics from an ethos of "charisma" to a new one: the ethos of "perception and reality." This is based on a fact. Americans had become aware of the use of deceit within politics. Deception is a strange creature. One moment this is nothing more than a harmless way of keeping the peace within a marriage or a family, but the next is it the very means that villainy and injustice are committed. Deceit is also used to manage strong disagreements by individuals within intimacy, family, community, and society at large. Hunter describes this new contrast as being more than "deceit versus honesty." It also involves the simple or convoluted distinctions between how someone is and how that same person comes across. The way they come across is how they are perceived. Seeing as this is what really controls the voting it is of the utmost importance. The reality typically cannot be conveyed in its completeness nor in its totality. At the same time, individuals, politicians included, can give out reality. In purely psycho-social terms, this is the individual's truth. The politicians of 1972 had some of the same basic issues as those of 2009. Americans want leaders based upon each American's own reality, but Thompson wrote just as the tendencies of dishonesty within politics was cresting the wave of denial by the public and recognition. The mass scale disillusionment that followed has been a matter that American politicians today have had no choice but to confront. Thompson writes of this in terms of the McGovern campaign.

Mainly he focuses on the way Mankowicz and Eagleton come across. He writes that part of the problem was that too much of the voting public sensed some kind of strange dichotomy between the way Frank Mankowicz comes across and what he is really like. Eagleton, Hunter explains to Ed, had not disclosed to Frank or to McGovern any more than he had to the general public. Others had asked him for records of his mental health care and treatment, but he had refused to deliver them. Obviously, he was aware they might be a problem. Finally, he explains that because of the reality, the perception of McGovern was apt to be changed. The alteration was not to everyone's benefit. McGovern had brought in a man who was actually quite questionable. It was not even the mental illness that most bothered the population, although it did trouble McGovern. It was that it came out that Eagleton was "an opportunistic liar," (p. 432). This is a case where the truth was found out "too late" and "too soon." The problem was that McGovern lost more faith in Eagleton than the public. This devastated the campaign.



Chapter 14, November Concluded

Chapter 14, November Concluded Summary and Analysis

Hunter S Thompson continues the dialogue with Ed. As previously alluded to, Ed mainly participates by asking questions. His manner is that of an interviewer; this is not an interrogation. Hunter answers the majority of questions in a straight forward manner, but in other cases he wriggles under the pressure. When he tells of how the woman reporter would get doubly intoxicated on alcohol and marijuana - she might argue that this was simply an adult form of being high on sugar and caffeine at the same time "boing, boing boing," she tore the clothes of the aircraft pilot more than once. He did not mind, and luckily, this did not endanger the flight. Despite the raucous behavior, no one in his or her right mind could deny the pleasure of this sense of being wanted and of belonging. In terms of analysis, it is fair to call it a "rock-n-roll journey politick." The journalist has kindly done the audience the necessity of honesty. Those who like things to look right even when they're not will not be comfortable with this. Thompson, the editors and publishers have simply prevented the problem that a lie would have caused here by explaining what happened with the Editor's Note.

Thompson does talk politics, but this is tempered by the reality of his other behavior. While some feel it lightens things up with a party atmosphere, some will just feel the whole series of events have been blurred and confused by this. The truth is that, the people who feel that way will read about politics by people who worked sober. For the others, there will be a sense of gratitude and the familiarity will be comforting. The readers of Rolling Stone Magazine will get what they want. A mixture of the real thing, with all the partisan ranting and joint wagging and rock-n-roll they had hoped for. McGovern's schedule for election day, November 7, is included in the book. Everyone needed to get up in the morning and head out to a voting location on shuttle buses. Afterward, they trekked across town to liaison with a local university. There were speeches made for the students of a couple of schools. After that was some more travel, then a meeting with the professional press. Later, the next place to sleep was found. The chapter on November ends with a poem. It is called "Be Angry at the Sun" and has 5 stanzas. The structure is fairly unusual, in terms of page layout. It is written by Robinson Jeffers.

Epilogue

Epilogue Summary and Analysis

There is a new plot being hatched. While flying on a plane Hunter reveals that he has the audacity to run for public office. In fact, he is going to run for the Senate. There is more to this, as the pilot gets the drift that Thompson wants Frank to run his campaign. That's right, the same Frank that came up earlier. The one that can be driven to blows; in fact, he has attacked Hunter in the past. "Frank was McGovern's political director" (p. 462).

The other dramatic point of realism is that in 1972 it cost \$5000 to keep an orderly political campaign moving forward - this includes all the Secret Service agents and the whole so-called nine yards. At this point Hunter S Thompson is the National Affairs Editor for Rolling Stone Magazine. Once readers are informed of this, the journalist moves into an interview with Senator George McGovern. This gives the book the same dialogue format found earlier, but in this case, it is not because anyone has collapsed from exhaustion or neurosis. This conversation is followed by one that stars Ed from the previous chapter, along with Hunter, who's initials are used in place of the full name.

There is an Epitaph to this book. It begins as Richard "Tricky Dick" Nixon is inaugurated for a second term in office with an unprecedented tide of public support. Though it is to the chagrin of the liberals, its still the truth. Elsewhere, the author has written of the "pendulum swing" in American politics. Not unlike the way the divergent branches of government are designed to correct one another, it is also true that too far left, and too far right tend to send American politics in the other direction, just like one of those metal balls hanging on a wire that do this same maneuver as an office toy. Suddenly, Hunter switches. He starts ranting about sports. He writes about intense drama amongst the spectators at the Super Bowl, with fans crying and fighting openly. The book concludes with the author getting into sports writing because that is the type of writing he can get that pays.



Characters

Hunter S. Thompson

This is the book's author. He is a grown man when he writes the book, but his age is not specified in a straightforward way. There are photographs of him in the edition of the book used to create the summary. He appears to be a middle-aged man as he is already suffering from balding. Hunter lives in Colorado. He travels a lot as part of his work.

Thompson has represented a portion of the American culture in a way that is quite popular. He has put the twentieth century into terms that may Americans like. While he does not accurately present the over all culture, he represents such a great mass of a subcultural strain that he has found a place of honor among the mainstream and the unconventional alike. Hunter S Thompson is also indicative of some cultural movements which moved from having been the nonconformist to "the new normal." In this sense, rock-n-roll has a perfect way of describing it: that new band, that hardly anyone had heard of, who only the weird kids listened to, has made it and become a huge hit. Much of Thompson's agenda has done just that during the decades that have followed his writings. Perhaps that is part of why he is so popular.

FEAR & LOATHING ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL '1972 is not the author's first book. In fact, he has also written one very much like this for a 1968 political campaign. While he does refer to some of his prior works in this book, Thompson does not go into any extensive details about his other books during this one.

George McGovern

At the beginning of the book he is the Democratic Presidential Candidate and a Senator. He has a reputation for honesty that is well known. He is a middle aged man and is viewed as the underdog in the political race. He uses a large staff to run the campaign. Thompson explains that the daily cost for the entire group of people is about \$5000 in 1972.

It is almost surprising how little becomes known about the candidate during the campaign. The journalist's shyness shows, during one episode rather late in the campaign. Thompson finds McGovern alone, which freaks him out. The reason is that he is used to dealing with the politician's entire entourage, the majority of whom are paid personnel.

McGovern runs into a problem when they discover too far into the campaign that there is a problem with his running mate. Information which his colleague had suppressed earlier is revealed. However, the campaign manager and McGovern are now both suspicious that there is more to the difficulty than has been revealed. One of the colleagues, who was a major player, has suffered from severe mental troubles but was



successfully treated. However, McGovern and his campaign manager think the reality is worse than what has been revealed. The real problem, however, is the man's dishonesty.

McGovern and his staff are not able to find a suitable replacement candidate. This is viewed as part of what makes McGovern lose the race. There is the suggestion that McGovern may have been willing to run the whole race knowing he might well lose it; nevertheless, he wanted to offer his services to the American people.

McGovern was willing to do much of the necessary work, pressing a lot of flesh and going to a number of places. Even so, he was very dependent on his support staff and relied upon his campaign managers and the rest of those brought together for the purposes of the campaign.

It is implied that George McGovern runs the entire campaign as the underdog. More than once it is revealed that he does not even necessarily expect to win. This willingness to run the race, even if he doubts that he will succeed is a special quality. It can be a frustrating one - everyone would prefer a candidate who will actually win. At the same time, if the team needs someone to do it, even if it results in failure at least he has the "Hutzpah" or whatever, to do so.

Gene McCarthy

This man is presently famous for an American peculiarity which has been named for him. This is the father of "McCarthyism." This was a mixture of a good thing and a bad thing for America. McCarthy is most famous for chasing down and weeding out Communism from the United States in the decades immediately following World War II.

However, there is another factor involved in this which relates more to the civil rights movements. Emancipation of the poor and of the minority races in the United States required a great deal of fighting. One of the challenges was workers' rights. Workers' rights and the civil rights movements were linked by Communism. This created a problem in that many of the nation's minority poor were able to find needed support from outside the country through the use of Communism and its ideas. There were also American forms of communism, which did not cause international links of the kind the American government feared the most.

McCarthy's campaign against American communism was sometimes misused by the nation to retract efforts to improve race relations. The problem with the attacks against communism was that it also was often simultaneously an assault against the American civil rights movements.

J. Edgar Hoover

This is the first Director of the American Federal Bureau of Investigations. Hoover was a white man who was probably inculcated with racial dominance as his norm to an extent



that was irreversible. There is no way to determine whether or not this was natural or the consequences of intense mental and cultural pressures. One of the main criticisms about him is that he was not supportive of the civil rights movement. This naturally makes him a man Thompson would be suspicious of at best.

Thompson mentions Hoover as a man sufficiently well known to not require any explanation of who he is. Thompson might well have been a mixture of supportive and antagonistic towards Hoover. Hoover was known to be quite effective in many ways, but was also shamefully inactive against the Mafia.

John Lindsay

This man is among those few who have a photograph in the book. He is a well known and popular Democrat. The picture of him is on page 99. When this book is written it is very early in Lindsay's political career. Thompson writes that he is one of the kind of people who could lead to Ted Kennedy getting elected. At the time this summary is written, Ted has been in office for Massachusetts for a couple of decades and he has consistent strong support for that role.

Shirley Chisolm

This woman is cited as a surprising leader in the chapter "February." Thompson is writing about a political caucus. Chisolm was on the ballot with 12 other people. Much of the politicking at this level is unknown to the majority of the populace. Here, Thompson writes that Chisolm was much stronger than anyone had predicted; in the area where she was known, she was victorious over Gene McCarthy. Thompson also writes that this was a poorly organized, rather spontaneous action. There is a photograph of this woman in the book.

Edmund Muskie

This is another politician. Hunter Thompson does not favor him, nor does he take him very seriously. "As for Muskie and his...silly train" (p.114). Muskie is mentioned beginning at the Caucus in the beginning of the book and intermittently for throughout much of the rest of the book. He is another American Democrat who was middle aged during the early 1970s.

Ted Kennedy

This is one of the Kennedy brothers who is still alive during the book. As a matter of fact, he has maintained the same political position that he held when Hunter Thompson wrote this book. He is one of the Democrats mentioned here and there during the book. Champion of the American civil rights movements, Ted is brought up as someone who



should be considered for an important role in the government by Thompson when Thompson is among others discussing serious politics.

Nixon

Also known to have been called "Tricky Dick," Nixon managed to achieve major advances by opening up trade with China. He is the opposition during the majority of the book. Thompson does not cover his campaign until close to the end, when it becomes clear that Nixon is going to win. Even Thompson was surprised by the enormity of the victory of Nixon. This politician is presently most famous for having opened up China, and infamous for what is called the Watergate scandal. He won by a landslide, though he later resigns the office amid the Watergate scandal. Thompson covers his campaign for the last two weeks leading up to the election.

Frank Mankiewicz

A political campaign manager for the McGovern campaign. He is known to have had prior experience and is viewed as apt to acquire more after it is all over. He is sometimes an ally and at times quite antagonistic towards Hunter Thompson. Hunter respects him, the way that someone respects someone who might beat them in a conflict. He appears throughout the book as an important man who is not typically in the spotlight.



Objects/Places

Billy club hash pipe

This is a bizarre piece of drug paraphernalia. It is described as being an item that Hunter Thompson owns. It is mentioned late in the book.

Miami

This is one location where there is an important political convention during the book. It is a city in the state of Florida.

Dakota Queen 2

This is an aircraft used by people associated with the political campaign. It is dedicated primarily to support staff, political organizers and to journalists. During the book, this aircraft is described as having been the right plane for the more reserved, sober portions of the staff. Thompson describes them as serious professionals. He describes them as in contrast to the Zoo Plane.

In their case, as conditions became more severe, they became quieter and quieter. On the other plane, the same circumstances made those passengers louder, more intoxicated, and rowdier.

Zoo Plane

This is also an aircraft used by people associated with the McGovern campaign for the American Presidential office in 1972. This was used mainly by members of the Press who were only along for the duration of the campaign. Journalists, not politicians, were the main passengers. The behavior was less professional. These were people who wanted to lighten up and to loosen up - to have a good time. The aircraft is mentioned numerous times as the proper location for Hunter Thompson.

CBS

This is one of America's main broadcasting networks. It is mentioned early in the book in the chapter April. He is pleased by the morning news when it appears in the book.

Typewriters

These are referred to many times. These are used extensively by professional writers, including the journalists referred to in this book. What makes typewriters most unusual



in this non-fiction work is where they turn up. There are 50 typewriters literally placed where they can actually be used on an aircraft during the McGovern political campaign. One can imagine the racket that is caused by the sound of over 20 journalists typing at once, but on an aircraft, the engine noise might drown out the clackety-clack.

Gentleman Journalists

This refers to a breed of press working in Washington, D.C. Thompson describes these people as finely dressed. They live in the suburbs and literally run scared between where they work on Capital Hill and their homes as the neighborhood immediately surrounding government headquarters in 1972 was particularly dangerous. Hunter obviously represents another breed of journalist. He is the so-called "wild and woolly" journalist.

Democratic Party

This is one of the main parties found in the United States. It is one of the oldest and largest political parties in the country. McGovern is a Democrat running for office in 1972 against Republican Richard Nixon.

Roots

In this case, roots means, the roots of problems. It is used within the political context in the case of the book. Late in the book, Egelton's dishonesty is determined as "the root" of the problems that this caused their political campaign.

TV

This is the television set, which is referred to many times in the book as it is a well known piece of technology of the era. TV, and its powers were only 20 - 30 years old at the time. Prior to 1940 these items were still fairly rare, so during the time of this book, 1972, America was really feeling the impact of the way this audio-visual medium can be used as part of political campaigns. It was not treated as a substitute for meeting the constituents live during this election campaign.

Motorcycles

These are mentioned in the book including the chapter written June. The Hell's Angels is to American "Biker Gangs" as the Mafia is to organized criminal organizations in general. Thompson actually writes about the Vincent Black Shadow motorcycle in this chapter. The reason the Hell's Angels and their motorcycles are even mentioned is because of the author's previous experience with them. He spent some time with them and wrote a book about his experiences.

Food table

A food table is mentioned in June. This same item comes up in some other places. In June it is especially relevant because the journalist Thompson comes upon McGovern when McGovern is alone at a food table and not surrounded by an entourage.

Themes

Rock-n-roll Journalism

The author wrote this book while working for Rolling Stone magazine. Rolling Stone is one of the most prominent and well respected magazines of its kind. Rolling Stone focuses on rock-n-roll. This music genre proclaims itself to have a unique ethos. There have been few popular studies to determine whether or not this is true. As such, there is a natural self-importance that goes along with rock-n-roll music: the fans really. The audience for this magazine is often but not always young. Entertainment and self-centered decision-making prevail among the readership. Journalism dedicated to the music industry targets a particular slice of the market. Another way of viewing it would be to write that this kind of magazine journalism targets a particular mood. Those who are young, on the cusp of their adult lives and just over it, can access the realm of the more experienced adults by reading the kinds of articles that a man like Hunter Thompson writes. This is the audience the author of the work was serving.

Thompson managed to make a pop-icon of himself. The readers are the kind of people who feel better knowing that the politicians are also real. McGovern really is an honest and gentle man. Early on, he admits that he isn't even sure he will win; he just knows that it matters that he is virtuous. Eagleton is a liar. Frank gets violent. Reporters on the Zoo Plane get high. Dakota Queen reporters don't. Politicians use speech writers. While this is also basic knowledge for beginners, it is also very much a real start. As such, Thompson is initiating the entertainment consumer into something as important and of mixed repute as politics. Thanks to this, young and middle aged rockers have insight into the real world of politics, just as he had shared insights into the also distant rock stars.

This book is one of "Fear & Loathing" series put out by Hunter S Thompson. Each of them is characterized by this same motif. "Gonzo journalism" or rock-n-roll journalism are two terms for the same thing. The news is still there, but it has been styled to serve the working class market. These people rock; parents probably get drunk sometimes. This is true even if they go to Church. Meanwhile, the author also shows the climb of people from the lower classes into the higher echelons. Overcoming being left out is and the jam between levels of social class are part of the driving forces behind this theme.

American Cultural Trends

America has over 200 years of history to draw from now. Compared with many of the world's nations this is still very little. Even so, the idea that this country has its own ways is a necessary belief. Naturally, America needs to have enough of a sense of identity to have a discernible culture. Once this is known, then subcategories within Americana can be further explored.



Thompson may not have been such a classic intentionally, but within the country he is a symbol for his generation. Parts of the society have tended more towards inclusiveness for women and for various races than others. To some degree intoxicants have a widespread grip on the American culture. They have influenced the culture in both above-board ways and they have also served as a form of relief to people who are often under significant stress in other ways. There is some sense in which much of the use of intoxication throughout American society is about the hard working sub-dominant people finding relief from their own hurt feelings with respect to how much they have no choice but to conform to the ruling classes, and to conventional attributes of the culture. Legal intoxication is the human version of the doggy treat for many adult Americans.

Some illegal drugs are associated with higher status; others are not. The legal use of alcohol in America can be viewed as a token indicator that reverence for the ancient Roman and Grecian deities Bacchus and Dionysus have their contemporary forms. The efforts to include and to exclude the black market trade in intoxicating substances and the funds related to them is a real element of American culture. Hunter S Thompson wrote before the current propaganda "the War on Drugs" but lived in a part of the culture that was often viewed as being on the other side. He brings up the issue but is able to put into the kind of context that can be offered here. For example, while one would hope that America and Mexico would trade legally; nearly half of Mexico's funding from the United States comes from drug money - the black market spending of Americans has been funding the cartels. This connection should be replaced by something legal, unless this undermining of the relatively leftist government can be correlated to this strange connection.

The other main trends that Hunter Thompson notes are matters of warfare: Vietnam. There is the disillusionment of the American people. Others would say Americans outgrew their own naivete: deceit has made its mark on politics. This is in part because of its use within the culture at large. Richard Nixon is referred to as another symbol of political trends. American businesses find new markets in Asia - readers of today see the impact of this every time they have the option to buy Chinese goods. American politics has continued to be an actual democracy governed primarily by an oligarchy of people rich enough to serve in these positions. They suffer from the resentments of the lower classes even though these are the people they often help. Everyone is partially blinded by the limitations of their own viewpoint - the conditions they live with constrain what they know and can do. Meanwhile, the higher classes continue to serve the common good in ways that include the creation and maintenance of business and industry within the country: something the short-sighted but busy workers often do not fully see or appreciate.

American Politics

This is a very general statement. Nevertheless it is quite true. The book is focused upon the Presidential Campaign of 1972. Election day is still November 7th. Much has changed. McGovern is the Democrat's underdog. This is the fellow Thompson follows the majority of the time. Senator McGovern is being touted on the basis of the same



virtues which a few years later caused Jimmy Carter to make into the Presidency - he's an honest man, and a good one. While these were well known characteristics of McGovern, there was doubt about his ability to win the race. For many in the society, one of the concerns was Viet Nam. This was hardly the only concern, but real gentle men may have a harder time attaining the top position than a leader who exudes more of a warrior's stance. Many readers will be well aware of how the time in history that Hunter is writing about has been echoed more recently as the expense and effort involved in managing the political changes in Iraq and Afghanistan has frustrated Americans. What began as a 6 week triumph has turned into a war lasting several years.

One of the basic factors that Thompson introduces to Americans is the reality that the two main parties really do have the bulk of the control in the US government. The other closely related truth, is that the shifts between Democrats and Republicans is mainly only a change on the surface. The difference is real. However, many of the players in the political arena know one another. Everyone is on the same team to some degree, even when they vehemently disagree. In other respects, the simple fact that they are all working in the same field also creates a sense of unity.

There are rules for how to run a legal political campaign. It is normal for their to be a mixture of volunteers and professionals. One of the things that causes the sameness is the structure. Thompson notes this through example when he decides to try to use the same campaign manager as McGovern. The author's male bias may be said to show when he makes this decision even though he has been violently assaulted by this very man.

This book is the story of a campaign that leads to defeat. It is sad in that respect. In another way it is not. Every good fighter knows the old saying, "Win some; lose some." Losing a battle fought for the right reasons, to support one's own values is no mistake. While it is more fun to win, politics is not horse racing. There is more to voting than trying to vote for whoever is going to win. As such, while Thompson's favorite did not win, he put his support where his values resided. This, in a man who's vices glow throughout the book, is one of Thompson's actual virtues. This is a quality that American's value throughout the political spectrum.

Style

Perspective

The perspective is that of a "rock-n-roll journalist." Hunter S. Thompson is a typical American male. He is a journalist and shows signs of wanting a career. He leans to the left politically. His date of birth is not given. There are photographs of him in the book. He seems to be a middle-aged man at the time during which he wrote the book. He is a middle aged man who is well into the development of his career. His work as a journalist has gone on long enough that he no longer refers much to times before that had happened.

The author is not actually always a Democrat. He has created or participated in a bizarre Freak Power Party. By the time that he writes this book, he has run for Sheriff for a county in Colorado. Colorado is the author's home state. By the tail end of this same work of nonfiction he has decided to actually run for another political office. Part of what Thompson has attempted to teach readers shows in a major decision that he has made near the end of the work. What he wants to do is to use Frank Mankiewicz as his campaign manager. He wants to do this even though Frank has attacked him violently more than once, but only a couple of times.

The author is a twentieth century man. This shows clearly in a number of ways. He is living during a time in the culture where the pressures between the liberals, and the Hippies and the Freaks has reached a crescendo against the hard lines of the Republicans, the conservatives. What he does not overtly mention is that this is also a time when the drive for women's rights throughout the races, as well as the drive for improved social rights for people of all the races has increased. Patriarchy is being attacked. Many of the people of Hunter's generation mistakenly believe that this is the first time that this has ever happened. It is not. Those well versed in history, find that matriarchy and matrilineal societies have cropped up in multiple locations more than once in history and prehistory alike. The bottom line is that the power was shifting during this time. Working women had strides forward in terms of gaining access to higher paying jobs and better education but may have simultaneously lost ground in terms of secure financial support from men as husbands. No wonder the conservatives felt that marriage and family were under assault. No wonder that women and their children wanted to be able to either help their husbands or to fend for themselves and their kids, or their families and their boyfriends.

Tone

The tone of the work is informative and instructive. This book is clearly designed to deliver news of politics to an audience that might not usually find that palatable. Hunter S. Thompson is known to have mingled in a multitude of milieus. This has allowed him



to feel both comfort and discomfort in a variety of ways. Due to his true nature, he has developed a number of coping skills and there are some side effects.

The tone that Thompson uses is that of a misfit. He does fit in, but the threshold of his niche is so unusual there is a stronger sense of his being an oddball of some kind. He simultaneously fits in and does not. The reality is that readers will find this to be quite familiar. Thompson largely appeals to the educated working class. The large segment of the population where perhaps one parent or another has a degree, but quite possibly the reader or the parents may be the first who do. So, there is some newfangled increase in refinement for this portion of the masses. The victories are hard won.

At the same time, a lot of people know what it is like to be hassled for succeeding. This is true for Hunter Thompson as well. It is mainly due to this that readers can sense his discomfort when they are negative about the educated people or the straight people. Thompson not infrequently comes across people who dislike politicians. Well, often enough he gives them some kind of conciliatory comfort or reassurance that neither does he. Then, in reality, he has run for the office of Sheriff himself.

The tone of this man's work is actually holistic. It seems like a confused hodgepodge of things. In fact, this is a man's presentation that integrates personal feelings, intentional subjectivity and the more objective analysis that people more typically associate with journalism. He writes with natural enthusiasm. Women especially would like that he includes so much feeling and descriptions of the personal aspects of the political situation.

As mentioned elsewhere, Hunter S Thompson provides a rock-n-roll musical genre account of the political campaign. This was prior to the proliferation of digital recording technology during the era of analog systems. Radio was well-known; television was growing. Nuclear proliferation had only just begun. Capitalism and Communism had been working to dig their lines deep into the sands of the international arena. Perhaps most importantly to the audience that Hunter was writing for: there was a good chance of getting decent seats to see "Band X." If there wasn't money for much more than the basics, that extra probably went to rock-n-roll and intoxicating substances.

Structure

This nonfiction book has a unique structure. Like most books, it is simply laid out into chapters. In this case, the sequence is ordered around the campaign. The political campaign takes about a year, at least, that is the case when it includes a number of journalists. Within each chapter there are subdivisions. Hunter S Thompson writes in a way that allows these breaks to seem rather natural. Each section has its own heading and there is plenty of hype.

The author writes with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. This makes the entire experience more palatable to those who do not normally show much interest in politics. He takes readers through the campaign in a way that is distinctive. For readers who like

reading about politics, Thompson's account is a cacophony of disjointed messages. For those interested in stories and pop-culture it reads as a sort of "venturing icon." It borders upon a kind of modern American folk heroism as strange as that sounds. Here is one of these upwardly mobile, restless, Freak liberals making his way into higher echelons of society. Here is a brave lad of the common people, daring to approach the shark-toothed politicians. Everyone is intimidated by their own leaders, even when they do trust them. The people may not feel fear every moment, but that is one cause behind the exclusionary practices. As such, readers are happy that Hunter Thompson has gone out there and interacted with people who, while curious about them, readers are also afraid of them. It is because of this that readers can also perceive Hunter as a folk hero.



Quotes

"Now he talks like an eighty-year-old woman who just discovered speed. He will call a press conference to announce that if elected he will 'have all our boys out of Vietnam within ninety days' - then rush across town, weeping and jabbering the whole way, to appear on a network TV show and make a fist-shaking emotional appeal for every American to stand behind the President and 'applaud' his recent decision to resume heavy bombing in North Vietnam," (p. 158). [in this case the 'word' is or was the correct way of marking quotes within quotes]

"It was the people who voted for McCarthy in New Hampshire that beat Johnson...and it wasn't George Meany who got shot with Bobby Kennedy in Los Angeles; it was a renegade 'radical' organizer from the UAW," (p. 34).

"And now I get these harsh letters from Milwaukee: 'Herr Doktor Thompson - Der Typewriting machine you rented hass disappeared! And you vill of course pay!' 'No. Never in Hell. Because I have a receipt for that typewriter.'" [footnoted as 1, (p. 223)].

"Socko Wiethe to Mank: 'This is your boss's fault - he should have known - you start electing delegates and you get this kind of thing.'
'Bad note on "party reform."
Night ends, 6:49. Meet in the coffee shop at 7:30; press conference at 10." (p. 197).

"It was a narrow escape. I voted for Dick Gregory in '68, and if somehow Humphrey manages to slither onto the ticket again this year I will vote for Richard Nixon." (p. 259)

"In Washington all journalists dress like bank tellers- and those that don't have problems." (p.42)

"...and the perception of McGovern's behavior with Eagleton might be drastically altered. Eagleton would no longer be the wronged good guy, but what he actually was -an opportunistic liar." (p. 432)

"'Frank was McGovern's political director.'
He said nothing to me for a moment, then he slowly turned to look at me again. 'So now you want Mankiewicz to run your campaign?'
I laughed nervously." (p. 462)

"...the atmosphere on the Zoo Plane became crazier and crazier as the atmosphere on the Dakota Queen became more reserved and more somber." (p. 424)

"How would Nixon react? 'No comment'? And how would the popularity polls react if he just came right out and admitted it?" (p. 418).



"HST: When I talked to Mankiewicz about the Eagleton records, he denied knowing anything about it at all, whereas, in fact, he knew exactly what I'd just said about...severe psychosis and so forth." (p. 434).

"I would have bet dead even coming out of the convention...I was optimistic." (p. 472).



Topics for Discussion

Describe the role of the campaign manager/director as presented in this book.

Do you like Hunter S. Thompson? Give some reasons why or why not.

Do you prefer the atmosphere of the Dakota Queen 2 or of the Zoo Plane?

Defend or oppose the use of professional speech writers in political campaigns.

What does this book tell you about Rolling Stone magazine?

Were you offended by the discussion of illegal drug use in the book?

What do you think the obvious choices to indulge or to refrain from the use of drugs means - are there political or social implications of these decisions? Support your answer.

Assess the quality of Hunter's work as a journalist.