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FDR

By Smith, Jean Edward.

Random House. 1 Paperback(s), 2008. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of the Francis Parkman Prize and Named One of the Best Books of the Year by Washington Post Book World and the Chicago Tribune) The biographer of Ulysses S. Grant, John Marshall, and Lucius D. Clay (all three New York Times Notable Books), Jean Edward Smith earned the Francis Parkman Prize for this sterling portrait of one of the greatest figures of the 20th century."As Franklin Roosevelt approached the stage at the 1936 Democratic Convention, the steel braces on his useless legs and the support of his son's arm allowing him, in great pain, to simulate walking, he was jostled, and he crashed to the ground, scattering the pages of his speech. 'Clean me up,' he said, 'and keep your feet off those damned sheets.' Minutes later, utterly poised, he told an audience and a nation ravaged by the Depression that they had 'a rendezvous with destiny.' [Jean Edward] Smith, in this remarkable, sympathetic biography, doesn't flinch at Roosevelt's mistakes; the sections on the court-packing scheme and the internment of Japanese-Americans are painful to read. Smith also does a fine job with a complex marriage, avoiding the F.D.R. biographer's trap...



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