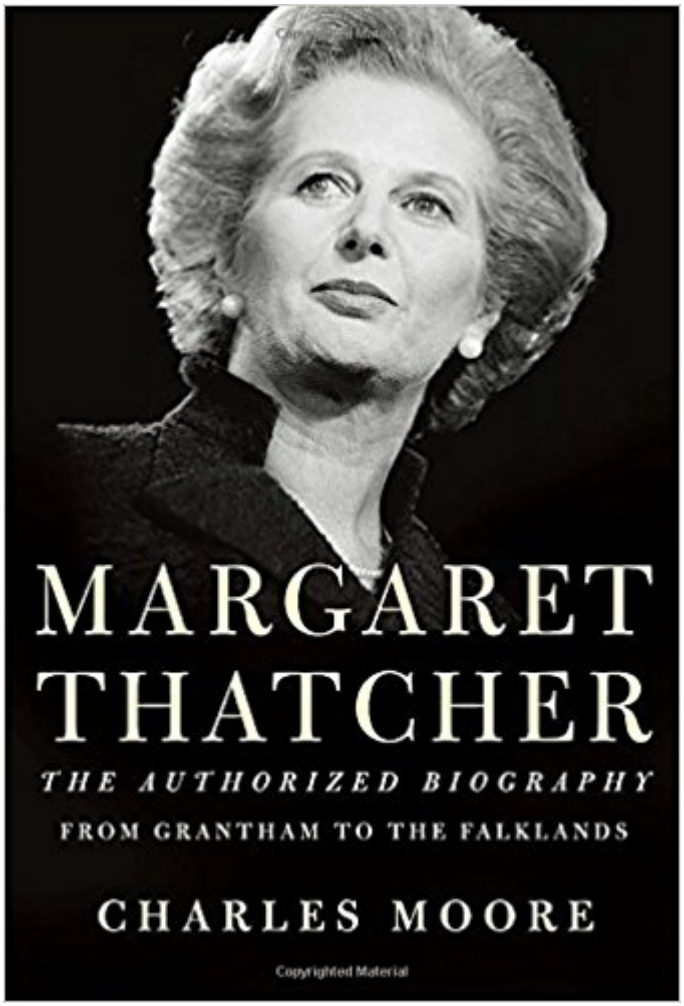
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham To The Falklands: The Authorized Biography



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

With unequaled authority and dramatic detail, the first volume of Charles MooreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s authorized biography of Margaret Thatcher reveals as never before the early life, rise to power, and first years as prime minister of the woman who transformed Britain and the world in the late twentieth century. Moore has had unique access to all of ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s private and governmental papers, and interviewed her and her family extensively for this book. Many of her former colleagues and intimates have also shared previously unseen papers, diaries, and letters, and spoken frankly to him, knowing that what they revealed would not be published until after her death. The book immediately supersedes all other biographies and sheds much new light on the whole spectrum of British political life from ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s entry into Parliament in 1959 to what was arguably the zenith of her powerÃ¢â ¬â •victory in the Falklands in 1982. Drawing on an extraordinary cache of letters to her sister Muriel, Moore illuminates ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s youth, her relationship with her parents, and her early romantic attachments, including her first encounters with Denis Thatcher and their courtship and marriage. Moore brilliantly depicts her determination and boldness from the very beginning of her political career and gives the fullest account of her wresting the Tory leadership from former prime minister Edward Heath at a moment when no senior figure in the party dared to challenge him. His account of ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dramatic relationship with Ronald Reagan is riveting. This book also explores in compelling detail the obstacles and indignities that Thatcher encountered as a woman in what was still overwhelmingly a manÃ¢â ¬â„¢s world. MooreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s admiration for Thatcher is evident, yet his portrait is convincingly clear-eyed, conveying both how remarkable she was and how infuriating she could be, her extraordinary grasp at mastering policy and what needed to be done, and her surprising vulnerabilities. At the moment when Margaret Thatcher becomes a part of history, MooreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s portrait enlivens her, compellingly re-creating the circumstances and experiences that shaped one of the most significant world leaders of the postwar era.Ã Â

Book Information

Hardcover: 896 pages
Publisher: Knopf; First Edition edition (May 21, 2013)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0307958949
ISBN-13: 978-0307958945
Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.8 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 74 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #698,665 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads of State > U.K. Prime Ministers #1506 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain #3493 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Political

Customer Reviews

Guest Review of Ã¢â ¬Å“Margaret ThatcherÃ¢â ¬Â•By Anne Applebaum Anne Applebaum is the author of several books, including Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, a National Book Award finalist, and Gulag: A History, which won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction. She writes a column for The Washington Post and Slate, and is the Director of Political Studies at the Legatum Institute in London. She divides her time between Britain and Poland, where her husband, Radek Sikorski, serves as Foreign Minister. From the beginning she sounded different. She looked different too, particularly back when she had frizzy hair and wore too much jewelryÃ¢â ¬Â¦ Much has happened since then. She became the Iron Lady, she became prime minister, she became a symbol to love or hate, she became an Ã¢â ¬Å“ismÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Â¦We all think we know what happened to her and whyÃ¢â ¬â •but do we really? MooreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s great gift is his ability to make ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story fresh again, and above all to remind us of how odd she was. By beginning at the beginning, by showing us the reality of the childhood we only know through clichÃƒÂ©sÃ¢â ¬â •Ã¢â ¬Å“grocerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s daughter,Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Å“scholarship girlÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •by introducing us to the boyfriends weÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve never met and by quoting from her chatty, breathless letters to her sister (Ã¢â ¬Å“I decided to buy a really nice undie-set to go under my turquoise chiffon blouseÃ¢â ¬Â•) Moore shows us how impossible it would have been for anyone who knew her as a young woman to imagine what she would become. He also captures her unsettling personality, her Ã¢â ¬Å“actressyÃ¢â ¬Â• manner, her stiffness in public, her private warmth, her inept outbursts and faux pas, almost always using the language of people who were there at the time. During the decade and a half he worked on this authorized biographyÃ¢â ¬â •of which this is only the first volumeÃ¢â ¬â •Moore had unprecedented access to her private papers, on condition that nothing be published until after her death. He interviewed just about everyone who knew Thatcher, from her private secretaries to her political enemies, and he did so meticulously. This enabled Moore to produce not a hagiography or a court biography, as some feared he would, but a multi-faceted picture of a compelling and unusual life. Moore is at his best when presenting

different views of the same situation. Some of these contradictory impressions are explained by the fact that she was female in an almost entirely male world. In later years, many assumed she had no interest in other women or awareness of herself as a role model, but Moore shows over and over again that this was not the case. Her oddity was also connected to her brilliance, another one of her qualities now lost beneath layers of history and controversy. Thatcher got to Oxford from Grantham not because she had connections but because she worked incredibly hard, even overcoming objections from a teacher who told her to forget Oxford because Ã¢â ¬Å“you havenÃ¢â ¬â„¢t got Latin.Ã¢â ¬Â• She said, Ã¢â ¬Å“IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll get LatinÃ¢â ¬Â• and went to take lessons from a Latin teacher at a local boyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s school. Later, she passed the Bar exam after studying tax law on her own. The same autodidactic instinct impelled her to study economic and political theory. Although this is very much a narrative biography, it is also a thematic book about ideas: where they come from, how they affect people and how they get shaped into policies. And Thatcher proved unusually receptive to what were then very unfashionable ideas. In the summer of 1968, when the rest of the world was turning on and dropping out, she was in her suburban sitting room reading library books on Conservative political philosophy. In the end, this combination of biography and intellectual history works perfectly. After all, ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ideas were shaped by the place where she was born, by the people she met, by Oxford in the 1940s and Finchley in the 1950s, by her quirkiness and her brilliance, by her provinciality and her romantic choices. To understand what happened to Britain during her prime ministership and afterwards, it really is important to understand who she was: MooreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Thatcher will now become the definitive account.

Gird your loins! Because unless you are fanatical about twentieth-century British politics, the last page of this hulking biographyÃ¢â ¬â •this being only the first of two volumesÃ¢â ¬â •will remain out of reach. Authorized here means Moore was granted full access to Lady Thatcher (who, it will be remembered, is only recently deceased) and to her private papers; what it means to the reader is that the treatment is neither unvarnished nor uncritical. Everyone knows Margaret Thatcher was the longest servingÃ¢â ¬â •and first femaleÃ¢â ¬â •prime Ã Â- minister of Great Britain, and everyone knows of her legendary reputation for being the Iron Lady and the supposedly compassionless manner in which she ran the country during her tenure at 10 Downing Street. What we learn here, in exacting detail, are the makings of a single-minded politico who conceived early on her prescription for the ills of Britain and let other aspects of her life take second place to achieving the government positions in which she could see her ideas through. The thorough lesson in the fine points of British government that this massive treatment becomes will leave Thatcher admirers set in their beliefs,

while Thatcher detractors will see what they want to see in the book. Middle-grounders, then, will get the most out of it, for their sense of both the good and the bad within the woman will be sustained. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: ThatcherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s recent death has heightened interest in the late prime minister. --Brad Hooper

This is not "Margaret Thatcher for Dummies" - a catch-up on the essentials of a world figure. It is a vast work suitable for those who lived through or studied the 70s and 80s in Britain and are still puzzled by outcomes (grammar schools, Rhodesia) over which she presided which were clearly at odds with her beliefs. Moore provides all the fine detail and context required to understand these apparent anomalies. Importantly, although he clearly admires his subject, he admires the truth more and spares nothing in exposing episodes (such as so, so nearly selling out the Falkland Islanders) which are air-brushed from the autobiography. Sadly, the degree of scholarship applied means that we shall probably have some years to wait for the second volume.My only complaint regards Moore's pedantic peppering of direct quotations with the annotation "(sic)". It's an unnecessary distraction (if something is presented in quotes then I shall assume that it is verbatim and make my own assessment of the intent and grammatical skill of the speaker). Above all, if Moore is that pedantic then he (or his editor) cannot afford to commence his List of Illustrations with "Margaret Robert's...(sic)"

Margaret Thatcher was an amazing political leader. In her own lifetime she was both admired and reviled by many. Even on the occasion of her death the responses could be quite loud. Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham to the Falklands is the first volume in a two volume biography of the Iron Lady by author Charles Moore. Moore spent many years working on this project. Lady Thatcher gave him access to her own material and encouraged others to talk to him. The only stipulation was that the book be published after her death. Moore is quite thorough in his work. He covers Thatcher's life in great detail. He also covers her personality. This is not an attempt to canonize the subject. Thatcher is shown to be stubborn, difficult, and at times even a bit abusive of her colleagues. Moore points out her many weaknesses as well as her strengths. The overall image is not flattering, but it does show a very human Thatcher, something that we do not see very often when she is portrayed.Thatcher's father made a great impression on her early life. He was a storekeeper and a lay Methodist minister. Many of her strongest beliefs were instilled by her father at a early age. This included a strong work ethic and a strong desire to help those in need. For all of her critics claim to the contrary her greatest desire was always to look after the working men and

women in England. Whenever she looked at a bill she tended to look at it like a housewife examining an item on the family budget. She disliked inflation because she felt that it wiped out the hard earned savings of industrious workers. She fought hard to sell off government owned housing to the people who lived in the housing.Moore tells us a lot about her early life. Thatcher was always very closed about her personal life, always referring to discuss policy more than her own past. Moore shows that Denis was not the first man that she dated, something that she always claimed. We see that she was often so focused on her own life and career that she at times neglected other members of her family like her sister and her parents. We also see Margaret the snappy dresser. It is sometimes hard to remember that great people that we see in middle age were once teenagers. Thatcher loved to shop for clothes and had a particular passion for hats. From the time she was young she seemed to be destined to break down barrier. In the "old boy" world of education and politics she took second place to no one. Moore recounts the story of a headmaster congratulating the young Margaret on her luck at winning a prize in school. She responded that it wasn't luck, she had worked hard for the award.Early on in politics she was added to the Shadow Cabinet in a traditional "woman's position." She worked through that and soon showed the boys how to run a government. Neither the Labour leadership nor the Conservative leadership ever knew what to do with this upstart middle class woman who didn't seem to know her place in the system.Readers not familiar with the British system of government (where the Prime Minister and the Cabinet are all elected members of Parliament) it will seem amazing that from the beginning Thatcher had to fight not only with the opposing Labour party, but with members of her own cabinet. Many in her cabinet considered her as nothing more than a fluke and wanted to remove her from power so that they would be able to resume the game of politics as normal. That was not to happen. At least not for a long time.This book is very detailed and has extensive notes and sources. In fact if there is any criticism it would be that it is too detailed. For a person who loves the minutiae of policy making this book would be wonderful. For those looking for a general biography they may find it to be a little cumbersome in the shear amount of detail given. One other observation. Most Americans know very little about the English education system or the English system of government. This book is written by an English author who assumes that everyone understands these topics. Perhaps a glossary or an appendix explaining these systems would have been useful in the American edition.These slight criticisms aside the book is well written and fascinating. If you want to learn about one of the most important and fascinating political figures of the twentieth century then pick up this book.

Although this is the authorized biography, and the author is an admirer of his subject, it is far from a simple hagiography. Moore presents the matter researched coherently, then he mainly lets it speak for itself. He also does not hold back from pointing out minor inconsistencies in previous accounts, including in ThatcherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s memoirs.Moore is intelligent and diligent, and never allows his narrative to become boring or repetitive. The extensive acknowledgments, endnotes and bibliography demonstrate the depth of the research. Turning such a mountain range of material into a well-organized, readable manuscript is a feat, which the author probably had to pursue while keeping in mind one of ThatcherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s favorite prayers from Sir Francis Drake, which encourages persistence.There are very many books available on this subject, but to me this is a much more worthwhile a read than either a straightforward cheerleading account or a hatchet job. It is critical in the best, evaluative, sense of the word. And although it points out the telling fact, it never comes close to lecturing the reader.The organization of chapters on a thematic basis works well, and provides a good mix, conveying ThatcherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s prodigious work ethic from her schooldays on, and culminating in the momentous battles at home and abroad in the first part of her premiership.

Download to continue reading...

Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham to the Falklands: The Authorized Biography Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography: Volume I: From Grantham to the Falklands Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham to the Falklands Margaret Thatcher: At Her Zenith: In London, Washington and Moscow: 2 Margaret Thatcher on Leadership: Lessons for American Conservatives Today Margaret Thatcher: Power and Personality Margaret Thatcher: At Her Zenith: In London, Washington and Moscow The Iron Lady: Margaret Thatcher, from Grocer's Daughter to Prime Minister Leadership Lessons: Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson Michael Rabin, America's Virtuoso Violinist: The First Authorized Biography - Revised and Updated Different Every Time: The Authorized Biography of Robert Wyatt Americo Paredes: In His Own Words, an Authorized Biography (Al Filo: Mexican American Studies Series) Mother Teresa (Revised Edition): An Authorized Biography Churchill The Life: An Authorized Pictorial Biography Pete Maravich: The Authorized Biography of Pistol Pete The Bobby Jones Story: The Authorized Biography George Price: A Life Revealed - The Authorized Biography Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography Shifty's War: The Authorized Biography of Sergeant Darrell "Shifty" Powers, the Legendary Shar pshooter from the Band of Brothers