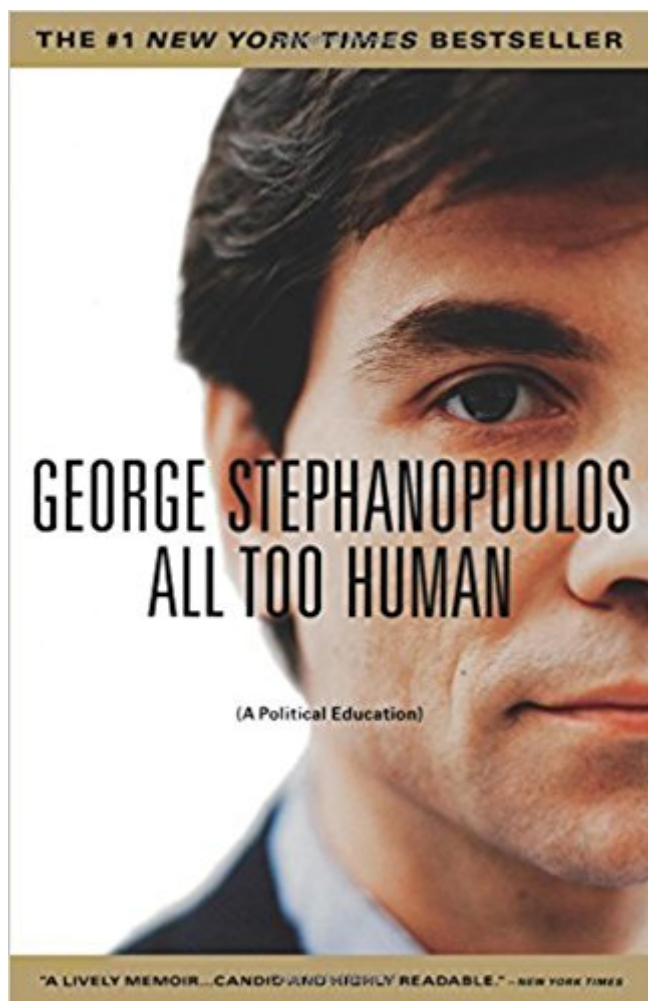




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All Too Human



Synopsis

All Too Human is a new-generation political memoir, written from the refreshing perspective of one who got his hands on the levers of awesome power at an early age. At thirty, the author was at Bill Clinton's side during the presidential campaign of 1992, & for the next five years he was rarely more than a step away from the president & his other advisers at every important moment of the first term. What Liar's Poker did to Wall Street, this book will do to politics. It is an irreverent & intimate portrait of how the nation's weighty business is conducted by people whose egos & idiosyncrasies are no sturdier than anyone else's. Including sharp portraits of the Clintons, Al Gore, Dick Morris, Colin Powell, & scores of others, as well as candid & revelatory accounts of the famous debacles & triumphs of an administration that constantly went over the top, All Too Human is, like its author, a brilliant combination of pragmatic insight & idealism. It is destined to be the most important & enduring book to come out of the Clinton administration.

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Customer Reviews

A Rhodes scholar with a healthy ego, the young idealist George Stephanopoulos thought he was ready for the obscure governor of Arkansas. But soon after he signed on as his presidential-campaign manager, the odds of Clinton's triumph soared, and so did the chance for calamity via Gennifer Flowers and other scandals. Stephanopoulos scrambled behind the scenes, squelching rumors, spinning major news organizations, artfully knifing Clinton rivals, and second-guessing public opinion--lessons that would serve him well when Clinton won. For the next

four years, Stephanopoulos was a few feet from the president, advising him on everything from Iraq and Waco to gays in the military and Paula Jones. More than any book yet--including Monica Lewinsky's--Stephanopoulos's memoir reveals what went on in the scary, occasionally hilarious world backstage at the White House. He casts stark light on characters from Yeltsin, "like a boiled potato slathered in sour cream," to the author's nemesis Dick Morris, whom he depicts bellowing for Clinton to bomb Bosnia. And nobody who's talking knows as well as Stephanopoulos the most passionate, mystifying affair of all, between Bill and Hillary. But years of backroom scheming, screaming, and relentless political attacks took a toll. Stephanopoulos's face erupted in hives; he grew a beard. Slammed by clinical depression, he dangerously delayed medical attention, fearing the story might leak. This memoir could've been titled Prisoner of Spin. Written with the jittery cadence of a bookie, *All Too Human* is a lively look at the complex and motley cast of characters who rule the world. --Rebekah Warren --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

National fame came early to Stephanopoulos, who by age 31 was President Clintons first director of communications until he was promoted to the vaguely defined, vulnerable position of senior advisor. He views Clinton as the best politician he has ever known, who could have accomplished much more if he were a better person. First Lady Hillary Clinton is portrayed as fiercely loyal and at times inflexible and ambitious. Ultimately, Stephanopolous fell out of favor for being a traditional liberal in an administration that increasingly believed that the era of big government was dead and also because he was a reputed news leaker, a charge he denies. The strengths of the book are also its weaknesses. An engaging, self-deprecating style, similar to that of Robert Reich, Clintons first secretary of labor (*Locked in the Cabinet*, LJ 4/1/97), is marred by an overabundance of italicized comments representing rejoinders that could have been used with devastating effect in confrontations but werent. A forthright honesty about his own faults dissolves into self-pity during an extended section on his fights with his major political foe, Dick Morris, the pollster who was brought on board to improve Clintons image but departed when his telephone antics with a prostitute were discovered. Stephanopoulos resigned at the end of the first term and recently condemned the Lewinsky affair as Clintons abandonment of presidential policies and more than a few trusted advisors in order to save himself. Overall, a fascinating if controversial insiders account of life inside the Clinton pressure cooker administration during its early years. A required purchase for public libraries. Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Such a well written, informative, and amazing story. I couldn't put the book down it was so interesting. George was just as hard on himself than he was others - insightful is a better word. He does take responsibility! Too bad Clinton never really could until he had to! Still, Clinton accomplished so much during his years in the White House and I give thanks to George for helping me be able to see both sides of his years and accomplishments of this president.

George Stephanopoulos is the Patti Boyd of politics, that is Boyd inspired great songs such as George Harrison's Something and Eric Clapton's Layla (amongst others) while Stephanopoulos is said to be basis for great characters in Primary Colors and The West Wing. Stephanopoulos writes well (as I guess you would expect he is a Rhodes' Scholar, communications professional and is as sharp as a tack) and is an engaging protagonist. Some of his colourful descriptions "a sausage of a man" made me chuckle. What is also great is that he doesn't pretend that he is without fault, which gives the impression that he is being candid. He also gives a nuanced picture of people, sometimes he has contempt, other times he is complimentary.

Not really sure what this was suppose to be written for. Author gave highlights on his life in the White House and with President Bill Clinton. Never sure what his opinions were on the goings on in the White House.

I really enjoyed the book, well-written, insightful. I thought your author did and excellent job of being fair while writing about a very controversial time in our history. Is deep affection and respect for Clinton came through, while he was able to be very honest and fair about his assessment of his character.

In 1999 George Stephanopoulos decided the public would be interested in his lengthy memoir. I waited eleven years to read it, bought it used, discovered it to be well-written, funny, candid, and now timely, as we compare the Bush and Obama administrations in 2010. After the predictable story of his birth, Greek heritage, teen years, college and his increasing ambition to be "somebody"; the book comes alive with details of his one year on the campaign trail with Bill and Hillary Clinton at the tender age of thirty. He made himself so indispensable to the campaign (his opinion) by catering to the Clintons and expressing loyalty in unique ways; so his reward was a job in the White House where he spent four years at their beck and call. He became press secretary, then advisor,

confidant, and friend, until.....George's analysis of the Clinton years and his complete devotion to the Clintons which led to clinical depression; his fear of competition (Dick Morris and others) and fear of failure, is, in essence, what makes this self-serving memoir so readable. His energy was fueled by power and in the end, he became "the enemy". Accused of leaking stories, given the silent treatment by the Clintons, he resigns and returns to a more normal life with an unbelievable tale to tell the voting public. Presently, the author is an anchor on Good Morning America, on his way again to higher ambitions, but now more mature and patient as both a husband and father. In this memoir, he disparages himself often, details his mistakes, appears to be naive and humble at times and also resorts to self-pity. He also makes many familiar names, such as Al Gore, more well-known, maybe not as they want to be. Apparently the Clintons took his youth and loyalty for granted but kept him on with deep reservations, only to be shocked later with this telling book! It is a political education taking us back to the Clinton years and leaving the reader with impressions to think about seriously.

I was so thoroughly impressed with this excellent insider's account of the Clinton world. Perhaps such an eye opening book of a president should not be released while he is still in office, however, Steph. presents an extremely fair look at President Clinton and does not pull any punches against himself. Many advisor tell-alls make large and disingenuous boasts about how the author was the one true guiding light or was thoroughly repulsed by the president's behavior; George is honest about his mistakes and how he often eagerly went along with ethically lacking innovative political techniques . Again, GREAT BOOK!

With this book George Stephanopoulos provides yet another inside look into the Clinton administration. He is clearly a very intelligent person with a good grip on the power games in Washington. The book is filled with descriptions of situations and events from his time in the White House, but lacks real analysis of his and Clintons achievements or lack of same. One wonders if he might have been better off waiting a few more years to gain more perspective on his own performance. He was a very young Senior Advisor and perhaps some more time would have helped him understand how that influenced the decision making. Even with the lack of true analysis the book is an important piece of the puzzle if you want to understand the Clinton White House and George Stephanopoulos writes well and keeps the reader interested all the way through. Hopefully there will be a sequel at some point.

am planning on buying the hard cover book soon

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