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THE YEARS OF LYNDON JOHNSON
VOLUME I

THE PATH TO POWER

ROBERT A. CARO

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Acclaim for Caro's THE PATH TO POWER

"What a marvelous book! A work of majesty, perhaps unequalled in American political biography. The scope of its research and the sheer effort invested in unearthing facts are awesome."

—*Robert Massie*

"Engrossing and revealing. ... This fascinating, immensely long and highly readable book is the fullest account we have—and are ever likely to have—of the early years of Lyndon Baines Johnson."

—*David Herbert Donald, front page, NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"*The Path to Power* will burnish Caro's reputation as a panoramic biographer. A great story-teller!"

—*Robert Sherrill, front page, WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD*

"A brilliant and necessary book. There are whole and fascinating areas in Johnson's life that no one else discovered."

—*Merle Miller, front page, CHICAGO TRIBUNE BOOKWORLD*

"Caro's narrative never stumbles, his prose never flattens. The lengthy sketches of supporting players, like Sam Rayburn, are masterly in themselves. And the secret love affairs, cash stuffed envelopes and other reportorial hand grenades seem to come remarkably often for so long a book on so familiar a subject."

—*Donald Morrison, TIME*

"Not only is the book an engrossing biographical introduction to our most devious of Presidents, but it is also a brilliant sociological study of Texas and of American politics."

—*Francis Russell*, NATIONAL REVIEW

“The blunt fact is that a masterpiece of biography is being added to American literature. For sheer scale, energy and artistry in capturing a man’s life, nothing approaches it.”

—*John Barkham Reviews*

“Outsized and overwhelming. Splendid and moving. Caro presents him so close we can feel him. There are two more volumes to come, which means that at this rate Caro’s work will eventually acquire Gibbon-like dimensions, Gibbon-like thoroughness too, and Gibbon-like passion. ... Caro is using Johnson as a focus and symbol for a historical turning point that goes beyond the individual. Caro is a phenomenon. He is an artful writer, with a remarkable power to evoke and characterize politicians, landscapes, relationships; with the ability to convey all manner of experiences. This massive book is almost continuously exciting. ... It is a tour de force at the very least; eventually, it may come to be the base of a monument.”

—*Richard Eder*, LOS ANGELES TIMES

“The major biography of recent years. Brilliant. Magisterial. A stunning accomplishment of documentation and narrative. Robert Caro has given us an American life of compelling fascination. The book is a benchmark beside which other biographies will be measured for some time to come.”

—*Alden Whitman*, LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER

“Superb.”

—*Lynwood Abram*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

“An ineradicable likeness of an American giant. All previous accounts of our Presidents’ growing-up years seem scanty and uninformative by comparison. Caro has brought to life a young man so believable and unforgettable that we can hear his heartbeat and touch him. If an earlier famous Johnson had his Boswell, and Abraham Lincoln his Sandburg, LBJ has found a portraitist who similarly will owe his fame to his great subject and his certitude in taking control of it.”

—*Henry F. Graff, Professor of History, Columbia University*, in THE NEW LEADER

“Caro has become the nation’s preeminent biographer. He won both the Pulitzer and the Parkman prizes for his brilliant portrayal of Robert Moses in *The Power Broker*. Now his masterful portrayal of Lyndon Johnson has already won the National Book Critics Circle Award as the best work of nonfiction published in 1982. *The Path to Power* is a magnificent mix of narrative history and investigative reporting.”

—*Alan L. Miller*, THE DETROIT NEWS

“No mere political biography. Caro is on the way to becoming our finest fine-tooth-comb historian, one who researches a subject so thoroughly there seems no possible rebuttal to the arguments he presents on the issues raised.”

—*Jack Goodman*, SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Also by Robert A. Caro

The Power Broker:
Robert Moses and the Fall of New York
(1974)

The Years of Lyndon Johnson:
Means of Ascent
(1990)

“Caro’s research is relentless and his writing never shows a seam.”

—*Priscilla Johnson McMillan*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

“A masterful narrative on a grand scale, a fascinating portrait of LBJ’s activities set against a fully drawn canvas of life in the Texas hill country. Caro displays a historian’s regard for rules of fact and evidence. By far the most significant Johnson book to appear.”

—*Library Journal*

“The book races at Johnson’s own whirlwind pace. A tour de force that blends relentless detective work, polemical vigor and artful storytelling into the most compelling narrative of American political life since *All the King’s Men*.”

—*Henry Mayer*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“Magnificent. For understanding our recent past and the men and policies that brought the country to its present condition and aimed us toward whatever our future is to be, it’s an immensely important work. If the second and third volumes live up to the promise, Caro will have carved a literary Mt. Rushmore, with only one face. The face won’t be pretty, but the work will stand for a long time.”

—*Bryan Woolley*, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

“A landmark in American political biography. The definitive life of LBJ. Caro has written a Johnson biography that is richer and fuller and may well be one of the freshest and most revealing studies ever written about a major historical figure.”

—*Steve Neal*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

“A brief review cannot convey the depth, range and detail of this fascinating story. Caro is an inexhaustible researcher and a meticulous historian. Every page reflects his herculean efforts to break through the banalities and the falsehoods previously woven around the life of Lyndon Johnson. This epic book combines the social scientist’s interest in power with the historian’s concern with theme and context, the political

scientist's interest in system, and the novelist's passion to reveal the inner workings of the personality and relate them to great human issues. Like the man it portrays, it will infuriate and inspire, arouse admiration and controversy—and perhaps no higher compliment can be paid such a monument of interpretive biography.”

—*Michael R. Beschloss*, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES BOOK WEEK

**THE YEARS OF
LYNDON
JOHNSON**

Volume I



**THE
PATH TO
POWER**

ROBERT A. CARO



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Contents

Introduction

PART I THE TRAP

- 1 The Bunton Strain
- 2 The People's Party
- 3 The Johnson Strut
- 4 The Father and Mother
- 5 The Son
- 6 "The Best Man I Ever Knew"
- 7 "The Bottom of the Heap"

PART II ESCAPE

- 8 "Bull" Johnson
- 9 The Rich Man's Daughter
- 10 Cotulla
- 11 White Stars and Black Stars
- 12 "A Very Unusual Ability"

PART III SOWING

- 13 On His Way
- 14 The New Deal
- 15 The Boss of the Little Congress
- 16 In Tune
- 17 Lady Bird
- 18 Rayburn