



like this, I prefer seeing the author skewer candidates of both parties alike. I like that humor can be bi-partisan! The work begins at the beginning--2006. The opening lines (Page 3): "Whatever problems Washington is facing, Campaigning is what gets its blood a-racing. Before the '06 midterm was in, The top consultants began to spin Scenarios about that vote and why It showed '08 was natural for their guy." Section 2 focuses on Republican Also-Rans, such as George Allen, George Pataki, and Bill Frist. Democratic Also-Rans? "Mark Warner had panache. He had the looks. He also had the cash. . . And Warner sought a Senate seat instead." Or, "Vilsack joined the race for just a minute. He quit before folks knew he was in it." Don't forget Ron Paul! On Page 24, he gets his due, too: "Just leave us be. Your regs are agony. This is our plea: Just leave us be." Simply put, the libertarian creed Paul advocated. And so on, with verse about John McCain, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and others. This book is enjoyable. It is good natured and takes shots across the board. Next to last example (Page 57): "Hillary, dillary dock. Hil ran into Barack. So Bill got shrill Defending Hil. Hillary, dillary dock." Sarah Palin? "They dressed her all up. They could put her in Prada, But what she can say that's of substance is nada." Anyhow, if you want a humorous take at the campaign and its characters, this is a good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Delightful Political Doggerel By Torrealta Humor is the highest form of art and among the most fleeting. Enjoy this while you can (sort of) recall the subject events. I heard recently that Trillin is disappointed that "Sabbath gasbags" failed to attain general usage. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like Jon Stewart? Love this book! By Patricia H. Stell This book is so cleverly written it's still funny even after the election. Really, really funny. Since the pieces are cadenced (think Edna St. Vincent Millay), try reading it aloud as a group, passing it around. My brother-in-law loved this as a stocking stuffer.

Displaying the form that made bestsellers of *Obliviously On He Sails* and *A Heckuva Job*, tales of the Bush Administration in rhyme, Calvin Trillin trains his verse on the 2008 race for the presidency. *Deciding the Next Decider* is an ongoing campaign narrative in verse interrupted regularly by other poems, such as a country tune about John Edwards called *Yes, I Know Hes a Mill Workers Son, But Theres Hollywood in That Hair* and a Sarah Palin song about her foreign policy credentials: *On a Clear Day, I See Vladivostok*. It covers Mitt Romneys transformation (Mitt Romneys saying now he should have known / A stem cells just a human, not quite grown), the speculation about whether Al Gore was trimming down to run (Presumably, they looked for photo ops / To see what Gore was stuffing in his chops), the slow-motion implosion of Hillary Clintons drive to the White House (Some pundits wrote that Hils campaign might fare / A little better if Bill wasnt there), and the differing responses of Barack Obama and John McCain to the financial crisis (Though coolness has its limitations, itll / Prevent comparisons with Chicken Little). Beginning at the 2006 midterms, *Deciding the Next Decider* resurrects the nonstarters like George Allen (He fit whats often valued by the Right: / Quite cheerful, Reaganesque, and not too bright) and the low-energy Fred Thompson (The pros said, Thats a state he has to take, / And he just might, if he can stay awake ). And it carries through to the vote that made Barack Obama the forty-fourth president of the United States.

About the Author Calvin Trillin, who became *The Nations* deadline poet in 1990, has also written verse on the events of the day for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *National Public Radio*. His political beliefs are so colored by rhyme and meter that he once criticized Hillary Clinton for being insufficiently iambic and publicly advised against a presidential run by the governor of Illinois, Rod Blagojevich. He is the author of *Obliviously on He Sails* and *A Heckuva Job*.