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In The Shadow Of The White House: A Memoir Of The Washington And Watergate Years, 1968-1978



Synopsis

For her first forty years, Jo Haldeman's life followed a conventional path. While her husband, Bob, built his career in advertising, Jo comfortably settled into her role as mother of four, housewife, and community volunteer. In 1968, Jo's world changed dramatically. Richard Nixon was elected President of the United States, and Bob was offered the job of a lifetime; White House Chief of Staff. As Jo and Bob discussed the opportunities and challenges that this move would entail, little did she anticipate the course that her life, and her relationship with Bob, would take over the next ten years. In this insightful, poignant, and guileless memoir of those ten years, Jo shares her story as the wife of H. R. Haldeman, often referred to as the second most powerful person in the White House. She offers a window into the world of trips on Air Force One, weekends at Camp David, and events at the White House, as well as family vignettes and the growing stresses of her husband's demanding job. Then a bungled burglary at the Watergate erupted into a national scandal. The news began to feature the Haldeman name. Blaring headlines and vicious political cartoons accompanied new revelations of a cover-up. Multiple investigations and Senate hearings followed. Criminal proceedings loomed. Jo's compelling account takes the reader on her journey from the heady heights of Washington life through an excruciating public resignation and trial to her husband's conviction and imprisonment. In a true period piece, Jo illuminates the story of the "woman behind the man" and personalizes the Watergate experience. Enhanced by her personal photographs and the immediacy of her present tense delivery, *In The Shadow of the White House* is a fascinating work of nonfiction that reads like a novel.

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Customer Reviews

"Jo Haldeman has traced her journey --the highs and the lows-- during some very challenging and consequential times. It is an inspiring story. Our friend Jo is a strong, steady, and devoted woman, and she tells her story with love, with wisdom, and with perspective." Joyce and Don Rumsfeld".he was the chief of staff, and from that position he wielded enormous power that flowed directly from his absolute control over both the people and the paper that reached the President's inner office."The Washington Post, May 1, 1973 ..".as White House chief of staff that Haldeman became known as 'Nixon's S.O.B.' and the 'Iron Chancellor.'"Los Angeles Times "Jo Haldeman has traced her journey the highs and the lows during some very challenging and consequential times. It is an inspiring story. Our friend Jo is a strong, steady, and devoted woman, and she tells her story with love, with wisdom, and with perspective."Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld When President Nixon had blue hearts created for his senior advisors to recognize their valor in times of stress, he should have included a heart for Bob's wife, Jo. Always present with her camera and her genuine warmth, Jo was and still is a class act. In this memoir, she shares what it was like to be the woman behind the man behind the president." Henry Kissinger This book is a story about service, the temptations of power, and the power of love. It should be required reading for Washington wives and, maybe more importantly, their husbands. Evan Thomas Jo, you have a story to tell. H. R. HaldemanAbout H. R. Haldeman's The Haldeman Diaries "A fascinating portrait of the major events of this era, including the Cambodia bombings, the Kent State killings, the fall of Spiro Agnew, the Watergate scandal and new insights on Richard Nixon."

"No president of the postwar era has been more consequential and more controversial than Richard Nixon. Bob Haldeman, his Chief of Staff, was there for almost every instant of those stormy and glorious and then sad days. So was his brilliant wife, Jo. Here is a must-read account of the days that changed the world from an authentic insider, devoted wife, and vital memoirist."Ben Stein, bestselling author and former speechwriter to Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford"Jo Haldeman has traced her journey--the highs and the lows--during some very challenging and consequential times. It is an inspiring story. Our friend Jo is a strong, steady, and devoted woman, and she tells her story with love, with wisdom, and with perspective."Joyce and Donald

Rumsfeld. "When President Nixon had blue hearts created for his senior advisors to recognize their valor in times of stress, he should have included a heart for Bob's wife, Jo. Always present with her camera and her genuine warmth, Jo was and still is a class act. In this memoir, she shares what it was like to be the woman behind the man behind the president. Henry Kissinger. "What a terrific, moving, and wise book! It should be required reading for Washington wives and, maybe more importantly, their husbands. A very personal and sometimes painful book a story about service, the temptations of power, and the power of love. Evan Thomas, New York Times bestselling author of Being Nixon. "Jo, you have a story to tell. H. R. Haldeman

Excellent book. Mrs. Haldeman makes us a member of her family, sitting down with us, and unloading her inner thoughts about her marriage, her husband's job with President Nixon, his heights and his nadirs, and how it all affected their family and particularly the author. Reading about her insecurities as a wife of a driven, totally focused manager-in-chief of the West Wing, it reminds me of the complaints of the President's detail of U.S. Secret Service agents' wives, who never know when their husbands will be home from work again. I had a small, infrequent role at the Nixon White House, spending my time visiting military personnel at the other end of the building, the East Wing. All I knew about H. R. Haldeman was to make myself small and unassuming in his presence and avoid his eyes meeting mine. So, to know what his home life was like and how truly human he really was, fills in a lot of blanks for me.

I really liked this book. Full of details that some may find uninteresting but I find the behind the scenes information and feelings related quite fun to read about. Who knew, or even thought about what the wife of such a famous and important political figure had to do and endure and what a wonderful life, in so many ways, she had. Interesting facts presented about what a WH Chief of Staff is responsible for and how personalities definitely impact functions of those in power.

A well written memoir takes you into another person's life and time. The result is a better understanding of that life and time. In the Shadow of the White House definitely sheds a different perspective on the Watergate Era. While you may not find the characters sympathetic, Jo Haldeman's well written book will keep you reading and provide unexpected insight into this difficult time in American history.

I thought this would be a woman's -type book and that it would not interest me very much. My wife talked me into reading it. I found it to be a well-written and fascinating insight into the Watergate episode in our history.

Well written insider's view of Washington life from someone on the periphery of power. While many people were vilifying Nixon's staff, Mrs. Haldeman saw her husband as a good man and loving father. She doesn't excuse or explain what really happened in the convoluted tale that is Watergate. She just tells what it was like in her family to see it happening at the time. Recommended for fans of first-person accounts of history and for those interested in Watergate.

I THOUGHT THE AUTHOR PUT THINGS VERY SIMPLY AND ALL WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. IT BROUGHT BACK TIMES THAT WE DO NOT THINK OF OFTEN SO IT WAS GOOD TO RELIVE HER HUSBAND'S LIFE AS WELL AS OTHERS. I AM VERY GLAD I READ THIS BOOK.

A very good book to help understand how the White House works. It brings in the sacrifices and privileges required by the entire families of those who serve. Enjoyed very much even though I am not of the same political party.

A beautifully written memoir. I couldn't put it down having lived through the Watergate years myself. It was wonderful to hear the story from Jo Haldeman's perspective. I felt like I was living the experience with her.

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