

85 Days: The Last Campaign of Robert Kennedy



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by Jules Witcover

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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In the annals of American political history, the 85-day presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy stands as a pivotal and poignant chapter. From his audacious announcement on March 16, 1968, to his tragic assassination on June 6th, Kennedy's campaign ignited hope, sparked controversy, and left an indelible mark on the nation's political landscape.

A New Voice for a Troubled Time

Robert Kennedy, the younger brother of assassinated President John F. Kennedy, emerged as a compelling figure in the tumultuous political climate of the late 1960s. The Vietnam War raged on, civil rights tensions flared, and poverty gripped many areas of the country. Kennedy's campaign platform addressed these pressing issues, advocating for an end to the war, expanded social programs, and a more just and equitable society.

The Campaign Trail

Kennedy's campaign trail was marked by both enthusiasm and challenges. He drew large crowds at rallies, connecting with voters through his charismatic speeches and heartfelt appeals for change. However, he also faced opposition from within his own party and from the incumbent

President, Lyndon B. Johnson, who saw Kennedy as a potential threat to his legacy.

Key Events and Controversies

During the campaign, several key events and controversies shaped the political landscape. These included:

- **The New Hampshire Primary:** Kennedy's narrow victory in this crucial early primary propelled his campaign into the national spotlight.
- **The Indiana Primary:** A heated and divisive primary in Indiana, where Kennedy was accused of inciting violence, damaged his reputation and raised concerns about his temperament.
- **The McCarthy Challenge:** Senator Eugene McCarthy, a fellow Democrat, emerged as a strong challenger to Kennedy, appealing to anti-war voters with his calls for an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam.

The Final Days and Assassination

As the campaign entered its final month, Kennedy remained the frontrunner in the Democratic race. However, his hopes were tragically cut short on June 5, 1968, when he was assassinated in Los Angeles after delivering a victory speech. The news of his death sent shockwaves across the nation and the world, leaving a profound sense of loss and uncertainty.

Legacy and Impact

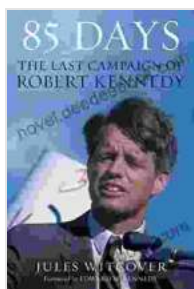
Robert Kennedy's unfinished campaign had a lasting impact on American politics and society. His platform and ideals, centered on social justice,

economic equality, and peace, resonated with millions of Americans and continue to inspire activists and politicians today.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy was a watershed moment in American history, representing the loss of a charismatic and promising leader. His death cast a long shadow over the political landscape, fueling speculation about what might have been had his campaign succeeded.

The 85-day presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy was a momentous period in American political history. It was a time of hope and ambition, controversy and tragedy. Kennedy's legacy as a champion of social justice, a vocal opponent of war, and a tireless advocate for the poor and marginalized continues to inspire generations of Americans.

Robert Kennedy's unfinished campaign serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of democracy and the importance of working towards a more just and equitable society.



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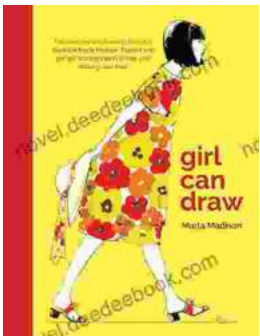
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