



The Americans

John Jakes

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The Americans (Kent Family Chronicles)

The Americans Details

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Author : John Jakes

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From Reader Review The Americans for online ebook

Thom Swennes says

Reading historical fiction should be fun. The Americans by John Jakes certainly was. This is the eighth and (possibly) last volume of the Kent Family Chronicles. Like a patchwork blanket, Jakes sews facts and people in very neatly to his Kent family epic. The children of Gideon and Matthew Kent migrate homeward and make their marks in an increasingly great and influential country. From the sleazy and squalid world of politics and the increasingly acceptable of the stage to the battlefields of Mexico, The Americans brings the Kent heirs to the brink of the Twentieth Century. Will Kent comes of age and loses the timorous, shy and frightened legacy left by his mother. He grew as surly and stout as the nation that recovered from a devastating war and expanded its borders and influence worldwide. This book is just as filled with love, war and many trivial tidbits of history as we have become accustomed to in this series of a nation's birth and growth to greatness. A virtual cornucopia of little known or remembered people (such as Ina Coolbirth) and events (the Johnstown flood) are used to increase the scope of the work. Ina Coolbirth was California's first poet laureate and the Johnstown flood (1889) rates fourth in deaths by natural disaster behind Galveston, Texas hurricane on September 18, 1900 (8000+), San Francisco, California earthquake 1906 (3400+), The Great Okeechobee, Florida hurricane September 16-17 (2500+). The Johnstown flood claimed 2209 lives. In these pages history really comes alive and speaks to all that read it. John Jakes stated in his afterword that he needed a break from the Kent dynasty (and after eight volumes I can well imagine) but has never stated that he wouldn't take it up again in the future. I, for one, would applaud this undertaking as history has proved that the Twentieth Century witnessed the transition of the United States from an isolationist position to a world power.

Joan Paciero says

I finished all eight books in the Kent family series. Sure is a fun way to get a history lesson.

Stuart Jaffe says

Fantastic end to a fantastic series. I rarely feel this way, but I didn't want it to be over. I'd love for there to be more books taking the Kents all the way through the 20th century, but that won't be happening.

Denise says

To all good stories there must be an "end" and this book is it. These were excellent tales (fiction) but could have been real stories of real Americans. Tragedy, comedy, love, hate, courage and cowardice all displayed by the frailties of human lives. Thank you, John Jakes, for a satisfying and enjoyable set of books!

Kate says

Honestly, this is how I truly learned American history. These books follow generations of the "Kents" and their lives in America.

Jcurmudge says

Conclusion of a long series. Now I'll never know the outcome of the lives of Will, Eleanor, and Carter. And of any Kent children to follow. A truly fascinating series from pre-revolutionary USA to near the end of the 19th Century.

Michele says

I enjoyed all of the John Jakes Kent Chronicles. I've read them twice and wish he had continued the series. My only criticism was that he often skipped through years of events and I would prefer more info.

Craig&kerri says

Actually of all the Kent Family Chronicle books, this was took me the longest to read, however; it was one of the best. I absolutely love the story and is so very well written. Kudos to the author for a job well done.

Isabelle Decher says

Kent Family Chronicles Volume 8 Great Series - Sorry to see it end.

Robert Grant says

Good finish to a very long tale. Doesn't fulfill the promise of taking the Kent family right on up to 1976 but that's okay. Enough of the Kents and time for something else. Enjoyed this series but man it is a commitment.

Thanks to the author for keeping it going as long as he did.

Cookie says

It took me forever to read the last installment in this series - not because I didn't enjoy it, but because I didn't

want it to end.

Patsy Crawford says

I love every John Jakes book I ever read. They are all page-turners.

Ginny says

I believe this is the conclusion of the Kent Family Chronicles. The tale of America from its pre revolutionary roots to the turn of the 20th century. The entire series is well worth the time invested. Jakes tells the story of our country through the eyes of an fictional family, history comes alive.

Brent Soderstrum says

Well I finished the 8 volume set of the Kent Family Chronicles. This takes the Kent family up to 1897. The book deals with Carter, Eleanor and Will. A little disappointed because it was pretty predictable.

I enjoyed Will's summer with a young Theodore Roosevelt and the Johnstown flood Eleanor went through.

I would love to see Jakes update the Kent family but I doubt he will do that though.

Phillipylorna says

The last of the Kent chronicles series. LOVED THEM ALL!
