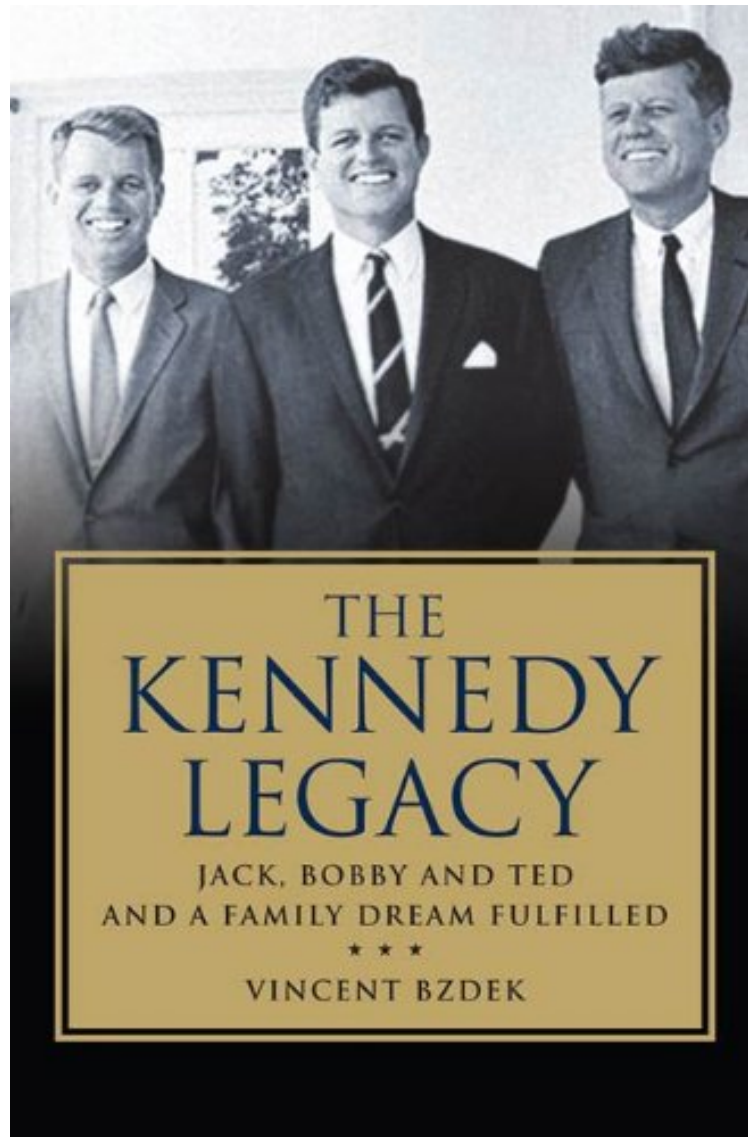


(Ebook free) The Kennedy Legacy: Jack, Bobby and Ted and a Family Dream Fulfilled

The Kennedy Legacy: Jack, Bobby and Ted and a Family Dream Fulfilled

Von Vincent Bzdek

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Von Vincent Bzdek : The Kennedy Legacy: Jack, Bobby and Ted and a Family Dream Fulfilled before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kennedy Legacy: Jack, Bobby and Ted and a Family Dream Fulfilled:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. In Praise

of Teddy! Von James Galloway "The Kennedy Legacy" is a study of the impact Jack, Bobby and Ted Kennedy have had on the last half century of American history. Author Vincent Bzdek is obviously a fan of the Kennedys and this book will be a delight for anyone who shares his outlook. Even for one who would not vote for any Kennedy for anything, this still retains interest as an historical study of our era. This book is divided into three sections, centering on, you guessed it, each of the brothers. It begins with Patriarch, Joseph P. Kennedy and his inception of the plan, after his own political future was ruined by his service as Ambassador to the Court of St. James (Great Britain), to groom his sons for leadership and glory. As tragedy took its toll, Joe seemed to recoil from the process which he had placed in motion. The role of Rose in raising and inspiring the children, particularly in matters of religion, gets its coverage also. A serious study of Joseph, Jr. lays out the early rivalries between the brothers. Joe's death thrust the mantle of leadership upon Jack. Jack was the first brother to achieve political prominence, starting with his election to Congress, followed by his defeat of Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. for the U.S. Senate. Kennedy's stalking of the Presidency from 1956-60 resulted in his election. As president, JFK promoted the careers of his brother Bobby, as Attorney General, and Teddy as U.S. Senator. An interim appointment had held the Kennedy seat until Ted was old enough to run. JFK is shown as a president who grew in the office, drawing courage from his blunders in the Bay of Pigs fiasco which served him well during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His initial reluctance to lead the Civil Rights struggle, for fear of alienating southern Democrats, matured into leadership, the fruits of which blossomed under Lyndon B. Johnson. Bobby's career is shown as one centered in ideals focused through the lens of tragedy. Brother Joe's death on World War II, Sister Rosemary's tragic lobotomy ordered by their father and Jack's assassination. RFK's decision to seek the presidency in 1968, which started as an anti-war effort, is portrayed as evolving into a moral crusade. The 82 day campaign is presented as a magical moment when Bobby and the poor, blacks and Hispanics bonded into a unity of hope and romance. The gunfire in the kitchen ended that dream. Teddy was left alone. The mantle was his to pick up or walk away from. He proceeded with fits and starts, deviations and nosedives, legislative successes and personal failures. Throughout his long career, Ted has stood for the liberal programs and the legacy that his brothers began. The theme of this book is that Teddy was the most influential of the brothers, primarily due to his longevity and legislative skills. Bzdek characterizes Teddy as the best politician of the family, the only one who could work in the Senate for the passage of legislation and the sole Kennedy to be considered for a Senate leadership role, both officially and unofficially. Ted is portrayed as one who will reach across the aisle to work with Republicans, as well as Democrats, in order to advance his agenda. While not swelling on Ted's drinking and philandering, Bzdek makes the case that Kennedy's moral failings never interfered with his work, except when his credibility was diminished for a time. Even during his worst times. Ted maintained friendships with others who were willing to help him up. At times Bzdek lets his enthusiasm and partisanship show through. At one point he states that, if Bobby had followed Ted's advice, he might still be alive, Johnson would have been reelected in 1968, Bobby elected in 1972 and Ted after that. He overlooks the logic that, if LBJ had trouble to defeating a pipsqueak like Sen. Eugene McCarthy, what would Richard Nixon have done to him? He also assumes that, no RFK assassination, no Chappaquiddick and that the country would elect any Kennedy, almost as an hereditary monarchy. A supporter of the Kennedy initiatives will find much to enjoy in this book. Although, unlike Bzdek, I am no fan of the Kennedys, I found interesting concepts on these pages. His thesis that Ted is the most influential Kennedy opens eyes regarding him as well as others. It is suggested that Ted is more influential as a Senator than he would have been had he been elected president in 1980, an achievement which would have limited his term of service to January 1989, at the latest. We tend to think of presidents as makers of policy and setters of agendas. If Ted Kennedy is more influential than Jack, what about other members of Congress who, over long careers, carry great influence? We often hear of bills which Ted crafted with opponents, including Dan Quayle, Pete Domenici, Orrin Hatch and both Presidents Bush. We often view those initiatives as Republican sell-outs in order to get on the winning side, even if Kennedy is the winner. After reading about several of these in this book we begin to think that maybe there really was some common ground there. Even though we see drunken, dissolute characters in the Kennedys, this book makes us think that maybe, just maybe, there are some redeeming social virtues amidst the moral ruin. Although this book did not convert me into a Kennedy admirer, it did force me to look on the men and the legacy in a different light. I often rate books on whether they force me to rethink my views or whet my appetite for more reading about their subjects. This one makes the grade on both tests. I no longer think of the Kennedys as people best ignored. Now I get a new appreciation of their roles in history. For the first time, I am really interested in reading more about them. A book that can do that is a success.

Kurzbeschreibung John, Robert, and Ted Kennedy's individual stories can be seen as essentially one, each successive brother striving to fulfill the interrupted promise of the brother before. The closing of Ted Kennedy's chapter in America's political and cultural life means that, for the first time perhaps, the real measure of the Kennedy legacy can finally be taken. This is a story of a brotherhood in three acts: Act I is John F. Kennedy's presidency, as seen from Ted's front-row seat. Act II is Robert Kennedy's five brief years as the family standard bearer, including his tenure in

the Senate with his brother Ted and the memorable 82-day presidential campaign that redefined the Kennedy legacy. Act III is Ted's 40-plus years in the Senate as keeper of the flame. How did the brothers pass the torch to each other? What have the three brothers left us collectively? And who carries the torch forward now? The Kennedy Legacy compellingly answers these questions and much more. Pressestimmen 'Washington Post news editor and features writer Bzdek...delineates [the story] succinctly and compellingly...Bzdek does a fine job.' - Kirkus Praise for Woman of the House: 'Vincent Bzdek is a terrific observer and storyteller who has found the perfect subject in Nancy Pelosi. Woman of the House is a revealing portrait of the complex politician, part old-school, part New Age, who shattered the glass ceiling and became the most powerful female elected official in the nation's history.' -Eugene Robinson, political columnist, The Washington Post 'Bzdek [is] a crisp writer and effective storyteller...It's a page-turning and impressive ride.' - New York Post 'Bzdek provides a well-rounded portrait of a powerful woman.' - Booklist 'Balanced...[a] thoroughly researched biography.' - Library Journal Kurzbeschreibung John, Robert, and Ted Kennedy's individual stories can be seen as essentially one, each successive brother striving to fulfill the interrupted promise of the brother before. The closing of Ted Kennedy's chapter in America's political and cultural life means that, for the first time perhaps, the real measure of the Kennedy legacy can finally be taken. This is a story of a brotherhood in three acts: Act I is John F. Kennedy's presidency, as seen from Ted's front-row seat. Act II is Robert Kennedy's five brief years as the family standard bearer, including his tenure in the Senate with his brother Ted and the memorable 82-day presidential campaign that redefined the Kennedy legacy. Act III is Ted's 40-plus years in the Senate as keeper of the flame. How did the brothers pass the torch to each other? What have the three brothers left us collectively? And who carries the torch forward now? The Kennedy Legacy compellingly answers these questions and much more.