



## President Reagan: The Role Of A Lifetime

By Lou Cannon

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**President Reagan: The Role Of A Lifetime** By Lou Cannon

Hailed by the *New Yorker* as "a superlative study of a president and his presidency," Lou Cannon's *President Reagan* remains the definitive account of our most significant presidency in the last fifty years. Ronald Wilson Reagan, the first actor to be elected president, turned in the performance of a lifetime. But that performance concealed the complexities of the man, baffling most who came in contact with him. Who was the man behind the makeup? Only Lou Cannon, who covered Reagan through his political career, can tell us. The keenest Reagan-watcher of them all, he has been the only author to reveal the nature of a man both shrewd and oblivious. Based on hundreds of interviews with the president, the First Lady, and hundreds of the administration's major figures, *President Reagan* takes us behind the scenes of the Oval Office. Cannon leads us through all of Reagan's roles, from the affable cowboy to the self-styled family man; from the politician who denounced big government to the president who created the largest peace-time deficit; from the statesman who reviled the Soviet government to the Great Communicator who helped end the cold war.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

This is possibly the single best book available on the Reagan presidency. Lou Cannon began reporting on Ronald Reagan as a journalist when Reagan first ran for governor of California in 1966, and then covered him again in Washington after his 1980 presidential election. In short, there is probably no man or woman who has spent more years writing about the Gipper than Cannon. The result is a magisterial account of Reagan's two terms in the White House. Cannon is broadly sympathetic to his subject, but also coolly detached. *President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime* pulled off the remarkable feat of winning praise from both Reagan's admirers and detractors when it was first published in 1991. This reissued edition, which includes a new preface describing Reagan's postpresidential descent into the abyss of Alzheimer's disease, must now be considered the standard text on the subject--especially in light of the controversy surrounding the book that aspired to Cannon's mantle, Edmund Morris's quasi biography *Dutch*.

Cannon's book is full of wise analysis and sound observation. He explains Reagan's success convincingly: "Optimism was not a trivial or peripheral quality. It was the essential ingredient of an approach to life.... [Reagan] had a knack of converting others to his optimism, almost as if he drew upon some private reservoir of self-esteem. People who listened to Reagan tended to feel good about him and better about themselves." Though the book bursts with detail, it's never so cumbersome that it bogs down Cannon's narrative. And these pages give only cursory attention to Reagan's life before the White House; this is more a biography of President Reagan than of Ronald Reagan. Conservatives who are defensive about Reagan's legacy may bristle at certain points; Cannon's portrait is not always a flattering one. Yet it's a compelling biography of a compelling man's most important years. It's possible to imagine that a fuller biography of Reagan will be written some day. Right now, however, this is the best there is--and it's very, very good. --John J. Miller

#### From Library Journal

No journalist enjoys a closer working relationship with Ronald Reagan, his friends, and advisors than Cannon, who has covered the Reagan beat for a quarter of a century. Combining scores of interviews, including three with Reagan, with authoritative journalism, Cannon has written what may be the best contemporary political history of the Reagan years. Unlike most modern presidents whose frame of reference is analytical and political, Cannon reveals how Reagan was shaped by his acting career. Far from being a Hollywood refugee, Reagan is credited with reviving national confidence and not being the demagogue that his opponents perceived him to be. While Reagan succeeded at establishing the national agenda, numerous ethical scandals, the savings and loan debacle, and the unraveling of foreign policy proved the presidency to be beyond Reagan's abilities. Transcending the many self-serving kick-and-tell potboilers, Cannon's absorbing, informative account will be the basis for all future studies. Highly recommended for most public and academic libraries.

- Karl Helicher, Upper Marion Township Lib., King of Prussia, Pa.

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#### Review

#### New York Times, January 9, 2011

"Authoritative... If Obama actually read Cannon, his comeback could have legs. It's full of leadership lessons that will be particularly useful in outfoxing political adversaries who seem not to have consulted so much as a picture book about the president they claim as their patron saint."

## Users Review

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As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This President Reagan: The Role Of A Lifetime is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Irene Delong:**

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled President Reagan: The Role Of A Lifetime can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

#### **Arthur Johnson:**

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