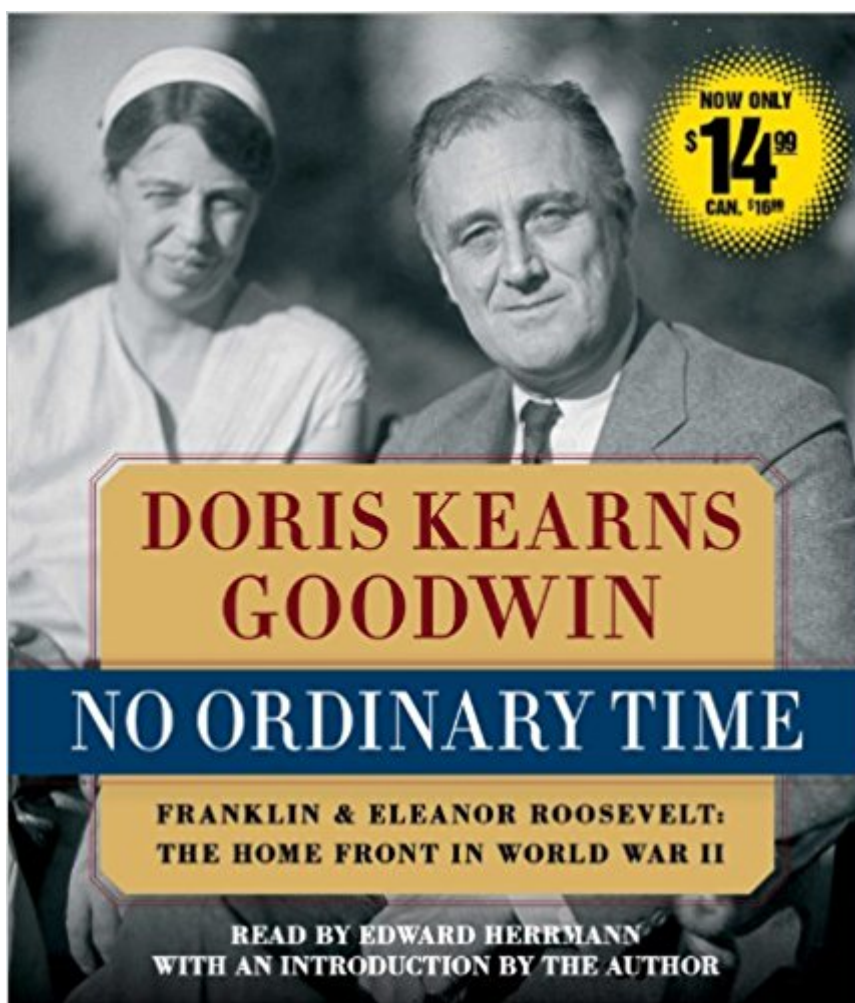


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No Ordinary Time: Franklin And Eleanor Roosevelt, The Home Front In World War II



Synopsis

Doris Kearns Goodwin's Pulitzer Prize-winning monumental bestseller, *No Ordinary Time*, is now available from Encore for only \$14.99! From the bestselling author of *Team of Rivals* and *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, a compelling chronicle of a nation and its leaders during the period when modern America was created. At the center of the country's transformation was the complex partnership of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Using diaries, interviews, and White House records of the president's and first lady's comings and goings, Goodwin paints a detailed, intimate portrait not only of the daily conduct of the presidency during wartime but of the Roosevelts themselves and their extraordinary constellation of friends, advisers, and family, many of whom lived with them in the White House. Bringing to bear the tools of history and biography as well as her great talent for capturing larger-than-life characters, Goodwin relates the unique story of how Franklin Roosevelt, surrounded by his small circle of intimates, led the nation to military victory abroad against seemingly insurmountable odds and, with Eleanor's essential help, forever changes the fabric of American society.

Book Information

Audio CD: 6 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Abridged edition (November 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442367415

ISBN-13: 978-1442367418

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.7 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 1,004 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #463,242 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Books on CD > History > Military](#) #135 in [Books > Books on CD > History > United States](#) #272 in [Books > Books on CD > Biographies & Memoirs](#)

Customer Reviews

A compelling chronicle of a nation and its leaders during the period when modern America was created. With an uncanny feel for detail and a novelist's grasp of drama and depth, Doris Kearns Goodwin brilliantly narrates the interrelationship between the inner workings of the Roosevelt White House and the destiny of the United States. Goodwin paints a comprehensive, intimate portrait that fills in a historical gap in the story of our nation under the Roosevelts. --This text refers to the

Paperback edition.

Goodwin's account of the Roosevelt presidency during WWII highlights America's changing domestic front. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

We have toured FDR's family home several times, and some of the guides told stories that suggested that this was a very unusual marriage. When I saw this book, I was eager to learn more, and it did not disappoint. Goodwin does a masterful job of giving us just enough detail, without being tedious. This is as good a page-turner as most fiction books, and I couldn't put this book down. FDR and Eleanor will always be two of our greatest American heroes during some of our country's darkest times. I am grateful that Goodwin shared this piece of their lives with us.

Played this on a 700 mile road trip. It is excellent, totally up to Doris Kearns Goodwin's usual standard. Her books always bring history to life, and you always learn something even if it's a topic you feel you are well versed in. Her style makes it very easy to read/listen to. The narrator on this was very good, bookmarked by Ms Goodwin's remarks at the beginning and end.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is simply at her best in *No Ordinary Time*. It is a wonderful historical narrative of what went on inside the White House during the Depression, the years leading up to the war and WWII itself. Dr. Goodwin picked a topic and added an immense amount of research and color to it. She manages to astutely put the reader into the Roosevelt White house and the relationship between these two towering figures. Yet she never allows the reader to lose site of the bigger picture, always seamlessly bringing a broader historical framework back into her pages. Her depiction of FDR's true leadership but failure at in-depth human relationships is well done. Her look at the pioneering Elenor Roosevelt and her inability to slow down and deal with a marriage even after a near failure in its very nascent stages, her desire to influence her husband to keep the social progress of the New Deal alive when his hands were beyond full leading an all-encompassing war effort and her jealousies of women with social graces is truly terrific stuff. Literally all the players that set both the world stage are there with much of her attention at the White House where friends, family, advisors, lovers, and world leaders lived and stayed and created a dynamic that literally shaped U.S. policy during this incredible period of world history. One could go on about how well each topic is covered. Suffice it to say this is one well done book. If the reader desires to learn more

about another relationship that greatly effected the war effort, I would recommend "Franklin and Winston" by Jon Meacham or, for a broader and terrific work on the period, "Freedom From Fear" by David M. Kennedy (part of the Oxford History of the United States). For a great couple of historical fiction pieces I would pick up "Winds of War" and "War and Remembrance" by Herman Wouk (don't let a poor televions mini-series poison your view of a couple of terrific novels that give you a feel for a period that even the best writers of narrative history, simply cannot given the purpose of their writings).

I'm a great fan of Doris Kearns Goodwin and her biographies of the Roosevelts. Teddy, Eleanor and Franklin. They were ahead of their times in political and social awareness and reaching positions of great power, used that power to accomplish lasting changes in government and society. This is a good read, flows fast and clear as it tells the life and times of Franklin and Eleanor. I'm a polio survivor and realize first hand the obstacles Franklin faced wearing two long leg braces. He had to be carried up and down stairs as his knees and legs were too weak to function. He had to use great strength just to get in a standing position and speak from a podium, all without the public being aware of the huge effort it took, which he feared would make them too concerned about his health. In spite of this, he met and worked with world leaders and guided our country and the world to victory in WWII. His friendship with Winston Churchill was deep and lasting and Churchill considered him one of the greatest leaders in world history. His development of the lend lease program by itself was a work of genius that kept Hitler from winning the war in Europe. He quickly ramped up America's manufacturers to make weapons, airplanes and all necessities needed by our European allies while he simultaneously prepared our country to join the fight, which extended to Asia and Africa after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It's a magnificent story and one I plan to read again as there's so much to absorb one reading isn't enough.

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