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The Notes: Ronald Reagan's Private Collection Of Stories And Wisdom



Synopsis

Ronald Reagan left behind a legacy that America will never forget. Now, in this one-of-a-kind collection of his most intimate thoughts, his favorite quotations by others, and his own most collectible jokes, all culled from a newly disclosed set of personal notecards he kept throughout his life and career, fans and admirers of the fortieth president will find a unique window of insight into the soul of an American icon. Edited by Douglas Brinkley, editor of #1 New York Times bestseller *The Reagan Diaries*, this indispensable Reagan retrospective is perfect for fathers, graduates, and anyone looking to find inspiration in the thoughts and musings of a great American leader.

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Customer Reviews

In 2010, researchers at the Reagan Library discovered a box of index cards containing jokes, literary quotes, and excerpts from speeches written in Reagan's own hand and arranged under rubrics such as "On Liberty," "On War," and "On the People." Rice University history professor Brinkley, who also edited *The Reagan Diaries*, suggests Reagan began collecting these as spokesman for General Electric beginning in 1954 and continuing until his death in 2004. Readers uncertain if Reagan hated taxes ("Justice O. W. Holmes: 'Keep govt. poor and remain free'") and communism (Pravda: the communist program is "all embracing & all bloodsoaked reality"), or if he loved God, liberty, and the Constitution (Daniel Webster: "if the const. shall fail there will be anarchy throughout the world") will find answers here. Even the jokes show a conservative bent. The squibs are from sources as far-ranging as Dale Carnegie, Solzhenitsyn, G.K. Chesterton, and even Chairman Mao (on marriage). Admirers will find plenty to admire in these jottings and nothing to

change their view of Reagan, but rather confirmation of the vision they already have. 9 b&w photos.
(May)

“The book offers a window into the mind of the nation’s 40th president and displays the effort he made behind the scenes to hone his performance as a speechmaker and storyteller driving home a conservative political philosophy.” (USA Today) “This volume provides an illuminating glimpse into Reagan’s mind.” The entries show the directness of Reagan’s thought and his uncanny ability to make a point. (The Daily) “These notes are wonderful things.” Although a few recent books have proclaimed to have finally uncovered the real Reagan, there’s a chance we’ll never get any closer than in these scribbles, which reveal so much.” (Christopher Buckley, Bloomberg News) “Now with the discovery of his note cards, we can better appreciate just how hard Reagan himself labored to be clear and convincing—and, yes, sometimes funny—to his many audiences.” (The American Spectator) “This is a book to return to often and sample the collected wisdom found there that buttressed a remarkable man’s vision.” (The Washington Times)

Actually, I bought this initially on my Kindle (first generation) - but I will be buying the hard copy also, that’s how much I was entertained as well as educated by it. I am a quote junkie and saw the Editor, Douglas Brinkley, on one of the morning programs who explained that while it’s true Reagan was a master communicator, he was also very prepared. A box full of Reagan’s “notes” was discovered in 2010. Reagan collected quotes, poems, and one liners that resonated with him and filed them in a black photo album. This is a short book, I read it in one afternoon, but it is a book I will turn to again and again for when I need inspiration or a laugh or trying to understand history or politics. The quotes are divided into these subjects: On Nation, On Liberty, On War, On the People, On Religion, The World, On Character (one of my most highlighted chapters), On Political Theater, Humor (the second most highlighted chapter). There is a glossary at the conclusion of The Notes that lists more information on the people the quotes are attributed to...some are well known to me: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, but I loved that I was able to learn of authors that I was not so familiar with: Graham Barden, Whittaker Chambers, Gilbert Chesterton. I will be gifting this to many many people for graduations, birthdays, and Christmas. This is for people who love history, love politics, love quotes, and of course, love Reagan. Also, after reading it, I thought it would make a great gift to ALL political parties in office - it’s a humbling, often humorous reminder of what this country fought

for, stands for and yet most of today's politicians seem to have forgot. If my house caught fire, and I could only save one book - it would be The Notes; that's how much I loved it.

What a delightful book! Here we have Ronald Reagan's jottings of thoughts and observations, jokes and quotations, preserved on his ever-present 4 x 6 note cards. Watch a film of the 'Great Communicator' preparing to speak, and you may find him slipping his hand in his suit pocket, deftly withdrawing and then arranging his cards as he waves, smiles, accepts applause and looks across his audience. His ubiquitous note cards were each written to be self-contained, with an eye toward prospective rearrangement for future presentations. This system--a description he might have smilingly dismissed as rather grand--comprised a vital element of his extraordinary effectiveness as a communicator. Historian Douglas Brinkley has done a masterful job of classifying the cards into topics such as: 'On the Nation,' 'On the People,' 'On Religion,' 'On Character,' and so on. My favorite--and I suspect, the favorite of many--is the final section, 'Humor.' Reagan's voice is remains familiar, even intimate, in his use of humor as a persuasive tool, a management tool, indeed, a way to approach the seriousness of leadership and life and work. Especially for younger readers, Brinkley adds value with a glossary of the many individuals whose words or actions populate the cards. The index is also invaluable. Those who--somehow, against all evidence--continue at this late date to underestimate Reagan's discipline and thought process will find much to reflect upon in this book. So, too, those who have studied or written about or served under Reagan (or done a bit of each, such as myself) will find much to appreciate in this newly discovered trove of work, direct from his pen. I recommend this book most highly. It's a useful addition to any library: on Reagan, on history, on leadership, on communication. Most importantly--and, perhaps, most enduringly--as Brinkley declares in the introduction, Reagan's notes 'constitute a love song to America.'

Fantastic, reading his words was like recalling my life and or watching First Gump. I began listening too Ronald Reagan sharing thoughts of wisdom and common sense as a young teenager. Always inspirational. I still miss him.

Gosh, is there anything more to say about President Reagan? He was the greatest we've ever had! If you enjoyed his diaries, you will truly love this gem of collected quotes amassed by Reagan. I visited the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley and this was one book that I regretted not purchasing over there. It's broken into chapters by themes and they span all sorts of issues. The quotes are timeless and chilling, considering what we are currently going through as a country and a

planet. If you are a fan of Reagan, this is a must-have for your home's library, or perhaps a gift for that token conservative in your group of friends! Enjoy!

The great communicator Ronald Reagan had the gift of the one liner and knowing exactly what to say and when to say it. Even though many would argue he used this God given talent to win over his opponents in the political world, some would say he grasp his inspiration from a simpler approach. Douglas Brinkley has edited in his book Ronald Reagan: The Notes, Ronald Reagan's Private Collection of Stories and Wisdom the never before private collection of the Gipper's notes. It turns out that throughout his life, Reagan kept cards in a photo box of quips, quotes, and miscellaneous references to the greats throughout history. Who know that his depth of reference transitioned from left, center, and right as these gems shine off the page. This box of treasures was discovered as the Presidential Library was preparing for the centennial birthday celebration of one of America's beloved President's. This book is a treasure for any library and is an invaluable source for those who want to garner inspiration from this former President.

My 13 & 16 year old sons loved this book! Both of them read it from cover to cover. Just the right amount of wisdom and humor to keep them turning the pages. They liked it so much I bought another copy to give away. Excellent book for your coffee table! Easy read, and thought provoking. Will probably buy it over and over throughout the years for gifts.

an American hero

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