

James Comey's A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership

Comey's work is autobiographical. It details how he grew up, his work as an attorney with the bullying and lying mafia in New York, those who taught him about leadership, his service as prosecutor in Martha Stewart's infamous lies that landed her in jail, the debacle Ashcroft faced with the justice system, the horrendous system of torture our government supported at Abu Gharib, his nomination by President Obama to be Director of the FBI following Robert Mueller and his work there with Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch, his encounter with killings of blacks in 2014-2015, the painstakingly rigorous examination of Hillary Clinton's emails and the FBI's ultimate decision on those, whether to speak or conceal what was known about overall Russian effort to influence the election, the briefing at Trump Tower on the 'Steele Dossier'.

After the inauguration the awkward meeting with Trump at the White House, further encounters with him including the famous private dinner where he was asked to pledge his loyalty to the president, the president's insistence he 'clear Flynn' and that he 'clear the cloud' hanging over the president, how he learned of his bizarre firing in Los Angeles on TV while giving a seminar to prospective FBI persons, and even the president's fury at his using a government plane to return to D.C.

On June 8, 2017, Comey testified publicly before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

"The President and I had multiple conversations about my job, both before and after he took office, and had repeatedly told me I was doing a great job and he hoped I would stay. ... He told me repeatedly that he had talked to lots of people about me..., and learned that I was doing a great job and extremely well liked by the FBI workforce.

Although the law requires no reason at all to fire an FBI Director, the administration...chose to defame me and more importantly, the FBI, by saying that the organization was in disarray, that it was poorly led, that the workforce had lost confidence in its leader. These were all lies, plain and simple..."

The Epilogue of the book is damning, without being vindictive. It includes these perspectives:

Donald Trump's' presidency threatens much of what is good in this nation.

This president is unethical and untethered to truth and institutional values.

His leadership is transactional, ego driven, and about personal loyalty.

The core of our nation is our commitment to a set of shared values that began with George Washington -- to restraint and integrity and balance and transparency and truth.

I hope this book will be useful to readers...by inspiring them to choose a higher loyalty, to find truth among lies, and to pursue ethical leadership.

Dr. Mark Markuly

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