

The American Journey Modern Times Student Edition The American Journey Survey

Journalist Richard Reeves travels the United States with a character representing Alexis de Tocqueville, who brings his book Democracy in America as a guide. Reeves interviews American like Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart and Alaska disc jockey Buster Richardson, examining the status of our democracy and finding out who Americans perceive themselves to be.

Aukai Collins Has Been Described As A Beefylinebacker Blue-Eyed All-American Mujahid Holy Warrior Who Has Led A Life Of Faith, Danger, And Espionage In Some Of The Most Perilous War Zones On The Face Of The Earth. His Amazing Journey Started In 1993, When A Fellow Worshiper In His San Diego Mosque Suggested That He Go To Bosnia To Stop The Serb-Sponsored Genocide That Was Taking Place There. This Eventually Led Him To Usama Bin Laden'S Training Camps In Afghanistan, Where He Trained With The Most Aggressive And Terrifying Mujahideen In The World. But When Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh - The Man Accused Of Luring Wall Street Journal Journalist Daniel Pearl To His Death - Asked Him To Raid A Town In Kashmir That Would Include Hostage Taking And The Killing Of Civilians, Collin'S Life Took Another Turn. Although He Saw Jihad As The Highest Level Of Faith, And Would Even Lose A Leg While Fighting Jihad In Chechnya, Worldwide Attacks By Islamic Terrorists Shocked Him And He Became Disillusioned By The Way Some Were Using Islam To Further Their Own Ends Or Attack Innocents. He Was Recruited By The Us Government As An Undercover Operative In The Fight Against Terrorism. His Callous Treatment By Inept Members Of The Law Enforcement And Intelligence Community Provides Insight Into Why The Us Government Can'T Fight Against Something It Doesn'T Understand. The Fbi And Cia Have Now Spent Millions Of Dollars To Understand The Events That Led Up To September 11, Even As The Information Was Theirs For The Taking. Collins Not Only Became Acquainted With One Of The Hijackers, He Was Also Invited By Usama Bin Laden To Return To Afghanistan. My Jihad Is A Personal Story About The Biggest Threat To World Peace And Stability In Our Generation, As Told By An Insider On Both Sides Of The Conflict. (Published In Collaboration With The Globalpequot Press, U Sa)

Walt Johnson has been a rolling stone most of his life, moving from town to town and living on the edges of homelessness. Now he has run out of time as lung cancer has left him only months to live. Walt then begins a quest to find the son with whom he lost contact decades earlier. Out of money, he lands a job at a small-town restaurant in an attempt to save enough to buy a bus ticket to the last known whereabouts of his son. The friends Walt makes at his new job soon become family for him, especially 14-year-old Danny who is emotionally paralyzed at the loss of his own father in Iraq. Faced with Danny's struggles to grow up and the struggles of his other new friends, Walt comes to realize he is not only on a journey to find his own son, but he is on a journey to find himself worthy of being a father.

My Journey to Light is a 200 Page Chronology of your Masonic Journey. Record important dates that you received degrees Record Appointments. Record Dates Served in various Bodies, or Committees. Record stories that need to be remembered. Most Importantly, Preserve the History of your Lodge and Personal Journey for generations to come. \$2.00 from the sale of this book will go to Masonic Widows and Orphans. This Book Covers Blue Lodge, York Rite Bodies and Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Space is also included for appendant bodies as you go through your journey.

A textbook on United States history for students in grades 6-8, from the first Americans through the Civil War.

Teaching a child to tell time is quite challenging. How can you put into words a good

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explanation as to why numerals are to be read in many ways? When introducing the concept, start with the use of an analog clock because it gives the concept of change through the moving hands. This educational book is perfect for little learners. Grab a copy tod
The American JourneyModern TimesMcGraw-Hill/GlencoeThe American JourneyModern TimesThe Oregon TrailA New American JourneySimon and Schuster
Recounting his journey into the heart of Africa, an African American describes his encounters with beggars and bureaucrats, his visit to Soweto, a night in a Liberian jail cell, and more. Reprint.

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • A renowned historian traces the life of a single object handed down through three generations of Black women to craft an extraordinary testament to people who are left out of the archives. “Deeply layered and insightful . . . [a] bold reflection on American history, African American resilience, and the human capacity for love and perseverance in the face of soul-crushing madness.”—The Washington Post “A history told with brilliance and tenderness and fearlessness.”—Jill Lepore, author of These Truths: A History of the United States KIRKUS PRIZE FINALIST • NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY In 1850s South Carolina, an enslaved woman named Rose faced a crisis, the imminent sale of her daughter Ashley. Thinking quickly, she packed a cotton bag with a few precious items as a token of love and to try to ensure Ashley’s survival. Soon after, the nine-year-old girl was separated from her mother and sold. Decades later, Ashley’s granddaughter Ruth embroidered this family history on the bag in spare yet haunting language—including Rose’s wish that “It be filled with my Love always.” Ruth’s sewn words, the reason we remember Ashley’s sack today, evoke a sweeping family story of loss and of love passed down through generations. Now, in this illuminating, deeply moving book inspired by Rose’s gift to Ashley, historian Tiya Miles carefully unearths these women’s faint presence in archival records to follow the paths of their lives—and the lives of so many women like them—to write a singular and revelatory history of the experience of slavery, and the uncertain freedom afterward, in the United States. The search to uncover this history is part of the story itself. For where the historical record falls short of capturing Rose’s, Ashley’s, and Ruth’s full lives, Miles turns to objects and to art as equally important sources, assembling a chorus of women’s and families’ stories and critiquing the scant archives that for decades have overlooked so many. The contents of Ashley’s sack—a tattered dress, handfuls of pecans, a braid of hair, “my Love always”—are eloquent evidence of the lives these women lived. As she follows Ashley’s journey, Miles metaphorically unpacks the bag, deepening its emotional resonance and exploring the meanings and significance of everything it contained. *All That She Carried* is a poignant story of resilience and of love passed down through generations of women against steep odds. It honors the creativity and fierce resourcefulness of people who preserved family ties even when official systems refused to do so, and it serves as a visionary illustration of how to reconstruct and recount their stories today.

For decades Americans have turned to LIFE to see, understand, and remember the most important events and people of our time. Just as LIFE once opened up the glittering Kennedy White House, LIFE now focuses its lens on Barack Obama. *The American Journey of Barack Obama* covers the candidate from his childhood and adolescence to his time as editor of *The Harvard Law Review* and his Chicago activist years, culminating with the excitement and fervor of the historic 2008 Democratic National Convention. The unfolding drama of Obama's life and political career is cinematic in scope, and never has it been presented so compellingly. In addition to a powerful array of photographs that were taken by many of the country's greatest photographers (and some that were snapped, in the quiet moments, by Obama family members themselves), this book also includes a Foreword by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, an incisive narrative biography and original essays by some of our finest writers, including Gay Talese, Charles Johnson, Melissa Fay Greene, Andrei Codrescu, Fay Weldon, Richard Norton

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Smith, Bob Greene and several others. Many readers will find a new understanding of Obama. All readers will feel that they are bearing witness to a singular, undeniably American story. Text and photographs present the life of the Harvard Law School graduate, legislator, civil rights lawyer, and 2008 presidential candidate, from his childhood in Hawaii to his presidential campaign.

Includes reports, etc., of the Southwest Society of the Archaeological Institutes of America. In the bestselling tradition of Bill Bryson and Tony Horwitz, Rinker Buck's *The Oregon Trail* is a major work of participatory history: an epic account of traveling the 2,000-mile length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way, in a covered wagon with a team of mules—which hasn't been done in a century—that also tells the rich history of the trail, the people who made the migration, and its significance to the country. Spanning 2,000 miles and traversing six states from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean, the Oregon Trail is the route that made America. In the fifteen years before the Civil War, when 400,000 pioneers used it to emigrate West—historians still regard this as the largest land migration of all time—the trail united the coasts, doubled the size of the country, and laid the groundwork for the railroads. The trail years also solidified the American character: our plucky determination in the face of adversity, our impetuous cycle of financial bubbles and busts, the fractious clash of ethnic populations competing for the same jobs and space. Today, amazingly, the trail is all but forgotten. Rinker Buck is no stranger to grand adventures. *The New Yorker* described his first travel narrative, *Flight of Passage*, as “a funny, cocky gem of a book,” and with *The Oregon Trail* he seeks to bring the most important road in American history back to life. At once a majestic American journey, a significant work of history, and a personal saga reminiscent of bestsellers by Bill Bryson and Cheryl Strayed, the book tells the story of Buck's 2,000-mile expedition across the plains with tremendous humor and heart. He was accompanied by three cantankerous mules, his boisterous brother, Nick, and an “incurably filthy” Jack Russell terrier named Olive Oyl. Along the way, Buck dodges thunderstorms in Nebraska, chases his runaway mules across miles of Wyoming plains, scouts more than five hundred miles of nearly vanished trail on foot, crosses the Rockies, makes desperate fifty-mile forced marches for water, and repairs so many broken wheels and axels that he nearly reinvents the art of wagon travel itself. Apart from charting his own geographical and emotional adventure, Buck introduces readers to the evangelists, shysters, natives, trailblazers, and everyday dreamers who were among the first of the pioneers to make the journey west. With a rare narrative power, a refreshing candor about his own weakness and mistakes, and an extremely attractive obsession for history and travel, *The Oregon Trail* draws readers into the journey of a lifetime.

The pages of this book unlocks some of the oral history of Edisto Island as told by our past elders, long-time residents and present historians. It takes a hard look at the many struggles, pains, trauma, victories, laughter and triumphs of the enslaved Africans brought to one of Charleston's many Sea Islands by force to work against their will. This is a story about the history and perseverance of the Gullah Geechee people who endured centuries of slavery only to then find themselves confronted for yet another century with the social, political and legalized virulence and violence of Jim Crow and segregation. It dives into the rich Gullah history, culture, and customs of Black Edistonians. These very personal and poignant oral stories passed down from our African ancestors of years gone by have shaped who we are as Islanders. This book

shares our ancestors' experiences and the powerful recollections as told from the African American perspective. The focus of this book is seen from the eyes of our enslaved fore-parents. It tackles some very taboo subjects that have often been glossed over, downplayed or, in some cases, not even acknowledged. This book highlights just some of the "Black Kings and Queens of Edisto", in the late 19th century to the 20th century, that paved the way for many blacks, bringing us as a people through the very dark period of Slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow into the present day. It delves into the lives of such people as Maum Bella, Ismael Moultrie, Jim Hutchinson, John Thorne, Francis William (Horry) Reed, John Pearson Hutchinson, Jane Edwards, Laura Wall Reed, James Giles, Henry Hutchinson, Sam Gadsden, Bubberson Brown, Lenora Washington, Lula Bligen, Alleen Woods, Doll Grant, Rev. McKinley Washington, Rev. Tony L. Daise, Addie Miller Wright, but also many others who were omitted from our history books and by any definition are genuine heroes deserving permanent recognition. It ensures that these brave people will not be forgotten and that we will continue to draw strength from their courage and perseverance. We celebrate these, our stately trailblazers & pioneers, who took courageous steps and made insurmountable sacrifices to lead the recently free blacks into the dawning of a new day - to true independence and prosperity into the modern era. Finally, this book highlights several white allies on Edisto and elsewhere who risked their lives and reputations to ultimately do what was right in the sight of God. These amazing people have worked diligently to alleviate human suffering, exuded compassion for others, built bridges of understanding, sought to educate the masses, and helped to promote the rich Gullah culture and experience on Edisto as well as throughout the world.

Written by top scholars of American History, AMERICAN PASSAGES, BRIEF SECOND EDITION examines U.S. history the way people live?in the flow of real time. Rather than pursuing one topic (such as politics, culture, society, reform, the military, or economics) at a time, each chapter of the text interweaves important themes and issues into one clear narrative. Through this method of presentation as well as through the primary source material in every chapter, students can observe the many ways that events, movements, and groups of people have served to shape history and can learn to make connections between these themes and issues. This revision includes expanded review materials and pedagogy to help students get through the course as well as a free AMERICAN PASSAGES Book Companion Website created by Ed Ayers. This site includes chapter-by-chapter quizzing, interactive maps, videos, audio, and links to over 400 readings.

Qigong Teacher and Daoist Priest Michael Rinaldini has written a book on the modern day practices of a Daoist. His book, A Daoist Practice Journal: Come Laugh With Me offers the cultivation methods for walking the Daoist path. The entries cover topics like zuowang meditation, scriptures, qigong, the value of silence and solitude, and Daoist, Buddhist and Catholic mysticism, tea drinking and more. Here are some samples of his entries, which provide a glimpse into the heart of his writings. 2012 January 14 Sky Farm Hermitage Solitary Retreat In silence and solitude I begin another retreat on Saturday afternoon, January 14, 2012. The rest of Saturday afternoon was spent unpacking and settling into a 6-day retreat. 6:15pm What does a Daoist eat while on retreat? Tonight, I made a soup with soba noodles and assorted vegetables. I forgot to

bring ginger root. 9:40pm I vow to practice ... in silence and solitude, until I realize Complete Perfection. January 15 8:30pm One of my goals for this retreat is to write about the common practices between the Daoist and the Christian paths. I am specifically interested in the Daoist zuowang meditation method of sitting in forgetfulness or oblivion, and the Christian fourteenth-century mystical text, *The Cloud of Unknowing*. Both of these ways of meditation or contemplation feature an emphasis on placing the mind's activities into a state of forgetting or the cloud of forgetting. *The Cloud*, was written by an anonymous author, and it is speculated that the author was a Carthusian monk, and if not, possibly a Catholic priest living a hermetic lifestyle. And so what are the similarities, the common practices between zuowang meditation, and the contemplative practices as presented in *The Cloud of Unknowing*? January 16 2pm Sitting in silence outside on the porch, The only sounds-birds singing, An occasional movement of the wind, And very faint voices from neighbors down the valley. Odd at how sound travels. And right now, there was the sound of a car, actually, What I heard was the sound of the road, A gritty gravel sound. My mind filled in the blanks, And I instantly labeled it, "a car driving nearby," Though it could have been a truck. And now my sneezes and coughing, And blowing my nose, all disrupt the silence A large crow just landed in my valley, Returning me to silence. January 17 Sitting on the porch, all bundled up. Drinking Scottish Christmas tea and a banana, and one cookie. A large part of being in silence and solitude is simply listening. Even the wind down the valley. You can hear it as it makes it way up the hills, And now, I feel it against my body, It flaps the page of this journal book. And before you know it- It's gone, and the silence returns. Except for the birds, sound of distant dogs, chickens, And that same sound that cars/trucks make on the gravel road. 12:30pm *The Cloud's* author says: Forget what you know. Forget everything God made and everybody who exists and everything that's going on in the world, until your thoughts and emotions aren't focused on or reaching toward anything, not in a general way and not in any particular way. Let them be. For the moment, don't care about anything (11). And finally, why even bother to think? From the zuowang tradition: I forget the vastness even of Heaven and Earth, Never mind the minuteness of the hair in autumn. Resting in serenity and silence, I listen to Pure Harmony. Still, I am free, away from it all! Movement stilled, language silenced- Why ever think? (212). January 18 4:30 pm Inspired from yesterday's research, and last full day of retreat. Forget everything, Put nothing, between myself, And the Great Emptiness of Ultimate Stillness. That's the nameless Dao! End of Retreat

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "A great American success story . . . an endearing and well-written book."—The New York Times Book Review Colin Powell is the embodiment of the American dream. He was born in Harlem to immigrant parents from Jamaica. He knew the rough life of the streets. He overcame a barely average start at school. Then he joined the Army. The rest is history—Vietnam, the Pentagon, Panama, Desert Storm—but a history that until now has been known only on the surface. Here, for the first time, Colin Powell himself tells us how it happened, in a memoir distinguished by a heartfelt love of country and family, warm good humor, and a soldier's directness. *My American Journey* is the powerful story of a life well lived and well told. It is also a view from the mountaintop of the political landscape of America. At a time when Americans feel disenchanted with their leaders, General Powell's passionate views on family, personal responsibility, and, in his own words, "the

greatness of America and the opportunities it offers” inspire hope and present a blueprint for the future. An utterly absorbing account, it is history with a vision.

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Ryan has a normal life until a stranger comes into his life and takes him onto a mysterious journey where his mission is to find pieces to build a machine and a weapon. But the only way to get these items is to time travel. His friends who accompany him on his journey are Diego, Ashley, and Richard. That's when they find out that there is something evil lurking around them.

The #1 bestseller that tells the remarkable story of the generations of American artists, writers, and doctors who traveled to Paris, the intellectual, scientific, and artistic capital of the western world, fell in love with the city and its people, and changed America through what they learned, told by America's master historian, David McCullough. Not all pioneers went west. In *The Greater Journey*, David McCullough tells the enthralling, inspiring—and until now, untold—story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and to excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor in America, was one of this intrepid band. Another was Charles Sumner, whose encounters with black students at the Sorbonne inspired him to become the most powerful voice for abolition in the US Senate. Friends James Fenimore Cooper and Samuel F. B. Morse worked unrelentingly every day in Paris, Morse not only painting what would be his masterpiece, but also bringing home his momentous idea for the telegraph. Harriet Beecher Stowe traveled to Paris to escape the controversy generated by her book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Three of the greatest American artists ever—sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, painters Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent—flourished in Paris, inspired by French masters. Almost forgotten today, the heroic American ambassador Elihu Washburne bravely remained at his post through the Franco-Prussian War, the long Siege of Paris, and the nightmare of the Commune. His vivid diary account of the starvation and suffering endured by the people of Paris is published here for the first time. Telling their stories with power and intimacy, McCullough brings us into the lives of remarkable men and women who, in Saint-Gaudens' phrase, longed “to soar into the blue.

The first trade paperback edition of the New York Times best-seller about West Point's Class of 1966, by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Rick Atkinson. This is the story of the twenty-five-year adventure of the generation of officers who fought in Vietnam. With novelistic detail, Atkinson tells the story of West Point's Class of 1966 primarily through the experiences of three classmates and the women they loved—from the boisterous cadet years and youthful romances to the fires of Vietnam, where dozens of their classmates died and hundreds more grew disillusioned, to the hard peace and family adjustments that followed. The rich cast of characters includes Douglas MacArthur, William Westmoreland, and a score of other memorable figures. The West Point Class of 1966 straddled a fault line in American history, and Rick Atkinson's masterly book speaks for a generation of American men and women about innocence, patriotism, and the price we pay for our dreams.

Intended for the person who has no experience with firearms, *Modern American Gunslinger* walks the reader through every aspect of concealed carry, in plain and easy to understand language. 60+ helpful illustrations throughout the text's 400+ pages help the reader decipher complex topics. Nicely organized into nine parts with a detailed table of contents and table of figures, every aspect of concealed carry is covered comprehensively in a candid, yet professional, first person style: Part 1 - Handguns, Rights, and Society; Part 2 - Handgun Basics; Part 3 - Choosing a Handgun; Part 4 - Safety, Training, and Cleaning; Part 5 - Carrying and Self-defense; Part 6 - Handguns in Daily Life; Part 7 - POET Risk Management Strategy; Part 8 - FBI Active Shooter Protocol; Part 9 - Conclusions. The book contains three bonuses:

POET - A Personal Risk Management Strategy (PRMS) developed to help the reader; conscientiously lower their risk in everyday society. FBI ACTIVE SHOOTER PROTOCOL - Covers latest guidance from the FBI on Active Shooter situations. COMPANION WEBSITE (modernamericangunslinger.com) - The companion website will help keep you up to date on the latest trends on firearms discussions and provides a forum to interact with the author. The title, *Modern American Gunslinger*, originates from the author's stark realization that for a firearm to effectively help a person in a civilian self-defense situation, it needs to be brought to bear by the defender within a second or two of a threat materializing. In a chaotic and violent self-defense situation, time and space are commodities that the self-defender does not enjoy. The biggest games, the best bowls, the greatest players and coaches to ever wear the orange and blue-- it's all here in this celebration of Auburn Football in the Modern Era. In its more than 300 pages of colorful memories, statistics, humor, Top Ten lists, and much more, *DECADES OF DOMINANCE* passionately argues for Auburn's greatness on the football field. Here are just a handful of the many chapter topics included: Dye Hard: The Pat Dye Era Top Ten Bowl Games Running Back U: Auburn's Top Rushers and their Statistics The Rise and Fall of the Bowden Empire Top Ten Greatest Games Played in Jordan-Hare The Tommy Tuberville Era Auburn's Records vs the Rest of the SEC and vs All Other Conferences The Future of Auburn Football AND MUCH MORE! As a special bonus, this book includes the Complete History of Jordan-Hare Stadium, as well as the scores from every season, every game, and every bowl game in Auburn's Modern Era, 1981-present. Van Allen Plexico and John Ringer, authors of the bestselling *SEASON OF OUR DREAMS* and "Wishbone" columnists and podcasters for *The War Eagle Reader*, poured every ounce of their passion for Auburn football into giving you *DECADES OF DOMINANCE: AUBURN FOOTBALL IN THE MODERN ERA*. "A compendium unapologetically celebrating the greatness of Auburn football. Every Auburn fan should own it." -- Michael Skotnicki, author of *AUBURN'S UNCLAIMED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS*

From best-selling, award-winning biographer Nigel Hamilton, this is an insightful, prodigiously researched, and wonderfully readable account of Bill Clinton's first term in office. It shows how a well-meaning but naïve new president failed to assert true leadership in his first two years, and then illustrates how, in an astonishing act of self-reinvention, the president turned defeat into victory. *Bill Clinton: Mastering the Presidency* is a gripping tale of hubris and redemption—and a chronicle of one of the most dramatic reversals of fortune in modern American politics.

In the tradition of *Blue Highways* and *Silent Spring*, *Chasing Spring* follows nature's season of renewal even as it shows how the delicate mechanisms of spring are increasingly endangered by climate change. Seeking to revive his body and soul following heart surgery, acclaimed nature writer Bruce Stutz set out on a three-month journey through the unfolding of an American spring. Driving across the country in a twenty-year-old Chevy sedan, Stutz shows readers that spring is not so much a progression as an arousal; each added minute of the lengthening days and lingering sun brings yet another transformation in the greening landscape as well as in the human spirit. Beginning with the season's southernmost stirrings along the Gulf of Mexico, Stutz sees the first blooms and partakes in the season's festivals -- celebrations with ancient origins that still speak to our wonder at nature's annual rebirth. He follows the migrations of birds northward, the return of life to the forests, and the quickening of snowmelt in the Rockies. He moves across the southern desert, encountering the explosion of cacti and wildflowers and the violence of tornadoes on the drought-stricken Great Plains. He then travels north through the national parks of the West, finally celebrating his journey's end by basking at the solstice amid the beauty of the Alaskan Arctic's twenty-four hours of daylight. Along the way, he

accompanies scientists into the field to study the season's changes and meets farmers, Arctic natives, and even migrant mushroom pickers whose livelihoods depend on the coming of spring. In each location, as he observes the sensitive interplay of light and warmth that draws animals, plants, water, and even the soil itself into the biological ballet that makes for the profound stirring we call spring, he also finds that climate change now threatens the basic processes of nature. A moving and thought-provoking record of the year's most invigorating season, *Chasing Spring* is a timely reminder that as trees bud and flowers bloom, the human spirit reawakens as well. Anyone who has ever marveled at spring's wondrous transformations from a first garden blossom to a world in full flower will find in *Chasing Spring* a journey to savor.

The author describes his quest to discover his parents' roots in rural Mississippi, exploring the proud--and shameful--culture that makes up his family's--and the state's--heritage. Reprint. 17,500 first printing.

From New York Times bestselling biographer Bob Spitz, a rich biography of an epic American life, capturing what made Ronald Reagan so beloved and so transformational. More than five years in the making, based on hundreds of interviews and access to previously unavailable documents, and infused with irresistible storytelling charm, Bob Spitz's *Reagan* stands fair to be the first truly post-partisan biography of our fortieth president, and thus a balm for our own bitterly divided times. It is the quintessential American triumph, brought to life with cinematic vividness: A young man is born into poverty and raised in a series of flyspeck towns in the Midwest by a pious mother and a largely absent father. Severely nearsighted, the boy lives in his own world and finds his first brush with popularity as a young lifeguard. Thanks to the example of his first love, he makes the extraordinary leap to go to college, a modest school by national standards, but an audacious presumption in the context of his family's station. From there, the path is only dimly lit, but it leads him to a solid career as a radio sportscaster, and then, astonishingly, fatefully, to Hollywood. And the rest, as they say, is history. Bob Spitz's *Reagan* is a richly detailed chronicle of the full arc of Ronald Reagan's epic life--giving full weight to the Hollywood years, his transition to politics and his rocky but ultimately successful run as California governor. His iconic presidency, from Iran-Contra to "Tear down this wall!" to an assassination attempt, receives a balanced reckoning in the form of an absorbing, even revelatory narrative.

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