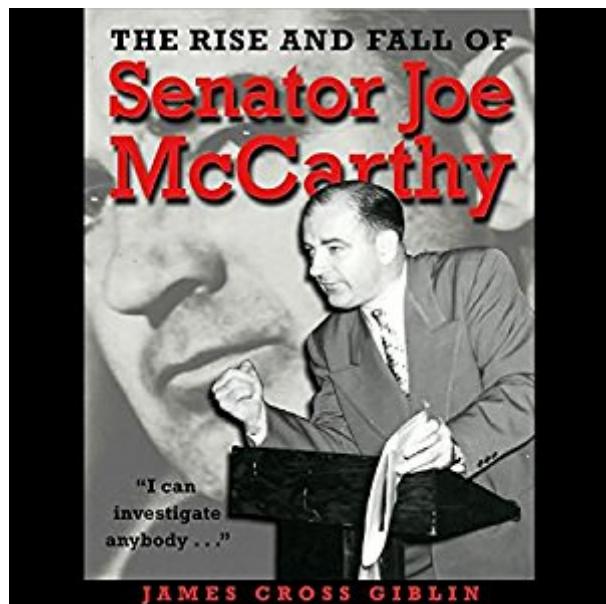


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# The Rise And Fall Of Senator Joe McCarthy



## Synopsis

The man who spoke these words was Senator Joseph (Ã¢â€”call me JoeÃ¢â€”) McCarthy, Republican from Wisconsin, and when he said them, they were very close to true. In the fearful and unsettled cold war climate of the early 1950s, McCarthy came up with what many seized on as a simple solution to the nationÃ¢â€”s problems: Search out the Communists in government, education, entertainment, and the armed forces, and get rid of them. The bullying and dishonest tactics McCarthy used in conducting his investigations of suspected Communists still bear his name: McCarthyism. The compelling story of Senator Joe McCarthy Ã¢â€” who he was, how he achieved a position of almost unlimited power, and how the American system of government ultimately brought him down Ã¢â€” is told in this book. With a large cast of characters and with the major national and international events of the time as backdrop, the biography brings clarity, drama, and insight to the life and career of a political figure as controversial today as he was in his own time. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Disappointing. I realize now that the book was written for children and I should have realized before I picked it up that it was not going to have as much as I wanted to learn. I wanted to know more about what really motivated McCarthy. I also wanted to know more about the lives he destroyed along the way. I suppose it is a good enough book for an adolescent with an interest in mid-century politics.

this should be on your reading /listening list if you want to see part of the reason we are in the condition we are in today, It should be supplemented with something like the Verona secrets to give a full overview of the current political situation

An excellent overview of an individual I with whom I became acquainted during my early high school years. I am approximately the same age as the author.

Purchased by school district. Didn't hear any complaints from the teacher (and I would), so assume all's good.

Detailed, engrossing, and informative...captures the spirit and figures of the time.

I was disappointed to discover that this book is for young adults. There's nothing wrong with that, but it is not clearly or prominently indicated, so the possibility that this was a book for a high school curriculum never occurred to me

This is the story of Joe McCarthy, a man who desired attention and power. A man who became obsessed with finding Communists, until he saw them everywhere. A man who would fabricate evidence, blatantly lie, and blackmail to accomplish his goals. I knew very little about McCarthy, before reading this book, simply knowing that he had used "strong-armed" tactics in attempting to root out Communists, but strong-armed is an understatement. The story begins with McCarthy's childhood and ends with his death, and all throughout he is as one driven. It's admirable early on when he's raising chickens or finishing 4 years of high school in less than 1 year as an adult, but then that drive is applied to a quest for power. His story is a very sad one, of a man trying to find meaning in a quest for power and accolades, constantly scheming to turn circumstances to his advantage, never able to admit his error, and in the end, miserable and literally drinking himself to death when the tide turns against him. It's also a very sad illustration of how the majority of people follow one crowd or another, blindly believing what they read in print, or what a politician says, assuming it must be true. And, it's very sad to see yet another illustration of how many people are willing to overthrow the Constitution or common decency or any other principles, because they think the end justifies the means. This is an outstanding work on Senator McCarthy, also providing many details about Communism, foreign relations between the U.S. and other countries of the day, etc,

with a bibliography and source notes at the end. There are a lot of black-and-white photographs, but mainly just still shots of various people referenced. This book is totally appropriate for the high school age group. The book states that it's for ages 12 and up, but it will not be appreciated as it deserves by most 12 and 13-year-olds. If the listing still states ages 9-12, this is a mistake and is not what the publisher claims. I will definitely keep this book and plan to use it in homeschooling in a few years when my children are a bit older. Good history, but also valuable in addressing issues of character, ethics, etc.

James Giblin has written a very solid book on the life and time of Joe McCarthy. My only question is, "For who?" The content is a little to "adult" for kids, but not written to a level that more serious students of history will take it seriously. The page must be mistaken - it has the recommended ages for kids between 9-12. Impossible - I can't imagine there are more than 20 kids in all of the USA who would read a 300 page book on Joe McCarthy. Also, many parents would be uncomfortable with - The passage that states that (paraphrased) "Joe liked to date many women but he never tried to form an emotional bond with them." - Lots of talk about the people who worked with Joe and if they were homosexual - Talk of alcoholism Now that we have established that this may not be the best night-time story for your tween. I will say that it would be excellent for your high schooler. James Giblin does an excellent job of showing the dangers of characters like McCarthy. Sure his treatment is a bit heavy-handed.... but it needed to be. Joe McCarthy used lies and deceit to become a demagogue and ruined the lives of many Americans. James Giblin shows that the damage inflicted by McCarthy is still being felt today. McCarthy proved that you could become elected and rise to power by instilling fear instead of hope in the voting public. Finally, "The Rise and Fall of Senator Joe McCarthy" serves as a nice survey of the times. Giblin introduces his readers to many of the people and events that shaped the 1940's and 1950's. Final Verdict - recommended for everyone 15 and up. As an adult you may need to remind yourself that this is a book written for young adults - and while it may not be written to the intellectual level of Gordon Wood it is still, in my opinion, very worthwhile. 5 Stars

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