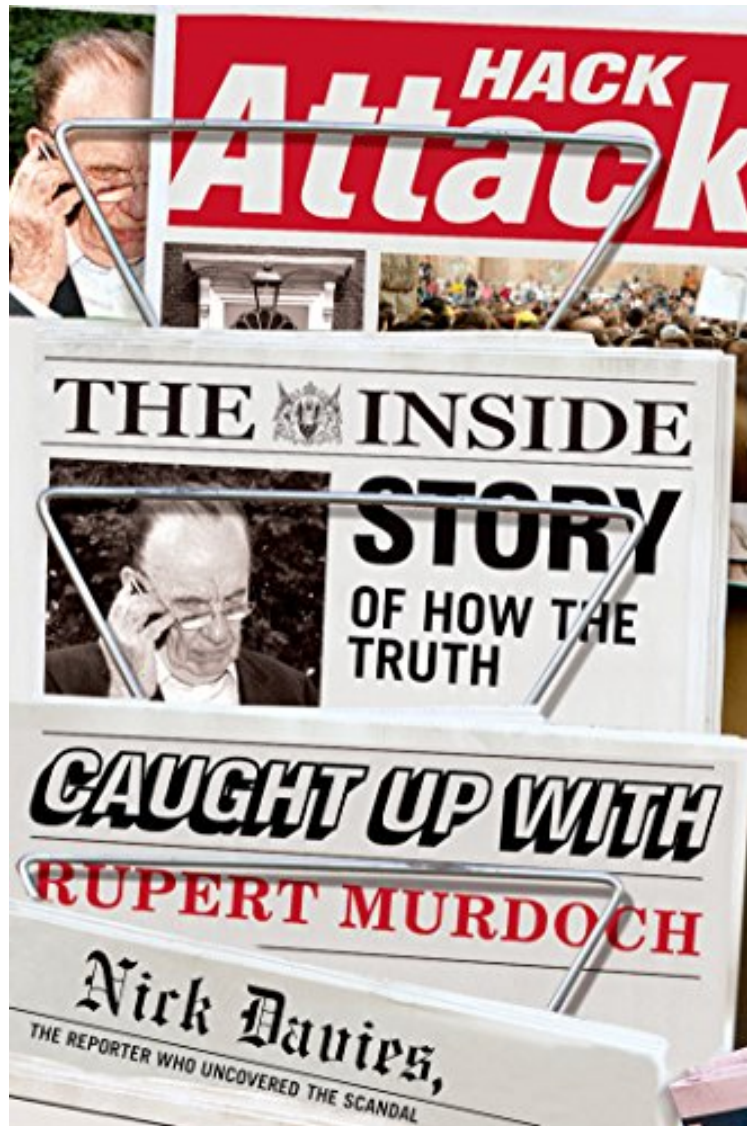


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Hack Attack: The Inside Story of How the Truth Caught Up with Rupert Murdoch

Nick Davies

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Nick Davies : Hack Attack: The Inside Story of How the Truth Caught Up with Rupert Murdoch before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hack Attack: The Inside Story of How the Truth Caught Up with Rupert Murdoch:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Investigative journalism at its best By Ian D. Griffin A sprawling cast of characters fill the pages of Hack Attack: the bullying editors and hapless reporters of the Fleet Street tabloid newspapers; members of the Queen's household in Buckingham Palace; prime ministers and members of the

government in Whitehall and Downing Street; petty criminals and senior policemen; wide boys and blagging operatives; movers and shakers, celebrities and philanderers; and behind it all the spectral presence of one of the world's most powerful men - media tycoon Rupert Murdoch. Nick Davies's exhaustively researched expose - subtitled "How the truth caught up with Rupert Murdoch" - details how the press baron and key members of his staff pulled the levers of power in British politics and business during the six years from 2008 to 2014. While denying and lying, they slipped in and out the side-door of Number 10 for drinks with the prime minister, rubbing shoulders with the power elite who lived in fear of the ability of mass circulation newspapers to influence elections and destroy lives. Davies is the reporter on the left-of-center Guardian newspaper who ran the first stories about the practice of phone hacking. His well-written report reads like a thriller. It is a compulsive page-turner. His bravery in pursuit of the truth is quite startling. One suspects that in any other country than Britain he would have been "disappeared" for dishing the dirt as he has. The scope of the cover-up he exposes makes Woodward and Bernstein, in an earlier era, seem bush league. They had Deep Throat. He has anonymous sources he code-names "Sapphire", "Ovid" and "Jingle". They had a cover-up about one crime, the Watergate break-in. He has a decade of systematic illegal activity by reporters and editors who illegally "hacked" the mobile phone voicemails of anyone and everyone who could provide source material for their stories. They hacked the Royal Family, they hacked members of the British Cabinet, sports stars and everyday citizens. Most famously, they hacked the cell phone of a murdered teenage schoolgirl. The private messages they listened to were material for news reports, most often in the now defunct News of The World, a Murdoch paper closed as a direct result of Davies's investigative journalism. Davies uncovers the secrets and lies and reveals how the police in Scotland Yard kept a lid on it for years. Hack Attack is a must-read for anyone who lives in the UK and wants to hear how they were lied to by the establishment, or, as in my own case, resides in the USA and wonders about the corporate morality of Murdoch's henchmen on the Wall Street Journal and those who deliver "fair and balanced" reporting on Fox News.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. News Corp is evil. You've been warned. By albionphoto

In English a hack is a slang term for a journalist. This is the story of how one journalist kept investigating mobile/cell phone hacking in the UK over a period of years and despite opposition from the British establishment and News Corp. It's a brave man who takes on the world's most powerful media mogul, Rupert Murdoch. It all began when the royal editor of the "News of the World" a sleazy UK Sunday Tabloid newspaper was found reading the emails on the mobile phone of Prince Charles. This was declared to be a one-off event but it smelled like a cover up. Media phone hacking came to the public's attention when Milly Dowler's phone was hacked leading her parents to believe she was still alive. Nick Davies was able to investigate this over a period of years supported by the Guardian newspaper. There was eventually an inquiry led by Lord Leveson which uncovered systematic media intrusions into the lives of celebrities and politicians. Davies exposes all of this and writes in a style that is compelling and honest. He is to be congratulated for continuing to chase the media and trying to keep them honest. Not all heroes wear body armour. Davies had determination and has managed to prove that not all members of the fourth estate are worthless scum. Sadly nothing came of this in the end. Over time the poisonous spider that is Rebekah Wade has come back, the politicians have climbed back in bed with News Corp and British politics is as morally corrupt as ever. This book tries to expose all that and should serve as a warning to the British public.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pity about the innocents but facts never get in the way of gutter journalism

By Dr. Dayle Smith

An attempt to pin down Rupert Murdoch's News Limited and his various papers in London before the News of the World nose dived into the footpath in London. It tells some of the background as to how the press conducted itself (with much dirt, lawbreaking and too little professionalism) and how the scandals thereby exposed spread to much of those parts of the world that News Ltd's papers were published. Regrettably the terms of reference for the subsequent UK Royal Commission, and the evidence by Murdoch, did not really get to the bottom of the scandal

At first, it seemed like a small story. The royal editor of the News of the World was caught listening to the voicemail messages of staff at Buckingham Palace. He and a private investigator were jailed, and the case was closed. But Nick Davies, special correspondent for The Guardian, knew that it didn't add up. He began to investigate, and ended up exposing a world of crime and cover-up, of fear and favordash;the long shadow of Rupert Murdoch's media empire. Hack Attack is the mesmerizing story of how Davies and a small group of lawyers and politicians took on one of the most powerful men in the worlddash;and beat him. It exposes the inner workings of the ruthless machine that was the News of the World, and of the private investigators who hacked phones, listened to live calls, sent Trojan horse emails, bribed the police, and committed burglaries to dig up tabloid scoops. Above all, it is a study of the private lives of the power elite. It paints an intimate portrait of the social network that gave Murdoch privileged access to government, and allowed him and his lieutenants to intimidate anyone who stood up to them. Spanning the course of the investigation from Davies's contact with his first source in early 2008 to the resolution of the criminal trial in June 2014, this is the definitive record of one of the major scandals of our time, written by the journalist who was there every step of the way.

"There is so much excess and human pathology on display here, it makes Bonfire of the Vanities seem

restrained...[Davies] is, as it turns out, just the kind of person you want to have on your tail. It's less about his strategic brilliance and more about an innate refusal to give up - ever." --New York Times Book "If any one person deserves to place himself squarely at the center of this tale, it is Mr. Davies, who spent three years chipping away at a tower of lies, enduring attacks on his credibility and overcoming stonewalling of the first order to produce his account of tabloid criminality and British officialdom's role in covering it up...As Mr. Davies pursues his quarry, readers are introduced to the seamy underside of Fleet Street, a brutally transactional place of 'casual treachery' where people volunteer 'to sell the secrets of those who most trust them'...It's journalism noir, and it's not surprising that last week George Clooney announced that he plans to direct a film version." --New York Times "Only one reporter has dogged the story from start to finish - deeply sourced among hacking victims, journalists, lawyers, police, and politicians. Davies' associates say he excels because he can comprehend the big political picture but also never forgets the vast trove of small, telling details." --Los Angeles Times "Hack Attack is an important reminder of the evils that can result when the media itself becomes so powerful and corrupt that it is accountable to no one - least of all to the public whose interests they are intended to serve." --Boston Globe "You would expect the Guardian's Nick Davies, who exposed phone hacking and other criminality among News of the World journalists, to write the best full-length account of the scandal, and so he has. He gives us not just the story...but also the story behind the story, explaining how and why he set about exposing the NoW's endemic criminality." --Guardian (London) "In his first-hand, panoramic account of the hacking scandal from 2008 to the present day, Nick Davies artfully draws the connections between Murdoch's newspaper group and the officially powerful, and their corrosive impact on the public's interests...Hack Attack captures a picture of bullying and nepotism that should be absent from a democratic society." --Independent (London) "[Hack Attack] is important, not simply because it is written by a superb reporter who took on a seemingly invulnerable criminal conspiracy, or because it is...the best account we have of the phone-hacking scandal and the attendant police corruption and cover-ups. It is, as well, the story of modern Britain and how its standards and politics have been degraded by one man's ruthless acquisition of power. Davies has laid it all bare in an exciting, clear and honest narrative." --Observer (London) "Nick Davies is Britain's greatest investigative journalist...[Hack Attack] is as exciting as a thriller but far more important...This should be compulsory reading in journalism schools and must be read by anyone who wishes to understand how British politics actually works." --Telegraph (London) "[Nick Davies] has, in his exhumation of this trove of journalistic ordure, done a colossal service to Britain's democracy...Hack Attack is the book of a very bold reporter about a passage of arms that he won, to our great benefit." --Financial Times (London)"First in the Guardian and now in this book, the reporting of Nick Davies has revealed the insidious abuse of power and the public trust by the Murdoch press from the top down. The British hacking scandal is the ultimate expression of Murdoch culture run amok: corruption in the Fourth Estate as dangerous to democracy as the worst excesses of heads of state." --Carl Bernstein, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist "This is the book we've been waiting for, the thrilling and important inside story of how a single reporter came through with the truth of the hacking scandal. He exposed shameful intrusions, the years of deceit, lies, and bullying. And he did more. He revealed a rotteness at the heart of British life in the relations of press, police, and Parliament, institutions that, taken as a whole, failed the big test. Hack Attack is an indictment of the worst of journalism but is itself an exhilarating demonstration of how the best of journalism hard-won, honest reporting - is the lifeblood of any democracy." --Sir Harold Evans, editor-at-large at Reuters and former editor of the Sunday Times of London "Davies...makes Captain Ahab and Inspector Javert look like quitters." --Slate "This book is a major achievement: a master class in investigative journalism made all the more fascinating by the wealth of color that's like something from another era." --Columbia Journalism "Davies is known for his tenacious grip on his targets and his cutting, vivid writing style...Davies has crafted nothing less than a primer on how to patiently, doggedly investigate a story."--Kirkus s "Reads like a detective novel and will be of great interest to both journalists and students of media studies." --Library Journal "The reporter who broke Britain's phone-hacking scandal probes the media industry's corrupt nexus of power and propaganda in this searing expose...His narrative, studded with new revelations about Fleet Street's spying techniques, flows like a breathless thriller...Davies paints a lurid, gossipy picture of Fleet Street, especially Murdoch's newspapers, whose rabid pursuit of sex and dirt, he argues, serves not just to sell papers but also to smear opponents and sway politics in favor of Murdoch's business interests...This is investigative journalism at its most riveting and provocative." -- Publishers Weekly (starred review)About the AuthorNick Davies is an award-winning investigative reporter and the author of several books, including the bestseller Flat Earth News. He has been named Reporter of the Year, Journalist of the Year, and Feature Writer of the Year at the British Press Awards and has won eight additional prizes for his work uncovering the phone-hacking scandal. He is a special correspondent for the Guardian.