



## A Ripple of Hope: The Life of Robert F. Kennedy

By Daniel Terris, Barbara Harrison

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A biography of Robert Kennedy ranges from his early days as a student in a competitive family, to his rise to political power, to his assassination in 1968, and features more than forty photographs, a timeline, bibliography, and index."

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From School Library Journal**

Grade 7 Up. A good companion to Harrison and Terris's *A Twilight Struggle: The Life of John Fitzgerald Kennedy* (Lothrop, 1992). Here, the authors use selections from Tennyson's *Ulysses* as chapter epigraphs and as a general theme in this admiring biography. In the process, readers are shown how Kennedy's desire to be noticed and to achieve in a highly competitive family gradually led him into a life of public service. There is some general background information about the subject's childhood, education, and personal life, but the authors devote most of the book to his public career and political successes. They trace his moves from being a congressional investigator to becoming Attorney General and trusted advisor to his brother, to establishing himself as a recognized national political leader and presidential candidate, emphasizing throughout his compassion and empathy for those in need. The book concludes with his tragic death and its impact on the nation. This is an attractive book, with a clean layout and numerous well-reproduced, black-and-white photos. Most biographies of Robert Kennedy have been written for adults; this one provides a fine examination of his life for YAs. *?Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School,*

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### **From Booklist**

Gr. 5-8. Harrison and Terris, authors of a book about John Kennedy, *A Twilight Struggle* (1992), and researchers for HBO documentaries about each of the Kennedy brothers, offer a biography of Robert Kennedy that focuses on precisely those elements of his life that will interest children. RFK, the seventh child of Rose and Joe Kennedy, was not as athletic, social, or smart in school as his older brothers. The authors show how Bobby, always in his family's shadow until after JFK's death, was able to find his own path, and they chronicle the evolution of Kennedy's social conscience and his dedication to the country's and the world's poor. The writing is crisp, often focusing on the unexpected, such as a meeting with an enraged civil rights activist. Yet there is also a wealth of small details that illuminate the man: the solace he found in walks with his dog; his determination to be the first person to climb a mountain named for his brother; his trip to a South American *barrio*, where he noted that if he had to live in such poverty, he would be a communist, too. Peppered with black-and-white photos (the book could use more) and with an endnote and a chronology, this offers a glimmer of the dream Bobby Kennedy was for so many Americans. *Ilene Cooper*

### **From Kirkus Reviews**

The authors of *A Twilight Struggle* (1992) and research directors for a television documentary about Robert Kennedy proffer a lively, well-substantiated account of their subject's youth, political career, and stubborn idealism. Readers first encounter Kennedy sitting with a child in a ``fetid'' sharecropper's shack; although Kennedy's privileged upbringing, early days in government working for Joseph McCarthy, and brilliant management of his brother's campaigns get their share of attention, Harrison and Terris focus most closely on the birth and growth of his burning concern for children and the poor. The authors sometimes include unanalyzed details, but make their points lucidly--``On the issue of civil rights, Bobby Kennedy was a combination of passion and prudence. That combination made just about everyone mad at him!''--and back them up with citations from a variety of sources. The selection of black-and-white photographs is not generous by current standards, but the portraits, family shots, and crowd scenes are evocative and properly placed. This treatment of Kennedy's life won't quite bring him out of his brother's shadow, but it will give him a distinct shape. (index, not seen, notes, chronology, bibliography) (Biography. 11-14) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

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