



Young Benjamin Franklin: The Birth of Ingenuity

Nick Bunker

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In this new account of Franklin's early life, Pulitzer finalist Nick Bunker portrays him as a complex, driven young man who elbows his way to success.

From his early career as a printer and journalist, to his scientific work and his role as a founder of a new republic, Benjamin Franklin has always seemed the inevitable embodiment of American ingenuity. But in his youth he had to make his way through a harsh colonial world where he fought many battles: with his rivals, but also with his wayward emotions. Taking Franklin to the age of forty-one, when he made his first electrical discoveries, Bunker goes behind the legend to reveal the sources of his passion for knowledge. Always trying to balance virtue against ambition, Franklin emerges as a brilliant but flawed human being, made from the conflicts of an age of slavery as well as reason. With archival material from both sides of the Atlantic, we see Franklin in Boston, London, and Philadelphia, as he develops his formula for greatness. A tale of science, politics, war, and religion, this is also a story about Franklin's forebears: the talented family of English craftsmen who produced America's favorite genius.

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Michael says

Such a well written insight into one of the world's great inventors. The author has done a fabulous job of providing lots of "new" information about Franklin's early years and at the same time making it fascinating and enjoyable reading. There is so much information/facts/discoveries packed into this book it is amazing. I enjoyed it from start to finish and learned so much. I won this book in a GoodReads Giveaway.
