



My Day: The Best of Eleanor Roosevelt's Acclaimed Newspaper Columns 1936-62

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"I think Eleanor Roosevelt has so gripped the imagination of this moment because we need her and her vision so completely. . . . She's perfect for us as we enter the twenty-first century. Eleanor Roosevelt is a loud and profound voice for people who want to change the world."--Blanche Wiesen Cook

Named "Woman of the Century" in a survey conducted by the National Women's Hall of Fame, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote her hugely popular syndicated column "My Day" for over a quarter of that century, from 1936 to 1962. This collection brings together for the first time in a single volume the most memorable of those columns, written with singular wit, elegance, compassion, and insight--everything from her personal perspectives on the New Deal and World War II to the painstaking diplomacy required of her as chair of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights after the war to the joys of gardening at her beloved Hyde Park home. To quote Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., "What a remarkable woman she was! These sprightly and touching selections from Eleanor Roosevelt's famous column evoke an extraordinary personality."

"My Day reminds us how great a woman she was."--Atlanta Journal-Constitution

My Day: The Best of Eleanor Roosevelt's Acclaimed Newspaper Columns 1936-62 Details

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Gretchen says

I enjoyed this selection of Eleanor Roosevelt's daily columns - hard to believe she was what we would refer to as a "blogger" back in the 1930's - 1960's! I especially liked the contextual references included by the editor. Nicely done.

Kathy says

Really enjoyed this book, maybe I should have given it 4 stars but while I appreciated the history lesson and background at the beginning of the chapters to set up the columns, I found it very tedious that they then retaught you the history before each column too. I did learn ALOT, but found it hard to get into the flow of the book. She was a great lady.

Lynne Marie says

Eleanor Roosevelt truly was such a progressive woman. In one column she recommended to her readers that they learn Spanish because it was going to become necessary in the future. Boy, what she right.

Marcia says

Eleanor Roosevelt was way ahead of her time and in fact way ahead of our time. Her comments and observations are incredibly timely and incredibly right on. If we as a country had listened to her and had been moved to action by her observations, I believe the world would be a whole lot better off than it is now and certainly the United States of America would be. Everyone should read this book. Greg Mortenson practices much of what Mrs. Roosevelt recommended and his work is paying off in Pakistan and Afghanistan- something I really can't say about the work of the U.S. there.

At the end of her book, she "was struck by the fact that some of the young Harvard graduates working in Tanganyika with the bush people came to have great respect" for traditional ceremonies there. The Tanganyikans "had to ask you about all your family and you had to reciprocate." Sound familiar? In Greg Mortenson's book he makes the observation that perhaps the U.S. Military should make those traditions (sharing 3 cups of tea) part of the U.S. decision making when the U.S. is deciding to bomb or send drones to various parts of Afghanistan.

Read this book!

Ris says

i read this as a companion piece to eleanor roosevelt's epic biography. i wanted something in her own words. and it was good, but in some ways i feel as though the bio captured her even more. her public tone was so strong in these columns.

Patricia says

I have read many biographies of Eleanor Roosevelt. I really enjoyed hearing her own thoughts as expressed through her My Day columns. She was intelligent, compassionate and tireless in promoting justice, equality and her vision of what was best for the United States and the world.

David says

Somewhat dissatisfied with most of this book. The paragraphs introducing most days' entries speak of the bold statements she is making, but most entries seem rather conciliatory. I don't know whether my impression is because of the half-century of attitude changes in the country, her own natural reticence or the wise hesitance to alienate the wide audience she felt privileged to address. But it left an overall flat impression. The one time she really let herself go (blasting Eisenhower, Nixon and Dulles over their handling of the Suez War) was Jon Stewart worthy.

Colleen says

I know shocking, but this is only getting a two from me. I read it ridiculously fast and somehow I highly doubt this is the "best"--it was only after googling to see if there was a FULL collection of her columns, I stumbled upon this:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/myday/br...>

Not sure why that site is so broken, but all her full columns are there, so now that I finished reading the Jefferson correspondence that is archived online, I guess this will be my next project.

This book--while good and fast read--had a lot of typos and yes, in one case a repeated paragraph. Not all the headers felt appropriate to the snippets beneath and it felt rushed. Like the FBI was given two hours to compile an Eleanor Roosevelt column book or hostages would die. Some of the context was okay, but I would have preferred to have been less spoon fed portions and given a main course. I was hoping this book would be more like The People and the President: America's Extraordinary Conversation with FDR, which was great, but felt like rehash.

In fairness, it could be that the huge span of years and columns (6 columns a week for almost 30 years is a lot of material)--it probably would have been a better project to have like a volume per decade of the best.

Kathy Fields says

I thought I was getting a book that was mostly My Day columns, but there is a lot more commentary and explanatory history than I expected. If you want to read just the columns, George Washington University has a complete collection of My Day columns at <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/myday/#>

Travis says

This was interesting if for no other reason than to appreciate how incredibly intelligent Eleanor was, particularly given the time period, and the then-role of women in society. Her insight into a wide range of issues is amazing, and really shows the power of her intelligence.

Tori Kae says

Mrs. Roosevelt has always been my favorite historical figure. She carried such a strong ethical common sense that spilled into every day living. The introduction by Martha Gellhorn, a long-time close friend, is a rare and gentle read into the life of Eleanor. What I really enjoy about this reading are the every day truths of facing fear and having strength and courage to face any situation. She writes without indignation, and interjects a dry and kind humor.

Lea says

The history that begins each year is informative and helpful to place in perspective. The biographical information provided in italics preceding each article sheds light on ERs current thoughts and situation. I found her encouraging, idealistic and pleasant. Her opinions are on topic, even now, expressing the liberal perspective. I enjoyed this more than The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt and felt it gave more insight into her life as well as better expressed her opinions. Recommend for all ER admirers.

Lexish says

Loved it! Eleanor Roosevelt wrote her "My Day" column during the critical pre-war and World War II years when her husband was President. This book organizes her columns chronologically from 1936 through the death of FDR in 1945. The editors were wise in giving brief but thorough notes prior to many columns so readers would understand the events to which the First Lady was responding in her writings on a given day.

In her columns, Eleanor Roosevelt emphasizes that she is very much a regular person trying to do as much good as she can with the position that came automatically to her when her husband took office. She hints occasionally that she would have preferred to live a private life, but is nonetheless dedicated to doing the most with the influence she knows she has. Eleanor Roosevelt speaks candidly about the people she meets, the letters she receives, her impressions of the areas she visits in order to see the American troops stationed abroad, her grandchildren, and the occasional awkward (and funny) moments that happen among people

within the artificial environment of the White House.

The editors have done an excellent job of excerpting from her full columns those details that make for a coherent "story" as the days go on. In particular, the editors have taken care *not* to make the book all about FDR's presidency as seen through his wife's eyes, because she was interested in so much more than that. This really is Eleanor's life, the way she herself shared it with the public.

Eleanor Roosevelt enjoyed writing the column so much that it became the one -- and nearly only -- part of her public life that she continued after she left the White House following FDR's death. For all the dull, dry history books out there, this one is the antidote. Go Eleanor.

Kym Gamble says

Love Eleanor Roosevelt - really disliked this book. I am so surprised people like this book. I was expecting whole entries from her newspaper columns with maybe some editorial here and there. This book is nothing but a bunch of editorial with snippets of her columns (and I'm not sure that I would ever consider them the "best of"). I found a gem here or there but am SO disappointed in this book. I love to read about Eleanor Roosevelt and was looking forward to reading HER words, HER thoughts, and this was far from a book of that. SO disappointed. I have rarely rated a book so low. The only reason I keep reading is to see if I can find those "gems". If you're looking for Mrs. Roosevelt, in her own words, don't waste your time or money on this book.

Jill says

This book presents various My Day columns that Eleanor wrote, starting in the late 1930's through 1962. They are presented with historical and personal information that places them in context and provides a sampling of her thoughts, opinions, and actions. It took awhile to get through the book because some of the reading was heavy - discussing wars and arms races and racial and religious prejudices in the U.S., etc., but it was lightened with anecdotes about the daily lives of the Roosevelts. My favorite was serving hotdogs to the Queen of England at a picnic.

Eleanor really tells it like she sees it, about and from decades of political involvement. She was definitely for the betterment of people and their situations, and the responsible use of personal freedoms, as applied all over the world. The only thing she was silent on that surprised me was the Japanese concentration camps during WWII, but that may have been because she was a First Lady at the time. Apparently, "they" didn't want her mucking up the presidency too much during those times.

The book as a whole gives a nice, longitudinal view of U.S. and world politics/events for a good thirty year period, with some influences from the past, given that both Eleanor and FDR were related to Teddy Roosevelt and could comment on that time period and the then-current politics. You really do get the idea that what we talk about in politics today isn't new - we've been going in cycles for a long time.
