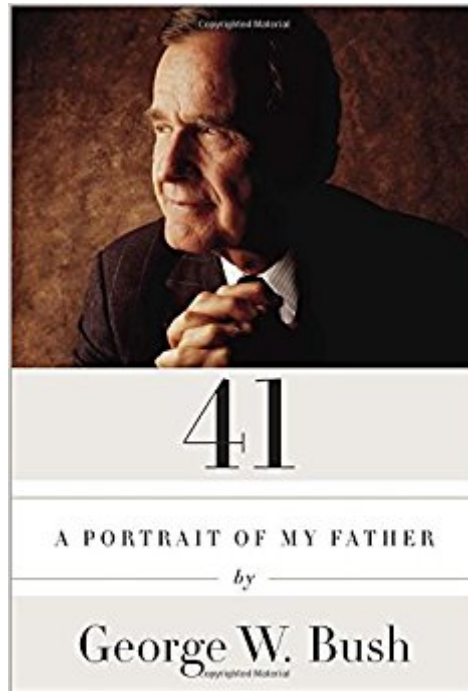




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41: A Portrait Of My Father



Synopsis

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, has authored a personal biography of his father, George H. W. Bush, the 41st President. "Forty-three men have served as President of the United States. Countless books have been written about them. But never before has a President told the story of his father, another President, through his own eyes and in his own words." A unique and intimate biography, the book covers the entire scope of the elder President Bush's life and career, including his service in the Pacific during World War II, his pioneering work in the Texas oil business, and his political rise as a Congressman, U.S. Representative to China and the United Nations, CIA Director, Vice President, and President. The book shines new light on both the accomplished statesman and the warm, decent man known best by his family. In addition, George W. Bush discusses his father's influence on him throughout his own life, from his childhood in West Texas to his early campaign trips with his father, and from his decision to go into politics to his own two-term Presidency.

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Customer Reviews

George W. Bush is the forty-third President of the United States, serving from 2001 to 2009. He previously served as Governor of Texas. He and his wife, Laura, live in Dallas, where they founded the George W. Bush Presidential Center at SMU. President Bush's previous book, *Decision Points*, is the bestselling Presidential memoir of the modern era.

The other 2,000+ reviews have already said it all, but I'd like to add on to the pack by expressing how much this book touched my heart. George H.W. Bush was already my favorite president for who he was and is as a person, and also his impressive resume in which he worked so hard to accomplish each point through his own determination and merit (despite coming from a prominent family), but George W. Bush shares with us a side of his father that we would not have otherwise known. An all-American man with the values that comprise the very foundation of this great country, undying patriotism, genuine respect and loyalty to his family, colleagues, and even opponents. In junior high, I had written a report on the upcoming election of Clinton vs. Bush, and to this day, I look up to this great man, and after reading this book, I consider him one of the best human beings our country and the world has known. Sure, that may be a bold statement, but it is not easy to find a person with the combination of his accomplishments, humility, loyalty, and good heart.

This is an excellent book written about an excellent president. Because the son wrote the book, of course it is biased, but then again isn't Hillary Clinton's books about herself biased. If you like the individuals, then you read the books. If you don't, then you won't. I like the Bush's, both George W. (the author) and George H. W. George W. wrote the book because a historian mentioned that only one other time was there a father/son combination in the White House - John and John Quincy Adams and it was a shame that the son John Quincy never wrote a book about his father and the influences on the son. George W. decided he wasn't going to let that happen with his father. And, this beautifully written book is the result of that effort. What comes through in the book, were the reasons why George H. W. Bush was such a great president, after all he presided over the fall of the Soviet Union without any fallout (nuclear that is) and ended the Cold War. His steady, unflinching understanding and support of Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union at the time. It could have ended much differently, and history will recognize him for that. Also, what comes through is the love and support that George H. W. Bush had for his family, including the daughter who died of leukemia at the age of three. The humorous anecdotes are especially worth the read, for anyone who likes the Bushes of course. One that I was reminded of occurred on 9/11/2001 when George W. Bush called his parents and found out they were in Brookfield, Wisconsin. He asked his mother why and his mother said: "George, you grounded our plane!" The book is full of these humorous anecdotes and for this reason I really enjoyed it and highly recommend it for anyone who can put aside their biases.

George W. is a good and graceful writer and his love of father and family warm the reader. George

H. W. Bush is a remarkable guy and a wonderful pater-familias and his firstborn tells his story well. Of course, Lee Atwater's savagery and campaign trickery, and all the nasty negative-politics stuff - stuff the Bushes introduced - doesn't get mentioned, because at Walker Point, patriarchal center, nothing untoward happens. A good family that knows not a scintilla of doubt. Good read. Nice guys, both author and subject. Reader might find herself thinking more deeply than either. That's the only problem: bit too sure of themselves, both guys. Damn, but I like them both.

I gave this book 5 stars for the author's intimate storytelling of his father's (President George H. W. Bush) life and the many ways it molded his own life. Most importantly it was written with a profound sense of love which leapt from page to page. Historically it told so much about a man who holds my admiration for all he achieved, didn't achieve, his love of people and his determination to follow through. I would recommend this book to anyone who doesn't know about our 41st or 43rd presidents or to anyone who likes to read just a feel good story about a family _ Presidential family Well written and the pictures were a US.

I purchased this audio book for the opportunity to hear about 41's life from the spoken word of 43. I have a tremendous amount of respect for 41, for both the service he performed for all of us, and also for his obvious commitment to friends and family. While I did not vote for him, I certainly believed all his big decisions were carefully considered and pulled from a remarkable depth of experience and relationships. However, my opinion of 43 was not so favorable. In fact, it could not be more different than that of his father. I share this only because I had very low expectations about the quality and presentation of the story. I was very pleased to be wrong. I had two issues which would normally knock down my rating: The portrait was very biased in sort of a soft Fox news kind of way, and of course, on several occasions 43 used the platform to defend or excuse some of his decisions. But I suppose these are both inevitable. If you think you are buying a fair and balanced or complete portrait, you should think again. However, it is a fascinating telling complete with fun anecdotes, color characters and a portrait of man that is very interesting learning about. Although as a balanced portrait this book does not deserve a 5 star rating, 43 surprised me, and I really enjoyed it.

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