



Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power

By Mary Mapes



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It was a great story. A true story. The kind of story any news producer would love to report, nail down and get on the air. And that's just what Mary Mapes and her producing and reporting team did in September, 2004, when Dan Rather anchored their report on President George W. Bush's dereliction of his National Guard duty for CBS News. The firestorm that followed their broadcast trashed Mapes' well-respected career, caused Rather to resign from his anchor chair a year early, and led to an unprecedented "internal inquiry" into the story--chaired by former Reagan Attorney General Richard Thornburgh.

TRUTH AND DUTY is Mapes' account of the often-surreal, always-harrowing fallout she experienced for raising questions about a powerful sitting president. It goes back to examine Bush's political roots as governor of Texas and answers questions about the solidity of the documents at the heart of the National Guard story as well as where they came from. Her book takes readers not just into the newsroom where coverage decisions are made, but out into the field where the real reporting is done. TRUTH AND DUTY is peopled with a colorful and vigorous cast of characters--from Karl Rove to Sumner Redstone, Bill Burkett to Dan Rather--and moves from small-town rural Texas to the deserts of Afghanistan, from hurricane season in Florida to CBS corporate headquarters Black Rock in New York City.

TRUTH AND DUTY is a riveting account of how the public's right to know--or even to ask questions--is being attacked by an alliance of politicians, news organizations, bloggers and corporate America. It connects the dots between the emergence of a kind of digital McCarthyism, a corporation under fire from the federal government, and the decision about what kinds of stories a news network can cover (human interest: yes; political intrigue: no).

An answer to Bernard Goldberg and the thunder from the right, TRUTH AND DUTY is always fast, sometimes furious, and often unexpectedly funny about the collapse of one of America's great institutions.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Ms. Mapes details her rise and fall with a considerable amount of flair and self-deprecating humor...Simply put, she is woman, hear her roar--on behalf of both her instilled patriotism and her journalistic integrity....TRUTH AND DUTY is a good read from start to finish."--*The Dallas Morning News*

"Mapes musters a controlled, readable narrative about the story that became her professional undoing...the story...builds by increments (including) the memos themselves, and how they mesh--in ways large and small, in nuance and substance--with Bush's official Guard records."--*The Washington Post Book World*

"It's an illuminating look into journalism and the challenges reporters face in an era of blogging, instant Internet analysis, corporate ownership and network news starts."--*The Buffalo News*

"In...TRUTH AND DUTY, [Mapes] comes across as the kind of rip-snorting rodeo rider of the news I would have killed to work with as an editor. Her gallop through such Mapes-produced '60 Minutes II' scoops as securing Karla Faye Tucker's death row interview or tracking down Strom Thurmond's black illegitimate daughter or exposing the atrocities of Abu Ghraib gives us a heart-racing glimpse of a resourceful TV pro in her fearless prime."--Tina Brown

"TRUTH AND DUTY is a plainspoken...oftentimes sympathetic look at how the National Guard story came to be and why it fell apart." --*The New York Observer*

From the Inside Flap

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being attacked by an alliance of politicians, news organizations, bloggers and corporate America. It connects the dots between the emergence of a kind of digital McCarthyism, a corporation under fire from the federal government, and the decision about what kinds of stories a news network can cover (human interest: yes; political intrigue: no).

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From the Back Cover

"Mary Mapes succeeds in telling her story fearlessly, humorously and compellingly."--*The Dallas Morning News*

A riveting play-by-play of a reporter getting and defending a story that recalls *All the President's Men*, *Truth and Duty* puts readers in the center of the "60 Minutes II" story on George W. Bush's shirking of his National Guard duty. The firestorm that followed that broadcast--a conflagration that was carefully sparked by the right and fanned by bloggers--trashed Mapes' well-respected twenty-five year producing career, caused newsman Dan Rather to resign from his anchor chair early and led to an unprecedented "internal inquiry" into the story...chaired by former Reagan attorney general Richard Thornburgh.

"...trenchant..."--*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

Truth and Duty examines Bush's political roots as governor of Texas, delves into what is known about his National Guard duty--or lack of service--and sheds light on the solidity of the documents that backed up the National Guard story, even including images of the actual documents in an appendix to the book. It is peopled with a colorful cast of characters--from Karl Rove to Sumner Redstone--and moves from small-town Texas to Black Rock--CBS corporate headquarters--in New York City.

"...unflinching..."--*Vanity Fair*

Truth and Duty connects the dots between a corporation under fire from the federal government and the decision about what kinds of stories a news network may cover. It draws a line from reporting in the trenches to the gutting of the great American tradition of a independent media and asks whether it's possible to break important stories on a powerful sitting president.

"...illuminating..."--*The Buffalo News*

www.truthandduty.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christina Epp:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or information even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and

the Privilege of Power is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Harry Anderson:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside can be true or not need people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Ann Macdonald:

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Helen Price:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top checklist in your reading list is Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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