

Book Review: Enough
By Cassidy Hutchinson

Oath and Honor
By Liz Cheney

Dozens of books have been written about life inside the Trump White House since he was voted *out* of the White House in November 2020.

Several others have been written about the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

I hadn't read a single one.

Why not? I had no desire to peruse the pages of works published by the likes of Michael Cohen, Sean Spicer or Sarah Huckabee Sanders whose honesty and integrity was virtually non-existent.

I also had no interest in traversing the texts of journalists and authors like Bob Woodward who, while icons in their field, assembled their accounts based on interviews with others – including Trump himself, whose relationship with the truth is tenuous at best.

But two books published within the last six months caught my interest. The first was “Enough” by Cassidy Hutchinson, a memoir spanning her life from childhood in New Jersey to her tumultuous tenure as special assistant to President Donald Trump and his chief of staff Mark Meadows.

The second was “Oath and Honor” by former U.S. Representative Liz Cheney, a memoir and *warning* providing an in-depth analysis of events that followed the November 2020 Presidential Election, and nearly unraveled American democracy.

I decided *those* were the type of hands-on, inner sanctum perspectives I wanted to read.

And I'm glad I did.

Hutchinson's beliefs that she and her colleagues were "doing something important for the country" were regularly challenged by the reality that unfolded before her. And while she initially resisted what her eyes and ears were telling her, the events of, and the days leading up to January 6, 2021, convinced her that she could no longer turn a blind eye to the blatant assaults on the country's democracy.

Hutchinson was there when Trump said that vice president Mike Pence "deserved" to be hanged for refusing to overturn the election. She helped a White House valet wipe ketchup off the wall following a Trump tantrum. And she fumed, both silently and openly, as chief of staff Mark Meadows made no attempt to rein in an unhinged Trump.

So she testified. She told the truth. And for that she was shunned and ostracized by colleagues she thought were her friends. She was kept in hiding following her testimony as threats for her safety proliferated. But when she looked in the mirror, the woman she saw was the person she knew she had to be.

In "Oath and Honor" Cheney methodically and in great detail provides insight well beyond what the media were reporting. It's written for the layperson to easily understand the severity and proliferation of lies that nearly brought our country to its knees. And while some of the details, especially those surrounding the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, can be difficult to read, they are nonetheless important to understand.

One thing that becomes undeniable in Cheney's memoir and warning is that many Republican members of Congress – Sen. Ted Cruz, former Rep. Kevin McCarthy, and current House Speaker Mike Johnson, among others – were so adept at sweeping the devastation of January 6 under the rug they'll have a job working in sanitation waiting for them.

But Cheney didn't sweep anything under the rug. She told the truth, and incurred great personal and professional loss for her efforts.

It doesn't matter what your political persuasion is. I know mine differs considerably from Hutchinson's and Cheney's. But "Enough" and "Oath and Honor" are not about taking sides based on partisan beliefs. They're about the truth; doing what's best for America and democracy, no matter which side of the aisle you align with. That's an element sorely missing from today's fractured government.

Hutchinson writes that, "...on January 6, 2021, President Trump's lies about the 2020 election, and the proliferation of poisonous conspiracy theories he and some of my former colleagues amplified, exposed the fragility of American Democracy."

Cheney adds in her book's Prologue, "...we cannot make the grave mistake of returning Donald Trump – the man who caused January 6 – to the White House, or to any position of public trust, ever again."

I give both books 4.5 out of 5 stars. Putting your political leanings aside, I believe they're well worth the read. And as always, I welcome your feedback.