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Barrie Cassidy is available for interview from 15 October.

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THE PARTY THIEVES The real story of the 2010 election by Barrie Cassidy

Barrie Cassidy picked a hell of an election to cover: changes of leaders on both sides of politics, Australia's first woman Prime Minister, a hung parliament, a Green and independent ascendancy, and a country not knowing who its Prime Minister was for nearly three weeks.

But in the beginning were the Party Thieves, Malcolm Turnbull and Kevin Rudd. Turnbull's manic desire to get his own way in the party, and because he simply stopped listening, led to his demise. Rudd stole the party through his authoritarian approach to government and a cabinet that felt alienated from the job of governing.

Cassidy contends that the removal of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in the lead-up to the 2010 election ranks with the Dismissal, the disappearance of Holt and the day Fraser called an election as one of the four big stories in Australian politics in 50 years.

In both cases, the members of their respective parties came at the Party Thieves to reclaim what was rightfully theirs, and set the stage for the ascension of Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard.

And all that, before we even get to the 2010 election campaign.

The Party Thieves is more than just a campaign diary of the extraordinary 2010 election and its aftermath; it is a rip-roaring, incisive analysis of a tumultuous nine months in politics that even surprised veteran journalists such as Cassidy. This is a must for political junkies of any persuasion.

Barrie Cassidy has been covering federal politics since he was first posted to Canberra in 1979. He has worked as political correspondent for ABC TV and radio and political analyst for *The 7.30 Report*. He is a former president of the parliamentary press gallery.

He was for four years senior press secretary to Prime Minister Bob Hawke and eventually his senior political adviser. Barrie has worked overseas as a correspondent, again in major political capitals. First, as US correspondent for *The Australian* in Washington during the rise of Bill Clinton and then as European correspondent for the ABC based in Brussels.

He has hosted many political/discussion/interview programs on television including *Meet The Press* and *The Last Shout* on Network Ten and currently, *Insiders* and *Offsiders* on the ABC.

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