

"THE PRESIDENT BEFORE"

OR, "READING BARACK OBAMA'S DREAMS FROM MY FATHER"

"DREAMS FROM MY FATHER" GIVES A WINDOW INTO THE DEVELOPING WORLDVIEW OF OUR 44th PRESIDENT FROM THE YEARS BEFORE HE EVER SERVED IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

PART BIO, PART FAMILY HISTORY, IT FOLLOWS OBAMA FROM HIS BIRTH TO A MOTHER FROM KANSAS & A FATHER FROM KENYA, THROUGH HIS YEARS IN COLLEGE & LAW SCHOOL, CULMINATING IN HIS JOURNEY TO KENYA WHERE HE MEETS HIS LATE FATHER'S EXTENDED FAMILY.

BARACK OBAMA ON HIS FAMILY:

"[THEY'RE] LIKE A LITTLE MINI UNITED NATIONS. I'VE GOT RELATIVES WHO LOOK LIKE BERNIE MAC, AND I'VE GOT RELATIVES WHO LOOK LIKE MARGARET THATCHER."

THE BOOK HAS BEEN CALLED "THE BEST-WRITTEN MEMOIR EVER PRODUCED BY AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN" BY COLUMNIST JOE KLEIN.*

* (TIME, 10/23/06 - THANKS, WIKIPEDIA!)

HE WAS THE PRESIDENT"

BY Dave Martin WITH MARIA BUTLER ©2010.

WHILE OBAMA'S LIFE STORY HAS BEEN WELL-DOCUMENTED ELSEWHERE, HERE YOU CAN READ IN HIS OWN WORDS HOW HIS FORMATIVE LIFE EXPERIENCES — CHILDHOOD AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN IN INDOONESIA, LIVING WITH HIS WHITE GRANDPARENTS WHILE ATTENDING A PREDOMINANTLY ASIAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL IN HAWAII, AND FIGHTING ENTRENCHED BUREAUCRACY WHILE DOING COMMUNITY ORGANIZING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO — FORM THE ATTITUDES HE BRINGS TO THE WORLD STAGE AS PRESIDENT.

HE WRITES CANDIDLY ABOUT HIS STRUGGLES WITH RACE, AND HOW HE LEARNED

"TO SLIP BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN MY BLACK AND WHITE WORLDS, UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH POSSESSED ITS OWN LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS AND STRUCTURES OF MEANING, CONVINCED THAT WITH A BIT OF TRANSLATION ON MY PART THE TWO WORLDS WOULD EVENTUALLY CONVERGE."

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"DREAMS FROM MY FATHER" IS AVAILABLE IN A NUMBER OF VERSIONS:

- * 1ST EDITION: TIMES BOOKS, 1995.
- * WITH NEW PREFACE: THREE RIVERS PRESS, 2004.
- * ON AUDIO, READ BY THE AUTHOR: RANDOM HOUSE AUDIO, 2005. (INCLUDES HIS 2004 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS)
- * LARGE PRINT: RANDOM HOUSE LARGE PRINT, 2006.
- * E-BOOK: RANDOM HOUSE, 2007.

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