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The Complete Yes Minister: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister

Jonathan Lynn, Antony Jay

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Jonathan Lynn, Antony Jay : The Complete Yes Minister: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Yes Minister: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This and the Complete Yes Prime Minister are awesome examples of how great writing transcends mediumBy Jason K.This and the Complete Yes Prime Minister are awesome examples of how great writing transcends medium. You might think, "There's no way they can duplicate the wittiness, speed and thought process of the TV show in a book"--but they do! And at times it's even BETTER than the show in writing. The only very minor gripe I have is the constant intercession by the authors with "1 - in conversation with the editors" footnotes. Most of the footnotes are helpful; these are unnecessary.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Comic masterpieceBy Angel62I have finished reading this wonderful book for the umpteenth time.It never grows old.The stories,the characters,the language expressed are all of the highest order.It's based on the original BBC scripts but fleshed out appropriately.And it's funny.Very funny.And an eyeopener to how things in British government were really done(still?)For anyone who loved the original show or for people who love an intelligent,witty read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't miss !By Menahem LasserMost probably the best TV series ever, and the book succeeds in preserving the quality. It is not just a transcript of the TV scenes but a creation of its own.

All the titles in the "Yes Minister" series.

From Publishers Weekly
The British TV series *Yes Minister* (shown here on PBS) began as an innocuous spoof on the vagaries of politicians and civil servants. Its popularity increased as it developed a deepening satiric perception of how the British are actually governed: Ministers are kept in the dark by their civil service advisers as much as possible; their sole domain is "making policy," while the civil servants get on with running the country and making sure the politicians get the blame. In turning their scripts into a book, the authors have gone beyond a simple recounting of the episodes. Presented as actual memoirs the diary of James Hacker, Minister for the Department of Administrative Affairs, augmented by material from his two civil service advisers, Sir Humphrey Appleby and Bernard Wooley
Yes Minister is an amusingly literate, sharply satirical account of the exchanges of quid pro quo necessary to run any government. The book surpasses its TV origins and stands firmly on its own merits. On the bestseller lists in England for over three years, this provocative satire could well be considered a British *Doonesbury*. 25,000 first printing.
Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Its closely observed portrayal of what goes on in the corridors of power has given me hours of pure joy" -- Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP "We have had diaries from other Cabinet Ministers, but none I think which have been quite so illuminating... It is a fascinating diary... It is shorter than Barbara Castle's... and although it is rather more accurate than Dick Crossman's, it is distinctly funnier" -- Lord Allen of Abbeydale (formerly Permanent Secretary at the Home Office) * *The Times* * "It has an entertainment and educational value which is unique. It is uproariously funny and passes the acid test of becoming more amusing at every subsequent reading... I will go so far as to claim that in the characters of Jim Hacker and Sir Humphrey Appleby, Messrs Lynn and Jay have created something as immortal as P.G. Wodehouse's Bertie Wooster and Jeeves" -- Brian Walden * *The Standard* *
From AudioFile Ah! Why aren't more radio dramas like this? Perhaps because it's hard to write comedy as polished as Jonathan Lynn's and Antony Jay's in this classic British satire following a new government minister as he butts up against the entrenched civil service and the realities of political life. It's hard to tell who is being most severely critiqued. Is it complacent civil servants? Shallow, ignorant elected officials? The British public, who allow all this to go on? Thankfully, listeners don't have to decide. Instead, they can enjoy Paul Eddington's wonderful timing as Jim Hacker, Nigel Hawthorne's supercilious characterization of Sir Humphrey Appleby, and Derek Fowlds's precise portrait of Bernard Wooley. G.T.B. AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine