



# Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime

By John Heilemann, Mark Halperin

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“It transports you to a parallel universe in which everything in the *National Enquirer* is true....More interesting is what we learn about the candidates themselves: their frailties, egos and almost super-human stamina.” —*The Financial Times*

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*Game Change* is the *New York Times* bestselling story of the 2008 presidential election, by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, two of the best political reporters in the country. In the spirit of Richard Ben Cramer’s *What It Takes* and Theodore H. White’s *The Making of the President 1960*, this classic campaign trail book tells the defining story of a new era in American politics, going deeper behind the scenes of the Obama/Biden and McCain/Palin campaigns than any other account of the historic 2008 election.

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### Editorial Review

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Even before the book was out, its juiciest bits were everywhere: Sarah Palin was serene when chosen for V.P. because it was “God’s plan.” Hillary didn’t know if she could control Bill (duh). Elizabeth Edwards was a shrew, not a saint. Overall, the men from the campaign garner less attention in these anecdote wars than the women and tend to come off better—but only just: Obama, the authors note, can be conceited and windy; McCain was disengaged to the point of recklessness; and John Edwards is a cheating, egotistical blowhard. But, hey, that’s politics, and it’s obvious that authors Heilemann (New York Magazine) and Halperin (Time) worked their sources well—all 200 of them. Some (including the sources themselves) will have trouble with the book’s use of quotes (or lack thereof). The interviews, according to the authors, were conducted “on deep background,” and dialogue was “reconstructed extensively” and with “extreme care.” Sometimes the source of a quote is clear, as when the book gets inside someone’s head, but not always. Many of the book’s events were covered heavily at the time (Hillary’s presumed juggernaut; Michelle Obama’s initial hostility to her husband’s candidacy), but some of what this volume delivers is totally behind-the-scenes and genuinely jaw-dropping, including the revelation that senators ostensibly for Clinton (New York’s Chuck Schumer) pushed hard for Obama. Another? The McCain camp found Sarah Palin by doing computer searches of female Republican officeholders. A sometimes superficial but intensely readable account of a landmark campaign (librarians take note: the exceedingly flimsy binding may reflect the publisher’s haste to rush the book to press). --Ilene Cooper

Review

“You’ve got to read *Game Change*. . . . I read each and every word. . . . *Game Change* is a great book.”

From the Back Cover

In *Game Change*, John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, two of the country’s leading political reporters, use their unrivaled access to pull back the curtain on the Obama, Clinton, McCain, and Palin campaigns.

Based on hundreds of interviews with the people who lived the story, *Game Change* is a reportorial tour de force that reads like a fast-paced novel. Character-driven and dialogue-rich, replete with extravagantly detailed scenes, it’s an intimate portrait of some of the most powerful and fascinating figures in American life—the occasionally shocking, often hilarious, ultimately definitive account of the campaign of a lifetime.

### Users Review

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**Katy Pinkham:**

Book is usually written, printed, or created for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime* will make you to become smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think this open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you in search of

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**Marcela Beach:**

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