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The Survivor by John F. Harris

[The Survivor](#) Bill Clinton in the White House **Written by John F. Harris** Trade Paperback, 560 pages | Random House Trade Paperbacks | Biography & Autobiography - Presidents; Political Science - Leadership | **\$16.95** | 978-0-375-76084-6 (0-375-76084-9)

The definitive account of one of the most accomplished, controversial, and polarizing figures in American history

Bill Clinton is the most arresting leader of his generation. He transformed American politics, and his eight years as president spawned arguments that continue to resonate. For all that has been written about this singular personality-including Clinton's own massive autobiography-there has been no comprehensive, nonpartisan overview of the Clinton presidency.

Few writers are as qualified and equipped to tackle this vast subject as the award-winning veteran Washington Post correspondent John F. Harris, who covered Clinton for six of his eight years in office-as long as any reporter for a major newspaper. In **The Survivor**, Harris frames the historical debate about President William Jefferson Clinton, by revealing the inner workings of the Clinton White House and providing the first objective analysis of Clinton's leadership and its consequences.

Harris shows Clinton entering the Oval Office in 1993 primed to make history. But with the Cold War recently concluded and the country coming off a nearly uninterrupted generation of Republican presidents, the new president's entry into this maelstrom of events was tumultuous. His troubles were exacerbated by the habits, personal contacts, and the management style, he had developed in his years as governor of Arkansas. Clinton's enthusiasm and temper were legendary, and he and Hillary Rodham Clinton-whose ambitions and ordeals also fill these pages-arrived filled with mistrust about many of the characters who greeted them in the "permanent Washington" that often holds the reins in the nation's capital.

Showing surprising doggedness and a deep-set desire to govern from the middle, Clinton repeatedly rose to the challenges; eventually winning over (or running over) political adversaries on both sides of the aisle-sometimes facing as much skepticism from fellow Democrats as from his Republican foes. But as Harris shows in his accounts of political debacles such as the attempted overhaul of health care, Clinton's frustrations in the war against terrorism, and the numerous personal controversies that time and again threatened to consume his presidency, Bill Clinton could never manage to outrun his tendency to favor conciliation over clarity, or his own destructive appetites.

The Survivor is the best kind of history, a book filled with major revelations-the tense dynamic of the Clinton inner circle and Clinton's professional symbiosis with Al Gore to the imprint of Clinton's immense personality on domestic and foreign affairs-as well as the minor details that leaven all great political narratives. This long-awaited synthesis of the dominant themes, events, and personalities of the Clinton years will stand as the authoritative and lasting work on the Clinton Presidency.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375760846>

The Way to Win by John F. Harris

[The Way to Win](#) Taking the White House in 2008 **Written by** [Mark Halperin](#) and [John F. Harris](#) **Book** | Random House | Political Science - Political Parties; Political Science - Government | **\$26.95** | 978-1-58836-556-9 (1-58836-556-5)

In *The Way to Win*, two of the country's most accomplished political reporters explain what separates the victors from the victims in the unforgiving environment of modern presidential campaigns.

Mark Halperin, political director of ABC News, and John F. Harris, the national politics editor of *The Washington Post*, tell the story of how two families—the Bushes and the Clintons—have held the White House for nearly a generation and examine Hillary Clinton's prospects for extending this record in 2008. Based on years of research, including private campaign memos and White House communications, *The Way to Win* reveals the surprising details of how the Bushes and Clintons have closely studied each the other's successes and failures and used these lessons to shape their own strategies for winning elections and wielding power.

In the case of George W. Bush, the strategic genius is Karl C. Rove, arguably the most influential White House aide in history. For the first time, Halperin and Harris cut through the myths and controversies surrounding Rove to illuminate in brilliant, behind-the-scenes detail what he actually does—his Trade Secrets for winning elections.

In the case of the Clintons, the chief strategist is Bill Clinton himself. Drawing on their fifteen years reporting on and interviewing him, Halperin and Harris deconstruct and decipher the Clinton style, identifying the methods that all candidates can use in their pursuit of the White House.

The Way to Win takes a lively and irreverent approach, but Halperin and Harris also show the disturbing ways that American politics has become a Freak Show—their name for a political culture that provides incentives for candidates, activists, interest groups, and the news media to emphasize ideological extremism and personal attack. For the first time, Halperin and Harris describe how Freak Show campaigns orchestrated by the likes of Internet pioneer Matt Drudge forced Al Gore and John Kerry to lose control of their public images (with considerable help from the candidates' own ineptitude) and lose the White House.

On the brink of what will be one of the most intense, most exciting presidential elections in American history, *The Way to Win* is the book that armchair political junkies have been waiting for. Filled with peerless analysis and eye-opening revelations from the trenches, it is a must read for everyone who follows American politics.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781588365569>

The Survivor by John F. Harris

[The Survivor](#) Bill Clinton in the White House **Written by John F. Harris** **Book** | Random House | History - United States; Political Science - Leadership | **\$16.95** | 978-1-58836-213-1 (1-58836-213-2)

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