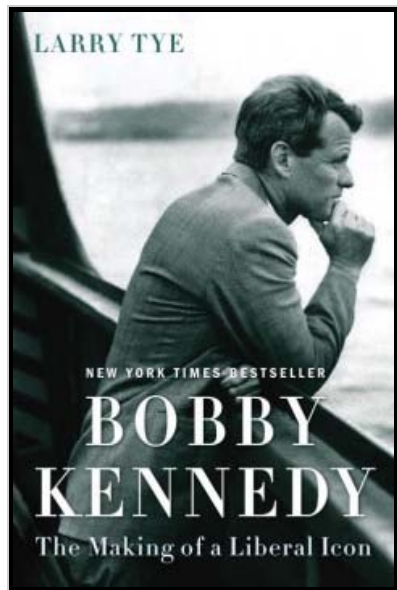


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Bobby Kennedy

by Larry Tye

Price: \$32.00(Hardcover)

Published: July 05, 2016

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: **NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • From the author of *Satchel* comes an in-depth, vibrant, and measured biography about the most complex and controversial member of the Kennedy family. History remembers Robert F. Kennedy as a racial healer, a tribune for the poor, and the last progressive knight of a bygone era of American politics. But Kennedy's enshrinement in the liberal pantheon was actually the final stage of a journey that had its beginnings in the conservative 1950s. In *Bobby Kennedy*, Larry Tye peels away layers of myth and misconception to paint a complete portrait of this singularly fascinating figure. To capture the full arc of his subject's life, Tye draws on unpublished memoirs, unreleased government files, and fifty-eight boxes of papers that had been under lock and key for the past forty years. He conducted hundreds of interviews...

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About The Author

Larry Tye

Larry Tye has been an award-winning journalist at *The Boston Globe* and a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He now runs a Boston-based training program for medical journalists. He is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Satchel*, as well as *Superman, The...and Rising from the Rails*, and co-author, with Kitty Dukakis, of *Shock*. He lives in Massachusetts.

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What We Say

Do you know someone of a liberal sensibility who was alive in 1968? Ask them about Bobby Kennedy and the ache in their voice will be palpable. Read this new biography and you'll understand why. While unquestionably approving of the man Bobby Kennedy ultimately became, Robert Tye's work deepens and complicates this fascinating figure. When tragedy strikes (as it often does for the Kennedys and the country in this era), Tye does tend to feel that Bobby felt it more deeply than anyone else. He also depicts Bobby as almost single-handedly inventing modern political campaigns when surely precedent and the innovations of others come into play as well. Other than that, he's notably hard-headed and eager not to let Bobby

off the hook. It charts his childhood as the almost ignored Kennedy, lost among the large brood and overshadowed by his brothers Joe and Jack. Tye comes into his own amidst politics, with Kennedy as a diligent investigator for the anti-communist crusade of Senator Joe McCarthy and then just as eagerly against the corrupt unions personified by Hoffa. He makes mistakes, he changes, he grows. When confronted by black activists with passionate denunciations, Bobby is defensive and argues back. But a day or two later, he amends his worldview. When future activists take him to task (he's the first public figure they get a chance to lambaste), Bobby learns to listen and ask questions. Again and again, Tye shows him developing into the liberal icon of his book's subtitle and our imagination: turning from hawk to dove via the Cuban Missile Crisis, becoming "radicalized" when dealing with segregation down south and migrant farm workers out west or seeing little children with swollen bellies of the sort you'd expect once upon a time in Africa but not America in the 1960s. Tye's new facts include a better and more believable depiction of the famous phone calls made in sympathy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Jack and Bobby. Better still is his argument that it was the black vote that sealed their victory, not the shady dealings that bought votes here and there (as it undoubtedly did). The book gains momentum as Bobby gains passion, learning and growing every step of the way, until you're so excited about what he might do...and then disaster strikes again. I haven't read any other biographies of Bobby Kennedy (or really the Kennedys in general) so I can't speak to what new insights if any that Tye offers here. But for someone barely alive when Bobby died, he makes that loss as depressing as ever, one of the great "what-ifs" in US history. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

“Larry Tye has done his homework. He has read the books and articles, interviewed hundreds of family members, friends, colleagues and acquaintances, and made use of newly released materials in the Kennedy Library and elsewhere to produce a nuanced, balanced, affectionate and mostly favorable portrait. . . . [Tye] presents us . . . with a kind of bildungsroman of a young, privileged man who is forced to learn on the job and makes mistakes. . . . We are in Larry Tye’s debt for bringing back to life the young presidential candidate who . . . for a brief moment, almost half a century ago, instilled hope for the future in angry, fearful Americans.” — David Nasaw, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Sweeping . . . [Tye] captures RFK’s rise and fall with straightforward prose bolstered by impressive research. Along with hundreds of interviews with Kennedy intimates, including his widow, Ethel, Tye sifted through unpublished memoirs, unreleased government files, and boxes of Kennedy papers that had been locked away for some forty years.” —*USA Today*

“Bobby Kennedy, who was assassinated during his 1968 presidential campaign, is remembered for his antiwar stance...

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