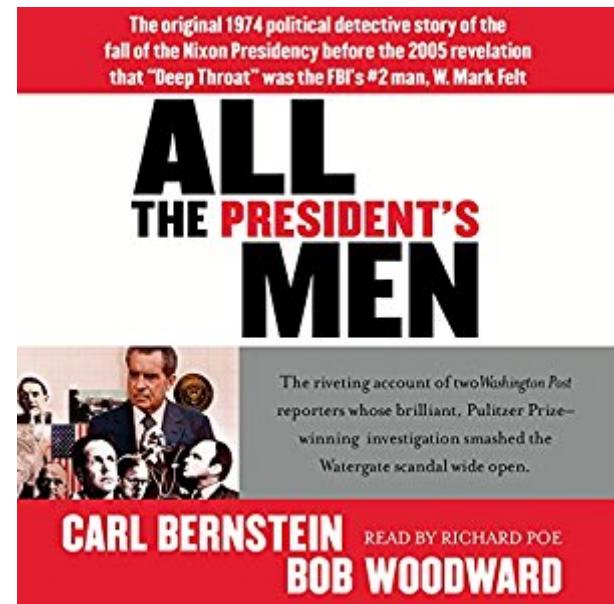


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# All The President's Men



## **Synopsis**

In the most devastating political detective story of the 20th century, two Washington Post reporters, whose brilliant, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation smashed the Watergate scandal wide open, tell the behind-the-scenes drama the way it really happened. Beginning with the story of a simple burglary at Democratic headquarters and then continuing with headline after headline, Bernstein and Woodward kept the tale of conspiracy and the trail of dirty tricks coming - delivering the stunning revelations and pieces in the Watergate puzzle that brought about Nixon's scandalous downfall. Their explosive reports won a Pulitzer Prize for The Washington Post and toppled the president. This is the book that changed America.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book should be required reading in high school. Woodward and Bernstein worked tirelessly for some of the ultimate virtues of a democracy, truth and transparency. The book can be a dry read at times, but it is well organized so you can feel the thought process and logic that led to the discovery of who Nixon really was.

A delightful read for all those who love political conspiracies and dirty trick scandals. Watergate is the ultimate cover-up directly orchestrated by the highest office in America, the White House. Woodward and Bernstein provides detailed account on the timelines, characters, and the

motivation. Sometimes you'll find yourselves re-reading parts of the book just trying to keep up with the number of people involved and keeping focus on everyone's intent. The book sheds light on the realities of political campaigns and the temptations to obstruct our democratic processes. I will definitely continue the journey by reading "The Final Days".

This is an interesting book for many different reasons. First of all, this is a book as much about how journalism ought to be done as it is about what is being reported. At least two sources had to support everything they put in the paper and, if one of them disagreed with the conclusions or the facts of a story, that story never made the paper. And yes, that occasionally meant weeks without a Watergate story. Imagine that in these days of CNN and Fox assuring their viewers that the Supreme Court struck down the Affordable Care Act. Not only did Woodward and Bernstein have to read, they were expected to get it right. Which is not to say that they did not make mistakes. If you've seen the movie, you have seen the most dramatic mistake they made about Haldeman. But there was another, earlier error that wronged three men and truly made life difficult for them. Or, as Woodward and Bernstein put it in their book, "The stigma of Watergate stayed with [one of them], and he had great difficulty obtaining a job." Watergate, which almost by accident, "made these gutsy, chutzpah-filled reporters also was the undoing of some. Some who were not guilty. And then there is the story itself. A story that was deeply shocking. Campaign funds used to spy on the opposition, to lie about the opposition, to bug buildings, to subvert justice. When someone couldn't pay their tithe they were cut loose." And then the blurring of the division of powers. And how the Executive Branch went after the opposition "the Post, individual reporters. (Woodward and Bernstein had to get a lawyer to mind their finances or they would have been in trouble with the IRS.) The shock of that. It was interesting to read that in an age when everything posted on Twitter will be preserved forever, when the NSA is bugging the world (and not just a few buildings) when the IRS does this sort of thing as a matter of course. And when none of it makes the front page news. We expect this sort of thing from our government now. It's no longer shocking. I finished the book in a wistful mood. Wistful for a time of real reporting when you actually had to pound the pavement, talk to people, check out your facts, and if you weren't sure you didn't have a story. And wistful for a time when we, as a nation, could still be shocked.

On June 17, 1972, five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate building. All five were family men dressed in suits and caught with equipment in what appeared to be an elaborate plot to bug the DNC headquarters. What did it all mean? Enter aspiring young Washington Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward. With President Nixon's re-election committee denying any involvement in the plot, it appeared the Watergate story could have been ephemeral if not for the persistent investigative reporting of Woodward and Bernstein. Initially competing for the story, Woodward and Bernstein (sometimes referred to as "Woodstein") became partners when the advantages of working together became apparent to them. Contacts were mostly divided between the two so a personal relationship could be developed with sources, a journalistic necessity in the midst of a scandal in which few were willing to talk out of fear. It wasn't long before the two reporters realized the plot went higher up than ever imagined. The sources who were willing to talk needed prodding and guesswork by Woodward and Bernstein in order to protect themselves. The most famous among these sources--and possibly the most famous informant in American history--was Deep Throat. The highly secretive man made sure that Woodward took extra precautions when scheduling middle-of-the-night meetings with him in a parking garage, which included taking several cabs to make sure he wasn't being followed. The only hint of his position in government that Woodward gives is his unique position to observe the Executive Branch. Throughout the book, Deep Throat provides accurate insider information, and turns out to be Woodward's most reliable source during the entire event. Whether you lived through the Nixon presidency, or if the only thing you know is that Nixon resigned because of Watergate, this important book will give you the play-by-play in how investigative reporting contributed to the downfall of a president. "All the President's Men" reads like a political thriller from start to finish, and will leave you wanting more when it's over. For history buffs, political junkies, or any American who wants to know what Watergate was all about, this is an essential read. As my favorite book of all time, I can't recommend this book by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein highly enough.

I lived in the Washington DC area when Watergate happened. I remember feeling how lucky I was to be here and to grab that Post every morning to see what new info was being reported. (I had relatives in Ohio who asked us to send them our Post's after we read them.) I grabbed this book as soon as it hit the bookshelves and read it several times. It just so happened that I worked at a building right across the street from the parking garage where Woodward met with Deep Throat. (The real excitement there happened when Robert Redford arrived to film those scenes with Hal Holbrook!) At some point the book disappeared from my shelves and I recently purchased the

Kindle version and read it again. All the excitement of those times came right back! It's a terrific book and leaves you wanting to know even more.

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