

Contents

Key players	vii
Prologue	xi
1. The price of a deputy's badge	1
2. New game, new rules	12
3. Our friends in the south	27
4. Two First Ministers and a funeral	38
5. Foot and mouth, foxes and fish	55
6. A muddle, not a fiddle	63
7. Strangers on a train	73
8. Lucky Jack?	90
9. Free radicals and stalking horses	105
10. King over the water	115
11. Splitters and swingers	129
12. Grand designs	138
13. The harder they fall	150
14. The seven-year itch	163
15. The long walk to freedom	173
16. It's time	185
17. Going it alone	203
18. A takeaway coup and a coronation	217
19. Cheques and balances	227
20. Divide and rule	236
21. Uncharted territory	247
Epilogue	261
Appendix: Election results in Scotland 1999–2007	264
Index	266