



# **The Final Days: The Last, Desperate Abuses of Power by the Clinton White House**

*Barbara Olson*

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Olson turns her razor sharp vision on the Clintons' shocking excesses in their final days of office: the outrageous pardons to political cronies and friends, the looting of the White House, the executive orders that were sheer abuses of presidential power, the presidential library that is becoming a massive boondoggle of vanity more appropriate for a Third World dictator, and much more.

## **The Final Days: The Last, Desperate Abuses of Power by the Clinton White House Details**

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### **Anna says**

Just how bad they really were.

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### **Atchisson says**

Incredible book. The pardons, the vandalism, the pilfering. It really was more like Animal House than the White House. Months after I read this, the author was killed in the 9/11 attacks. She was on one of the ill-fated planes and still had the presence of mind to call the authorities to alert them. I always wonder about the many books she'd have written by now. This, though, is a fitting testament to her skill and passion.

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### **Dionne says**

Barbara Olson is a gifted writer but her tragic death on 9/11 cut her writing career short. This book is a reminder of just how corrupt the Clintons were, and that even the Democrats acknowledged as much after Clinton's pardons. Olson's conclusion is that before we elect Hillary president, we ought not to forget the past. Truer words have never been spoken.

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### **Michael says**

Bill was a pain and got away with murder. We all know that just before a president is done with office, they start doing some interesting things, but Bill was the worst! I can't believe that people didn't seem to bat an eye after all the crap he got away with. Oh what it wouldn't be like to be untouchable.

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### **Marcie says**

I was hoping for a well-researched, well-documented, well-written, even treatment of the Evil Regime, perfect for an agenda-less Joe Schmoe like myself -- this ain't it, though. I was intrigued frankly by the fact the author perished on the hijacked plane that went into the Pentagon.

But, boy, did it bring back the swell memories. How could I have forgotten the Arkansas state troopers whose job it was to round up women for the Big Guy? Or the fact that we had as our Commander in Chief a draft-dodger who didn't inhale or quite grasp the meaning of "is"? Classics! Or Paula Jones or the Flowers chick or the weird "non" impeachment? And Roger! How could I have forgotten "Headache" (Secret Service code name for the POTUS' brother). So, it all came rushing back to me...and I got depressed.

I had not forgotten Travelgate and Whitewater and Monica, though. Wow, it was a busy 8 years for the

Clintons!

Anyway, the real title of the tome should be Pardongate or Pardons for Sale or Pardon my Pun. Here's one: Mr. and Mrs. Kaye (who got Monica her intern slot) gifted the Clintons in their final days with a travel cigar humidior (valued at \$9K). I'm laughing so hard I can't contain myself -- not.

So, Olson spent a chunk of her short life (how depressing), unraveling the HUNDREDS of pardons (and their obvious political connections) that the Clintons sold in their final days. How did they find the time between all the gifting and looting of the White House? They had a lot of debt to pay off and future New York votes to buy.

These people are classless and shameless. Please, God, let McCain win in November so we American People can avoid further humiliating scandals.

Bottom line: It's not possible to write of the Clintons and be even-handed. Hillary arouses such fear and hatred in me as I can clearly see the twisted evil in her. Just by the sheer will of her personality alone she stares down accusers until they flinch, she makes wrong-doing seem okay. She fails to see the fuss and forces her perception down everyone else's throat, AS HER STRATEGY to deal with all their wrong-doings.

Some day I will proudly cast my vote for the first female POTUS, but is it too much to ask for a little more Maggie Thatcher, Golda Meir, hell, Ann Richards? Give me SOMETHING I can believe in.

I am most upset by my own acceptance of corruption, greed, and force as "politics as usual." Politics is such a cesspool today that we all roll our eyes and ACCEPT IT. It's all so depressing. Quick, give me a book to read so I can escape from this reality.

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### **Jason Roland says**

It reminds you how crazy those final days really were.

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### **Jerry Landry says**

While Olson brings up some interesting points about the end of the Clinton presidency, her arguments are diminished by partisan vitriol, as she constantly sought a place to put another jab in. Also, in some places, I wish she would have provided better citations as to where quotes or statements presented as facts came from. Had Olson presented the same information in a more scholarly fashion and less sensationalistic, I think it would have served her arguments much better.

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### **David White says**

This is a great book on the real life for the Clintons. This is a must read for anybody that's interested in politics

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### **Kevin Maguire says**

Barbara Olson was a victim of 9/11. The plane she was on was driven into the Pentagon. This book was to be released after 9/11. The family decided to release the book, and I'm glad they did. Great book by a great author. RIP.

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### **John Mapes says**

Read it back in 2002. Made more sense in 2016.

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### **Kenneth says**

Isn't it Ironic? She waited all of her life to get on that plane....Susan Olson tells a story here that needed telling, but she loses points through how she tells the story. The whiny commentary runs thick like syrup in some places in this book. If they were to reboot batman again, here is the cat woman. Did she used to work with Hillary Clinton? Wow she really hated this woman. The catty remarks keep coming as she punctuates the story with her sly puns. Her editor left the building because the result here is less than a professional job. Olson attacks everything liberal- Ergonomic design rules in the workplace- check, Al Gore-check, any liberal thought from the 20th century –check.

She was finishing up this book as the Florida recount was going on, and she excuses that fiasco (stolen presidential election) while milling over Bill Clinton's marital infidelities. She takes swipes at Al Gore (whom I suppose is on her enemies list too), and even defends high levels of arsenic in public water supplies! (on page 89).

This book is well researched, and you will remember many of these incidents. The chapters on the presidential pardons were well developed. but Ms. Olson would have done much better to tone it down a bit. This is one of those cases where a professional journalist, (without an axe to grind) will revisit this subject in a few years, and will do a much better job in presenting an argument against the Clintons' behavior at the end of Bill's final term.

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### **Dani says**

Written by a victim of the 9/11 Pentagon crash. Finished just before she died. Her family had it published anyway.

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### **Tom says**

This political potboiler is a timely book to skim as the 2016 presidential campaign moves into high gear. For those with short memories, Olson's expose reminds us that Bill Clinton was criticized for much more than marital infidelity. Olson's book centers mostly on the scores of pardons that Clinton issued in the final days

of his presidency, many of them without any Justice Department review. Particularly odious was the pardon given to commodities broker Marc Rich, charged with breaking trade embargos. Rich, husband of a Clinton fundraiser, never served time but instead skipped the country, yet won a reprieve, allegedly with the help of a \$400,000 fix (sorry, "consulting fee") paid to Hugh Rodham, Hillary's brother, plus hefty donations funneled through his wife to the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton Library. Hillary, running for the Senate at the time, claimed she knew nothing about it.

Olson also recounts the many furniture and clothing gifts the Clintons received from foreign dignitaries. Some of them were loaded onto trucks bound for their future home in New York, but after questions were raised about legal ownership, the Clintons later agreed to send some of them back to the White House. Also touched on were the mammoth book deals they negotiated -- a record \$10 million publisher's advance for Bill and \$8 million for Hillary.

The material makes for fascinating reading, but Olson overdoes it by employing shrill repetition. If she had simply recounted the facts in a matter-of-fact way, her indictment would have been more effective. Instead, she resorts to branding Bill Clinton a "low life" and Hillary an enabler.

Most of the material is a rehash of scandals that other reporters unearthed. But she does manage to build a strong case against the Clintons by quoting many Democratic figures who late in the game grew disgusted with their president and First Lady as details of the pardons surfaced. Interestingly, Hillary is now using the same tactic against Donald Trump, stringing together sound bites from other Republicans repudiating the presumptive nominee.

One question left unanswered is why the Bush administration didn't raise a fuss about the pardons. Perhaps it was simply because a presidential pardon cannot be undone. Or perhaps Bush, looking ahead 8 years, wanted to make sure his own authority to pardon would remain absolute.

Sadly, we won't have Olson weighing in on Hillary's bid to succeed Bill as president. Olson died in 9/11 when the hijacked jet she was riding crashed in Pennsylvania.

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### **Amanda says**

Very interesting book regarding President Clintons pardons, especially in light of the Scooter Libby pardon. Scooter really didn't seem to do anything. Clinton pardon murders, crooks and terrorist.

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### **Kevin Kirkhoff says**

"Stroke of a pen, law of the land"

- Bill Clinton

This was the attitude of the Clintons during their final days in office. They had absolute control over monuments, land grabs, and pardons.

Barbara Olson does a masterful job detailing the things done by the Clintons (usually Bill) in the last few days of his administration. What impressed me the most is the level of detail that is presented on each topic. This was something that I had not been presented with from the standard media outlets.

Olson explains the pardon process and why this president's pardons were so unusual. He bypassed or ignored the Justice Department. He submitted numerous pardons the morning of the inauguration guaranteeing they

wouldn't be looked into with any great detail, if at all.

He pardoned drug smugglers. It's hard to be tough on the drug world when we release their kingpins back onto the streets.

Olson went into great depth on who Marc Rich was, what his businesses were, why he was in trouble, and why it was such a travesty to pardon him. You just don't pardon people who haven't even had a trial yet.

There was an enormous amount of land that was commandeered by the Federal Government without anyone getting a say on it.

The Clinton family gets in on the party also. Roger Clinton and Hugh Rodham take up a couple of chapters.

Finally, we see quotes from a lot of Clinton apologists and Democratic big-wigs displaying their disappointment and outright anger at the President for getting around the system. It was obvious that since Bill was no longer president, they didn't need to stick up for him anymore.

There was also much analysis done on the op-ed piece that Bill wrote explaining the pardons. This was truly a spinmeister work of art. As one columnist put it, "Four excuses, eight lies."

I enjoyed reading this book. Not because it bashed the Clintons, yet again. But it explained in great detail why people inside the Beltway were so appalled and upset at what was done by the Clintons during their final days in power. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in one of the few things the President of the United States has absolute authority over with no veto possible.

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