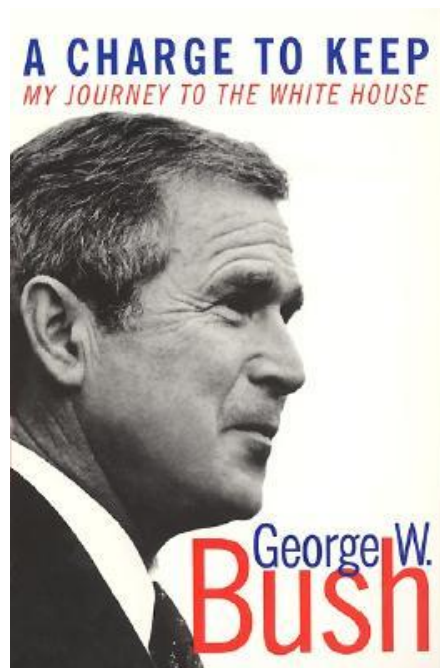




A Charge to Keep: My Journey to the White House

George W. Bush , Mickey Herskowitz

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I was not elected to serve one party, but to serve one nation. The president of the United States is the president of every single American, every race and every background. Whether you voted for me or not, I will do my best to serve your interests, and I will work to earn your respect.

I will be guided by President Jefferson's sense of purpose: to stand for principle, to be reasonable in manner, and, above all, to do great good for the cause of freedom and harmony.

The presidency is more than an honor, it is more than an office. It is a charge to keep, and I will give it my all.

--George W. Bush, December 13, 2000, Texas House of Representatives

In *A Charge to Keep*, George W. Bush offers readers a warm, insightful, and honest look at the personal and political experiences that have shaped his values and led to his decision to run for president. The George W. Bush who leaps off these pages has his mother's wit and down-to-earth personality, his father's energy and competitive drive, and his own unique style and philosophy.

Written with his long term communications director, Karen Hughes, *A Charge to Keep* is a revealing look into the background, philosophy, family, and heart of our new president.

A Charge to Keep: My Journey to the White House Details

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From Reader Review A Charge to Keep: My Journey to the White House for online ebook

Maeve says

I read this for work.

Katie says

worth reading, nothing if not compelling.

Brandon says

Typically worthless campaign biography, full of things like, "And I guess I've always loved babies, grandmas, and America. If that disqualifies me from receiving your vote, then so be it; I refuse to budge from these principles."

George says

Read this a long, long time ago as a new voter...seemingly preparing myself for my first responsibility. Read it, as I recall, alongside a Molly Ivins book in hopes of, maybe, having the two balance out. Ha. Neither was particularly good.

Christopher says

this book was SO bad, yet i couldn't stop reading it. i read it in two days. it read like a long resume. highlighting all his good qualities, everything that has gone well in his career. the only time it addressed anything possibly negative was when it was something that had been well publicized, and so he addressed it to explain it away.
it was written while he was running for pres, so i guess in a sense it was like a long resume.
it did cause me to see bush as more of a human, and just some regular guy. but very much, JUST some regular guy. just some guy that one day decided to run for governor, then later decided to run for pres. just some dude.

Hannah says

I started this book with no expectations--only knowing that it was written by Bush and was less than 400 pages.

I can't remember a time before Bush's presidency. I do remember how eagerly I watched the election of

2004, and how sorry I was to see him leave. As such, I found it very interesting to read a [biography?] by him *before* he became the President of the United States. The book was easy to read and had lots of interesting information about his background and the decisions he made as the governor of Texas. Interesting, insightful, and instructing.

Chandler says

Truthfully, I did like this book for the most part. Some parts were just boring, but I expected that a little. I did enjoy the narration by him and it was interesting to learn of the road that he took that actually led him to the White House. I have always loved the Bush family and have always thought that even though he made some mistakes as President (as they all do) that he did always love the people of this country and felt he was doing what was best for them. I feel like he is a true American and a brave man, and this book affirmed that thinking.

Bruce Fogerty says

A book written by a candidate about the candidate with a view only to win the candidate's next election.

Not particularly insightful. Mildly interesting about growing up in 1950s Texas. Offers an overview of the President's life, even it it is written with a distinct, self serving, pollyannic bent. All national candidates are required to write one of these.

Beth says

I may be biased because I LOVE "W", but this book made me love him more, and understand him more.

Tracy says

very very good reading

Damon Suede says

Wow.

One is left wondering if the conservative machine that cranked out this extended brochure actually believes any of this or if they just expect the moron majority to just buy these books and display them, since most don't actually read. This is animatronic presidential biography at its most robotic, insipid, and self-congratulatory. About as candid and honest as a playground bully standing "innocently atop a pile of unconscious "bystanders."

Never forget that Bush's arrival at the White House was pelted by rocks and eggs and that they had to drive

at high speeds to outrun protestors. This book would have it otherwise.

Shameful.

Nika says

I was not going to give this book so many stars, but then ha to admit that it was very well done. I have to say that he clearly explained where he was coming from with No Child Left Behind and Annual Yearly Progress. I get it now. I hate that it has exposed so much that was going wrong in our public schools. It makes it appear that these accountability programs themselves are failing, but I think many individual teachers are the ones who are failing.

I appreciate Bush, as all my friends already know. The final chapter is the finest illumination of a healthy conservative philosophy that I have ever read.

Dan Alatorre says

A pretty darned good book by a man who will be regarded well by history, as opposed to his successor.

Purple Wimple says

This was generally more interesting than I expected it to be; it's a campaign tract, but (like much of Bush's writing and speaking) it comes across as more sincere than polished. It's a great fault for a politician to have!

Andrew says

Politics aside, I have to say that I felt GWB had no issue with making this book understandable. And as a bonus (for my friend Nicole) there ARE actually big words in here (:P).

GWB takes us through his governorship, his brief ownership of a baseball team and some of his other life. In some respects, one could deem that this is Decision Points 0.5 because he also explained some of the decisions he made as Governor of Texas (as his book 'Decision Points' does as well [as President], but I have not read it yet.).

I have to commend him on his difficult decisions pertaining to the Death Penalty in Texas. I imagined myself in those situations and what my feelings on the particular situation of the inmate would be and I eventually came to the conclusion that I have absolutely no idea what I would have done pertaining to the one particular inmate, Karla Faye Tucker, who was on death row but had the world watching because she professed herself to be a born-again Christian and wanted her death sentence to be changed to life in prison. Then again, I'm not in politics nor do I have any desire to be, but at the same time, I have to commend him for how he spent so much time contemplating and seeking information about her before deciding not to give her an extra 30 days of life.

At the same time, I find myself questioning if I even support the death penalty. I'm pretty neutral on it.

In the end, I would say that I did enjoy this book, despite finding the long chapter on the death penalty somewhat disturbing. It was pretty interesting hearing what he did before becoming President because I did not and have never lived in Texas. I don't see me reading this book again though. Also, I don't exactly know what really to say about it because, not to be harsh, the book did kind of go all over the place. One chapter he was governor, the next he owned a baseball team; so it's not chronological. It could be said that this was a diary of reflection while he was running for President though.

I will give it 3 stars.

(Edit: At the time of reading this book, I did not know/realize that certain books 'by' politicians are in fact written by a ghost writer; in some cases, ghost writers. I have since learned that President GWB did not actually write this. Either way, it still gets 3 stars, but has been removed my autobiographies-read shelf and instead placed in the biographies-read shelf.)
