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**From:**

**To:**

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**Subject:** Andrew Bolt on Julia

Andrew Bolt

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IT'S happening all over again, but even worse this time with Julia Gillard.

Look at the media's rapturous hype. Look at her spin.

Look at the complete absence of detail on what Gillard will actually do. How familiar it all is.

Just add the stupidity of Gillard's noisiest fans and - bingo - our next Prime Minister need only dash to the polls in August to win an election without having to change a single one of Kevin Rudd's catastrophic policies.

Correction: her catastrophic policies, too. Wasn't she deputy prime minister when she ticked off on all of them?

Let's start with the hype.

Bottom line: Labor, for the first time in its history, shafted its prime minister because - the plotters said - this "good Government had lost its way" and seemed likely to lose the next election to Tony Abbott's Coalition.

Not once since then has Gillard or her conspirators detailed just how the Government "lost its way", because that might involve them listing decisions they themselves argued for.

Consider: Gillard herself had demanded Rudd shelve his dumb emissions trading scheme - a backflip that overnight turned him into a joke.

Consider: Wayne Swan, now promoted to Deputy Prime Minister, himself argued for the "super profits" tax that prompted a revolt by miners and a capital strike that finally killed Rudd politically.

No wonder these two won't say how the Government "lost its way", since their bloody fingerprints are all over the map.

But never mind, many in the media seem to have bought the spin. Or, rather, they've bought Gillard, who is charming, warm and a far better manager of people than the maniacally self-absorbed Rudd ever could be.

Oh, and did anyone mention she's our first female Prime Minister?

But this is, essentially, all that's been achieved. A nicer person has been brought in to sell the same overpriced junk she helped Rudd build.

Yet see how commentators are helping her to do it, attributing to her triumphs she's never recorded.

Take the way Monday's Newspoll was hailed as the justification of her coup - proof she'd "restored" Labor's vote.

Almost no one noted how little Labor's two-party preferred vote increased - from just 52 per cent under loser Rudd to 53 per cent under Saint Julia.

Triumphs don't come smaller.

And Gillard can thank the stupid for what gains she did make. Her real success in Newspoll lay in stripping the Greens of a third of their vote, all of which went straight to Labor rather than through preferences, which indeed makes its vote more solid.

But go figure. Here are disenchanted Greens voters rewarding the woman who did most to kill off the Government's ETS and turn them against Rudd.

Proof, I think, that Greens voters tend to be irrational and women. Or both.

Nor are they the only ones to see in Gillard what isn't there. Take Germaine Greer, who wrote in the Herald Sun this week that Rudd was toast from the day he flew off and left Gillard as acting prime minister: "The nation got used to the way she disentangled the most disastrous snarl-ups with patience and good humour."

Um, Earth to Germaine: Name a single "disastrous snarl-up" Gillard disentangled. Heavens, she couldn't even stop the waste of up to \$5 billion from her own Building the Education Revolution.

Yet there's no mistaking the euphoria now that she's risen to glory.

Here's a love letter to Gillard from part-time academic and Per Capita "think tank" genius Dennis Glover, published in The Australian:

"You always know when she has arrived, the place starts to lighten up, laughter is heard, people feel good ...

"Strength, belief, good sense ... these are infectious and will radiate from her happy, laughing, motivated and effective office to the electorate beyond ...

Women of Australia ... in Julia Gillard you've made a wise choice of the first female to lead our country."

Attention, Dennis: Gillard was not chosen as Prime Minister by the “women of Australia”, but by the men who lead Labor’s hardest factions.

Of course, we’ve seen this euphoria before, and not three years ago, when the media Left became almost literally orgasmic about Rudd.

Then, too, it confused spin with substance, image with reality, and promise with performance.

And so Age columnist Catherine Deveny said Rudd’s election victory left her feeling “buzzy and post-coital”.

Prof Robert Manne, voted Australia’s Most Influential Public Intellectual, confessed he’d “become a Ruddite”, and praised Rudd for being “decisive, good-humoured and calm”.

Rudd indeed was the most popular prime minister in our history, yet now he’s fallen, this same Manne concedes he was actually “hyperactive, controlling, hectoring and interfering”, “bad at delegation”, and guilty of “systemic mismanagement” and a “tension between word and action”.

Why didn’t you say so earlier, Robert?

But it’s true: what brought Rudd so low that even Manne now bayonets his corpse is that “tension between word and action” - which means he delivered buggler all of what he promised. The question now is: can Gillard bridge Labor’s gap between word and deed?

My tip is that she’ll actually race to an August election before voters start even asking such questions. And here’s why - her four most urgent to-fix tasks.

Rudd, with Gillard’s support, weakened our boat laws in 2008, thus luring more boat people to our shores than ever before.

The boats must be stopped without Gillard infuriating greens and the Left with her “cruelty”. But how?

Rudd, with Gillard’s support, ditched the emissions trading scheme he claimed was our answer to “the greatest moral challenge of our time”, costing Labor the Greens’ preferences it needs to survive.

Gillard must fool Greens voters with the appearance of action, without horrifying everyone else with the bills that real action would mean. But how?

Rudd, with Gillard’s support, stuck often shoddy insulation in one million roofs and didn’t know how to check all the houses to see which had been put at risk of burning down. Gillard must stop more homes being torched, but how?

Rudd, with Gillard's support, blew a huge surplus and billions more he didn't have on insulation batts, overpriced school halls and a cash splash.

Gillard must somehow dodge the blame, stem the waste and find the cash to honour the Government's promise to bring the Budget back into the black by 2013. But how?

Rudd, with Gillard's support, introduced a super profits tax to grab from miners the \$12 billion a year the Government now needs to balance its books and pay for its promises.

Gillard must do the impossible - still grab that cash without causing outraged miners to resume their devastating campaign or worried investors to cancel more projects.

Those are the challenges, yet what has Gillard said she'll do?

About boat people she's said only that she doesn't believe in a "big Australia", which dummies are meant to see as code for getting tough. Yet about actual boat people laws, let alone immigration levels, she's actually said zero.

As for all the government waste, well, what can she say?

On emissions trading, she just says she will build a "consensus" after the election on setting a "price for carbon". Which could mean either then she'll hit us with a great green tax in a year or two, or just talk on. You choose.

And about the mining tax, she's said only that she's keen for a deal. But what can she offer the big miners, other than a return of the cash she needs to steal?

No wonder Gillard is preparing for a dash to the polls, promising little, putting off everything and smiling a lot.

Her best chance is to be judged on her image, her gender, her niceness - and not on deeds. Certainly not on boats.

She must race to an election while the crowd is still cooing, not counting, and giving the benefit of the doubt to a Prime Minister who's helped spend it all already.