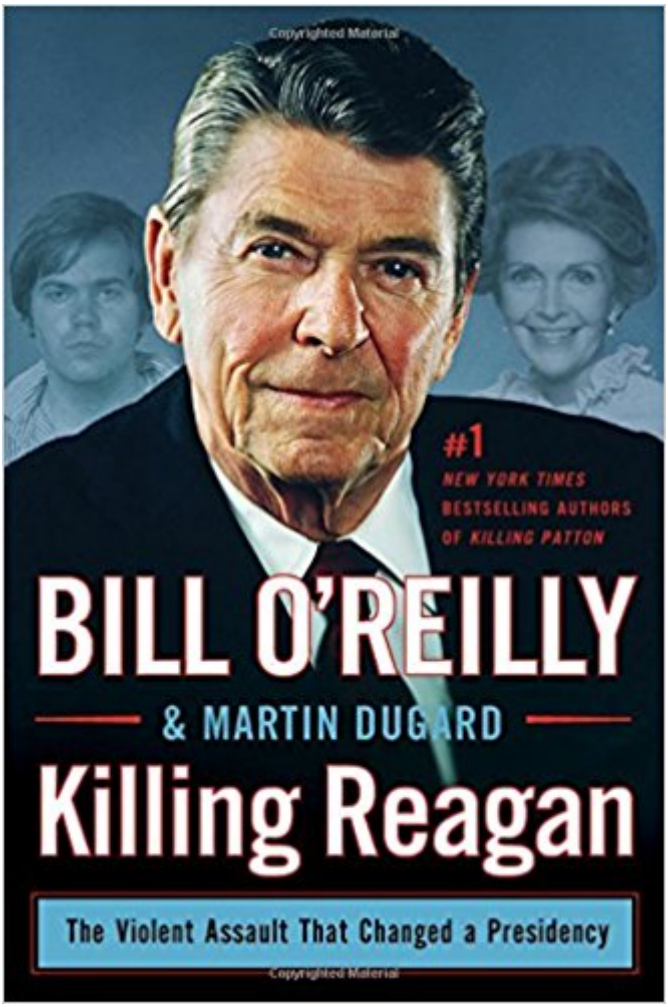
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Killing Reagan: The Violent Assault That Changed A Presidency



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Synopsis

From the bestselling team of Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard comes Killing Reagan, a page-turning epic account of the career of President Ronald Reagan that tells the vivid story of his rise to power -- and the forces of evil that conspired to bring him down. Just two months into his presidency, Ronald Reagan lay near death after a gunman’s bullet came within inches of his heart. His recovery was nothing short of remarkable -- or so it seemed. But Reagan was grievously injured, forcing him to encounter a challenge that few men ever face. Could he silently overcome his traumatic experience while at the same time carrying out the duties of the most powerful man in the world?Told in the same riveting fashion as Killing Lincoln, Killing Kennedy, Killing Jesus, and Killing Patton, Killing Reagan reaches back to the golden days of Hollywood, where Reagan found both fame and heartbreak, up through the years in the California governor’s mansion, and finally to the White House, where he presided over boom years and the fall of the Iron Curtain. But it was John Hinckley Jr.’s attack on him that precipitated President Reagan’s most heroic actions. In Killing Reagan, O’Reilly and Dugard take readers behind the scenes, creating an unforgettable portrait of a great man operating in violent times.

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Customer Reviews

Bill O’Reilly’s success in broadcasting and publishing is unmatched. The iconic anchor of The O’Reilly Factor led the program to the status of the highest rated cable news broadcast in the nation for sixteen consecutive years. His website BillOReilly.com is followed by millions all over the

world.In addition, he has authored an astonishing 12 number one ranked non-fiction books including the historical "Killing" series. Mr. O'Reilly currently has 17 million books in print.Bill O'Reilly has been a broadcaster for 42 years. He has been awarded three Emmy's and a number of other journalism accolades. He was a national correspondent for CBS News and ABC News as well as a reporter-anchor for WCBS-TV in New York City among other high profile jobs.Mr. O'Reilly received two other Emmy nominations for the movies "Killing Kennedy" and "Killing Jesus."He holds a history degree from Marist College, a masters degree in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University, and another masters degree from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.Bill O'Reilly lives on Long Island where he was raised. His philanthropic enterprises have raised tens of millions for people in need and wounded American veterans.Martin Dugard is the New York Times bestselling author of several books of history. He and his wife live in Southern California with their three sons.

As an ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly FactorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“KillingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• books fan, I was looking forward to the latest entry of the series that has somewhat reignited a degree of historic interest among many in the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“historically-challengedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• US population. By spotlighting one of our greatest presidents ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ and written by a seemingly objective conservative pundit who I believed would ensure fair treatment ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ I assumed it would stand as a credible addition to the voluminous scholarship on President Reagan.As difficult as this is to write, I can only say that I was wrong. To my surprise and disappointment, it is perhaps the most factually distorted, negatively skewed, and misleading portrayal I have read on one of our greatest and most influential presidents.Like the previous books in the series, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Killing ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is succinct and pointed in its assertions, with a rigorous pacing that brings it in at approximately 289 pages. Yet, despite its efficient prose, the book fails in the following areas: 1) Several factual inaccuracies (either by omission of key caveats or the appropriate context); b) ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Tabloid-fodderÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• assertions or rumors ill-sourced or assumed (but not proven) to be true; c) Selection of numerous events designed to reflect negatively on Reagan; d) Unproven negative and arbitrary opinions of Reagan and his capabilities are littered throughout.For example, I spotted over 30 factual errors, debatable points, or suspiciously sourced ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“tabloid-likeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• assertions that immediately undercut the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s credibility. In addition, there were several anecdotes cited that required caveat or ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“the full story,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• which is something OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly prides himself as always providing but fails to do here. These include: -

Assertion that the Reagan campaign ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“cheatedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• by having ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“stolenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• CarterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s briefing notes for their only debate in 1980 (P. 8). The book openly speculates that it was Nancy who stole them, which is unsupported. Also, OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly could have mentioned that it was also revealed that the Carter camp had acquired an insider analysis on RRÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s debate preparation from a mole inside of the campaign, pretty much evening things out. Of course, although fairly common in all political campaigns, neither course was ethical but they were also not illegal (in a word, thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“politicsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•). Yet, only telling one side is factual inaccuracy by omission, implying that RR somehow ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“cheatedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• his way to victory in the debate and perhaps the election.- Characterizations of numerous sexual escapades, alleged extra-marital affairs in 1952 (which prevented him from being at the birth of his daughter, Patricia Ann; P. 49), and a rumored one in 1968 as Governor (P. 83) ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ allegations exaggerated or never proven. Yet, the authors write as though they are factual, again negatively depicting RRÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s character.- Repeated assertions of the ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s obsession with Astrology and NancyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s erratic personality, which were cited in Don ReganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s memoir, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“For The Record,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and Kitty KelleyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized BiographyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ which are both known for their exaggerated and tabloid-like attacks on particularly Nancy Reagan. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Killing ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• provides that RR himself also took Astrology seriously, even though neither Regan, Kelley or any other source has claimed this. Also, due to the fact that both authors had an axe to grind, using either source as credible casts great doubts about the validity of the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s assertions.- In several passages, Reagan is described as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“not a great intellectÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“passive,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“stubborn,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“disengaged,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“puts little effort into fatherhood,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“has his good days and bad days,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“in permanent decline,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“visibly frail,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“naps frequently,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“delegates much power to Nancy,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“spends hours during the day watching television reruns,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and other swipes that amount to little more than petty slights, or arbitrary and/or parroted opinions. They are also conveyed absent of any positive behavior or characteristics, creating a wholly negative depiction (see P. 83).- Regarding Iran-Contra, OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly writes: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Although two key members of the

conspiracy ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|NorthÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|andÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|Weinberger, made it clear Reagan knew what was happening, no charges were ever filed against the presidentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (P. 224). This is not true. While Reagan knew of the sales to Iran (which he admitted), no evidence has ever been found that proves RR knew about the diversion of funds. Also, neither Poindexter, North, or Weinberger ever testified that RR actually knew of this.- Erroneous and/or incomplete depiction of RR and the Falklands War (PP. 199-211). The authors' message here is that RR opposed the British re-taking of the Falklands and repeatedly tried to convince Thatcher to abandon the effort because Argentina was supporting US operations against Cuban and Nicaraguan Communists in Central America. Yet, the authors fail to mention that Reagan actually did covertly support the British effort by providing USAF resources on nearby Ascension Island (for aerial operations), Sidewinder missiles, logistics materials and other support. Thatcher specifically thanked RR for this in one phone conversation in late June 1982. Yet, the authorsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ depiction leaves one with the impression that RR stubbornly opposed Britain and was later beaten down by Thatcher for it (PP. 208-211). It also makes no mention of how RR deftly towed a fine line between both Argentina and Britain, ensuring their future support. Again, a relative positive turned into a negative.- The authors catalog every gaffe, embarrassing moment, and perceived lapse of Reagan and his presidency without mentioning the many good moments. These would include his comforting words on the Challenger disaster, Reykjavik summit, and seminal speeches from the 40th D-Day anniversary, Notre Dame, British Parliament, SDI, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Evil EmpireÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• speech, and many others. Rather, OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly prefers to provide significant space to Iran-Contra, the potential invocation of the 25th Amendment due to ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s suspected ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“senility,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and even August 1984ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re doing all we canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• tongue-tied incident at the Ranch. They seemed determined to merely hand-wave his successes (P. 224), yet spend nearly the entire book citing anything resembling a failure or foible.There are other examples but the overarching message is this: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Killing ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a pointedly negative portrait of a great president and American legend. Their depiction is almost ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“bi-polar,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• simultaneously portraying a dubious, semi-senile blunderer who somehow magically comes to life when pursing the destruction of Communism. OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ReillyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Reagan is a physically and mentally deteriorating actor and mediocrity whose wife and staff are secretly running the country; whose brilliance is sporadic and ever decreasing due to the onset of AlzheimerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s and/or dementia-like

symptoms ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ something never proven and pointedly denied by RRÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s doctors and everyone who worked with him daily while President. Yet, this doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t prevent OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly from citing it as credible and/or a fact.Martin Dugard apparently led the research on this, and sourcing selections provides clues as to why the book is so negative and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“tabloid-like.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• In other terms, citing severely inaccurate or skewed sources like Kitty KellyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Nancy ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• James ClarkeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Defining DangerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and Mayer and McManusÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Landslide: The Unmaking of the PresidentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (among others) automatically calls into question his intentions of getting it right. Based on this, the book inevitably skews negative when their content is adopted and expanded as they are throughout the book.The radical Reagan-haters of the L3 (i.e., Leftist Liar Lowlifes) continue to lie about RR in a failing attempt to somehow diminish or ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“delegitimizeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• his presidency for their own ideological purposes. They ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“cherry-pickÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• facets that benefit their arguments without ever proving their claims and/or providing the full story. And, because they cannot factually win the debate on RRÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s legacy, they routinely resort to personal slander to marginalize both Reagan and those who would defend him. Dissent is not tolerated in their crusade to re-write history to discredit the success of opposing ideas.Thus, good scholarship is essential to ensuring that the facts of history are not lost to politically-motivated historical revisionism. Unfortunately, this book adds to the increasingly discredited Reagan-hater attacks. By trying not to ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“lionizeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Reagan, OÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢Reilly and Dugard diminish him and his legacy with continuous negativity and veiled personal attacks throughout.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Killing ReaganÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is the biggest publishing disappointment of the year and should be regarded for what it truly is: the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“historicalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• equivalent of a fast food meal. Despite its initially attractive qualities, it is wholly unsatisfying and even destructive to oneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sense of fulfillment and taste. The title more or less describes what it inadvertently does or tries to do to Reagan and his legacy.

Reagan waas one of my most favorite Presidents. O’reilly showed his life very well. During his two terms the country felt good about itself.He had his faults but he was a good person.

’Killing Reagan’ is an interesting look into the life of the late President Ronald Wilson Reagan, full of

all kinds of tidbits about his life. I would say that it is probably my least favorite of Bill O' Reilly's 'killing' books. It's been a while since I read or listened to the other books, but in this one he appears to spend too much time talking about people surrounding Reagan. For a time, he droned on so long about President Richard Nixon, that I felt that I was listening to him prepare for a 'Killing Nixon' book! It is good to know the things around the main character that affect who that person is, but not the amount spent on Nixon. John Hinkley is understandable, but Nixon, not so much. That aside, it is an entertaining look into the 'actor' who would become a 'president'.

Unlike Bill O'Reilly's claim that this book celebrates Reagan's performance as president in spite of his difficulties brought on by the assassination attempt, the book seems to me to put more emphasis on Nancy's involvement in presidential decisions. Oh yes, and it makes a big point that Nancy was very much influenced by her astrologers. But assuming that O'Reilly's claim that all information was extensively verified, the facts presented do shed light on Reagan's health concerns during his presidency.

This was good but I liked killing Lincoln and Kennedy better. Still a good read and informative. Still planning to read his other in the series

Incredible descriptive and very well documented. This books touches the very intimate feelings of the protagonist and his closer relatives and allies. It definitely gives the reader the true perspective of the importance of Ronald Reagan's legacy to freedom of the world

I enjoyed learning some new facts about Reagan. The only reason I didn't give it a 5 star rating was because the use of the present tense was off putting while reading about past events.

This book is abut a great man. A book on President Reagan. This series gets better and better. This book is a cowboy ranching movie star.

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