



41: A Portrait of My Father

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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.

41: A Portrait of My Father Details

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From Reader Review 41: A Portrait of My Father for online ebook

CD says

President George W. Bush writes a very personal portrait of President George H.W. Bush. Stories and background about the 41st President are included that only are available to a family member are just part of what makes this a worthwhile read.

Ol' 43 makes certain that the reader will view this in the proper light in the author's introduction. It is meant to be a loving portrait of his father. In that line, he succeeds above expectations. That he tells stories about his family, including his daughters, that are personal and caring far exceeds any need that he or his father have at this point in their lives or career.

A different type of work from a political figure in that it is not really political in anyway. 'W' even resorts to the humble self-deprecation that so many people missed in his personality and tells a hilarious story regarding his 'first' visit to the White House. It was a blind date that didn't go well. Nixon was involved which makes it funnier yet!

Highly recommended for all but the foaming at the mouth opponents of the family Bush. Or those who don't find any thing charming and entertaining about a 90 year old man jumping out of a perfectly good airplane and nearly plummeting, literally, into their own grave.

This book is meant to be fun, and it is!

Jean says

George W. Bush writes what he calls a “love story” about his father. The book is folksy and a fun read. The book is obviously not unbiased but the author tried to paint a true picture of his father and family from his own viewpoint. George W. discusses his father’s influence on him throughout his own life.

George W writes of his father’s early success. He writes his father gave him “unconditional love.” He discusses his father’s well-known generosity, his talent for friendship and his willingness to take risks. The most interesting parts of the book deals with the personal side of the George H. W. Bush. The author discusses his father’s service in the Pacific during WWII, his pioneering work in the Texas oil business and his political rise as a Congressman. He reviews his work as U.S. Representative to China and the United Nations, CIA director, Vice President and President.

This is the only presidential biography of a father written by his son who was also a president. It is also the closest thing to an autobiography of Bush 41, since he has never written a memoir. George W. Bush narrated his own book. I read this as an audio book downloaded from Audible. I fully enjoyed learning about the personal side of 41.

Tim Chavel says

This is an awesome read. Even though I did not always agree with either of the Bush's policies as Presidents, they are people that I admire. Both Bush families have good hearts and I think they both know Jesus as their Savior. I have a few quotes for you to consider. The first is George W. telling you what made him think to write this book:

A few months after we left (George W. Bush), Laura and I invited Tim Lawson and his wife, Dorie McCullough Lawson, to our ranch in Crawford, Texas. I had commissioned Tim - a real artist, not an amateur like me - to paint some scenes of the landscape we love. As Tim observed the native prairie grasses and live oaks on the property, Dorie and I talked about her father, David McCullough. I told her that a highlight of my presidency had been meeting her dad, the fine historian and Pulitzer Prize - winning biographer of John Adams. After updating me on her father's health and projects, Dorie said, "You should know that one of my father's greatest regrets in studying John Adams is there was no serious account of him by his son John Quincy Adams." She knew, of course, my connection to John Quincy: We are the only sons of Presidents who have served as President ourselves. "For history's sake," she said, "I think you should write a book about your father."

Over the years, I suspect there will be many books analyzing George Herbert Walker Bush, the man and his presidency. Some of those works may be objective. This one is not. **This book is a love story - a personal portrait of the extraordinary man who I am blessed to call my dad.** I don't purport to cover every aspect of his life or his years of public service. I do hope to show you why George H. W. Bush is a great President and an even better father.

Only two times in American history has a President been sworn in with both his parents on hand to witness the moment. The first came in 1961, when Joseph and Rose Kennedy watched their son take the oath of office from Chief Justice Earl Warren. The second came in 2001, when my parents attended my inauguration.

After their fifty-fourth anniversary, my parents had passed John and Abigail Adams to claim the title of longest-married presidential couple. They are now just a few months away from extending their record to seventy years.

When my second term ended in 2009, I was fortunate to become the first President to leave office with both parents alive.

Don't be misled by the quotes I chose. This book is about George H.W. Bush. I selected the quotes above for two reasons, I thought they were interesting and I had not known the information before reading the book.

If you are interested in history, then I highly recommend this book!

Jacinta Carter says

I didn't know much about George H.W. Bush as a man or a president, as his time in office ended when I was a baby. This book provides loving insight to the type of father, grandfather, and politician Bush Sr. was and

continues to be. As it's written by his son, it's obviously not an objective portrayal, but that doesn't really affect how you read it. Overall, it was nice to read a book about a president that didn't feel like it carried some greater political agenda.

LeaAnn says

I listened to the audio book, read by the author, and loved listening to George W. talk about the love and respect between father and son. With regard to political positions and perspectives, it was not unbiased and the son had strong opinions about the father's policies and how the world should view his presidency. But the insight into the family and their love for each other was well worth the "read." I loved all of the hand written notes HW had sent to his kids and grandkids over the years. What a treasure for them! And the family had such a great sense of humor that I laughed out loud a couple of times.

Will Stewart says

This was a great story about a father and a son. Fan or no fan of this president or any other I thought the book was honest, sincere, and actually written by the author. It was a short and sweet look into the life of the 41st president.

Rick Theule says

Great story written about a father by an adoring son. The fact they were both President of the United States makes it that much more enjoyable. I learned quite a few things about 41, and it is very evident 43 loves his father. Definitely a good read.

Ophelia London says

"Now I'm no longer pursuing happiness. I have found happiness. I no longer pursue it, for it is mine."
~George H. W. Bush (August 2001)

Laura says

This book made me cry, in all the good ways. I loved it from start to finish.

W. Whalin says

I loved this audio book and the personal insights about the 41st President of the United States as only can be told by his son, George W. Bush, the 43rd president. He called it a love letter to his father and that love

shines in these well-told stories. I highly recommend this biography.

Ricki says

Love and affection leap from each page of this book. It's the story of a father's love for his family and a son's love for his father. Sure, it's getting read because George H.W. Bush was the 41st President of the USA and George W. Bush was the 43rd President. But most of all, this is a story of how a family molds and supports its members.

There are some interesting political things discussed. And I learned a lot more about 41's numerous jobs in service to our country even before he was President.

Beyond that, though, is a family, sticking together through good and bad. It's a throwback to the times when family was important, when parents taught their children right and wrong, to help others, and to love and support each other while being kind and considerate of each other and other people. Maybe I'm getting old and sounding like my grandmother now, but I think a return to this type of family attitude would be a positive step for all of us.

In the meantime, George W. Bush has written a warm and loving tribute to his father which is a joy to read.

Eric Lin says

Didn't go into as much detail as I would have liked. George W. obviously respects his father a lot, and intended to write this as a tribute his father, but the reason I (and I'm sure many others) were excited to read this book is because it promised a glimpse into a president's life from the perspective of his son.

He says things about GHWB like the fact that he never heard harsh words exchanged between him and his mother. And every story he tells about his dad is positive. I'm willing to believe that his father was a great person, but where are the stories that humanize the former president? Where are stories about the time his father did something silly, or unexpected? This made me feel like I was reading about someone out of a parable, rather than a still living, former president.

As W points out, Bush Senior never wrote a presidential memoir, and if The President's Club taught me anything, it's that all outgoing presidents care about their legacy, and how they will be judged by history. Parts of this book felt like W was trying to draw parallels between his legacy, and that of his father's. That's fine, since former presidents are so rarely given the opportunity to speak candidly about their decisions without interruption. I don't mind reading that. However, then George W. should uphold his end of the bargain, and tell us something about his father that hasn't already been said by someone who wasn't his son.

Heidi'sbooks says

I would actually rate this a 4.5. I enjoyed the voice and personality which came out in the writing. My book club read 41: A Portrait of My Father. I have to say that I enjoyed it. I liked the conversational style of the writing, and I thought George W. Bush's writing style came through.

I did enjoy learning some things about our 41st president. I didn't realize how much foreign experience he had before he became president. A couple of stories surprised me, one when Taiwan didn't get the vote for representation in the UN. The Taiwanese representative had to leave the assembly. Our UN Ambassador and his wife, George and Barbara Bush, walked out with him in solidarity and Barbara Bush was spit upon. Another was a funny story of George H. W. Bush, age 83, driving a speed boat with Putin and his interpreter on board.

The book holds touching family stories, especially about the death of their daughter from leukemia, plus how they came to acquire Walker's Point in Maine, etc. There are not many stories of Barbara Bush in here, but there are a few. You may agree with some of the stands and disagree with some, but you will also laugh and cry, cringe and applaud.

Political memoir is not my normal reading fare, but it was a change of pace. I've never read the genre before because of the obvious bias. I actually requested this book because it crosses genres, leaning more towards a family memoir. I may or may not try more political memoirs in the future.

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

I do not remember 41's presidency being this eventful! No wonder he was so ill and exhausted at the end of his second campaign. And what a supportive family.

2017 Lenten nonfiction Buddy Reading Challenge book #32

Amy says

My reaction when I discovered I won this book:

I even picked up the dog and danced around with him for a while.

This was *the* book I most wanted this Christmas. It was also the one book I could remain pretty confident no one would get me. Winning it from the Goodreads giveaway?

Anyway, I love this type of book. I love how much George W. Bush expresses his admiration for his Dad. I love the reference to the historical precedence (like the father-son John Adams/John Quincy Adams or pulling a Martin Van Buren) I love the glimpse into policies and politics. I like the funny stories. I spent the

entire book pestering my family with, "Did you know...?" and "Can you believe this....!"

I did not read this critically and I can't find it in me to be critical. I read it for my enjoyment, will re-read it for my enjoyment, and lend it out accordingly. Its the story of a great man told from the eyes of his son. It's effusive, occasionally repetitive, and every now and then goes on random tangents. But it's George W's story of his father and that makes it worth it.
