



Triumph and Demise: The Broken Promise of a Labor Generation

By Paul Kelly

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Drawing on more than 60 on-the-record interviews with all the major players and full of remarkable disclosures, *Triumph and Demise* is the inside account of the hopes, achievements, and bitter failures of the Labor Government from 2007 to 2013. Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard came together to defeat John Howard, formed a brilliant partnership, and raised the hopes of the nation. Yet they fell into tension and then hostility under the pressures of politics and policy. Veteran journalist Paul Kelly probes the dynamics of the Rudd-Gillard partnership and dissects what tore them apart. He tells the full story of Julia Gillard's tragedy as the first female Australian prime minister—her character, Rudd's destabilization, the carbon tax saga, and how Gillard was finally pulled down on the eve of the 2013 election. Kelly documents the most misunderstood event in these years—the rise of Tony Abbott and the reason for his success. It was Abbott's performance that denied Rudd and Gillard the chance to recover. Labor misjudged Abbott and paid the price. Kelly writes with a keen eye and fearless determination. His central theme is that Australian politics has entered a crisis of the system that, unless corrected, will diminish the lives of all Australians.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Paul Kelly is editor at large for the *Australian*, is a former editor in chief of the paper, and writes on Australian politics, public policy, and international affairs. He appears each week on *Australian Agenda* (Sky News) and before that was a regular on ABC TV's *Insiders* for nearly a decade. He is the author of seven books: *100 Years: The Australian Story*, *The End of Certainty*, *The Hawke Ascendancy*, *The March of Patriots*, *November 1975*, *Paradise Divided*, and *The Unmaking of Gough*.

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