As Blair departed Number 10 this afternoon it was hard not to share the feelings of the BBC Political Editor, Nick Robinson:

“Extraordinary. Gob-smackingly, spine-chillingly, hair-raisingly extraordinary.”

Only Cherie Blair had words for the assembled media after she and her husband embraced her children on the steps of Number 10:

“Goodbye, I don’t think we’ll miss you.”

Like Mr Blair’s ‘feral beasts’ comment on the media it was an expression of the pressure that the press has put this couple under and their unhappy reaction to it. History will judge who is to ‘blame’.

All I know is that this was a day of ritual and a day of historic symbolism. And it was one of those rare days when parts of me wishes I was back in the newsroom with all the other beasts.

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