



The Kennedy Wit: The Humor and Wisdom of John F. Kennedy

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For thousands of Americans, The Kennedy Wit seemed "the perfect way to remember him," as one letter to the publisher expressed it, and the book became one of 1964's leading national best sellers . Illustrated with 35 photographic reproductions.

The Kennedy Wit: The Humor and Wisdom of John F. Kennedy Details

Date : Published 1964 by Bantam Books (NY)

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Author : John F. Kennedy , Bill Adler (editor)

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William says

I'm more interested in the way he said things than the (now-mostly-dated) quips he had to say.

Pete daPixie says

I picked this book up in a JFK book auction. As I already owned most of the other items, this was what I bid for. The gavel went down at £10 and the book came with a glass paperweight that has set within it a JFK half dollar.

For the paperweight it was a good deal. 'The Wit of President Kennedy', a third impression printed in 1965 in the U.K. for 12/6d is a fine example of the good old days!

The author, the late Bill Adler was a prolific writer. The sleeve notes state, 'He roundly declares that he spends his spare time going through other people's mail-with a certain feeling of guilt-but not too much guilt!' (He could have been ably employed by the CIA.) Among his best sellers are such titles as 'Letters from Camp', 'Letters to President Kennedy', 'Love Letters to The Beatles'.

In similar vein to this book are titles such as 'The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln', 'The Wit and Wisdom of Jimmy Carter', 'The Quotable George W. Bush: A Portrait in his Own Words' and 'The Wit and Humour of Richard Nixon'. (Bet that's a hoot.)

Probably best to stay away from his 'The Anti-Cancer, Heart Attack, Stroke Diet Book'. He died in 2014, aged 84 from abdominal cancer.

Emily says

This collection of spoken and written witticisms uttered by former President Kennedy is collected from campaign speeches, press conferences, and other public appearances as well as a few letters.

I suppose that had I been alive during the era in question, or were I more of a political scholar I would have found these bon mots more amusing. Unfortunately, my parents hadn't even met at the time, and I have little frame of reference for the people and institutions which were the target for Kennedy's humorous statements. My favorite, however, is something Kennedy said in Minneapolis about being ready to debate with Nixon, as he'd just had a go-round with Hubert Humphrey, and felt well-prepared by that exchange. As a Minnesotan, one can't help be familiar with Mr. Humphrey!

I would recommend this book mostly for Kennedy fans and political scholars.

Erik Graff says

Although I was only eight, I campaigned for Kennedy--if you call cutting school to attend a rally (where I got on stage behind him!) and bicycling around town to pull down Nixon posters campaigning. It was, after all, Dad's idea--I hadn't too many of my own and Dad was supporting the man.

This excessive commitment to Kennedy as candidate went over to Kennedy as president. I went out of my way to watch him on television, listen to him on the radio and read things by and about him. I watched Jacqueline's tour of the White House. I listened to the comedy album which had actors imitating him and his family many times. I got Dad his Why England Slept for Christmas in '63 along with Hoover's Masters of Deceit (boy, I sure was ignorant!) I bought the whole image thing and was pretty upset when he was murdered.

The Kennedy Wit was part of the Kennedy industry, a business which had started before John and ended only with Teddy in 1980. Bill Adler, the editor, has gone on to make many such books, giving us the wit and wisdom of such as Billy Graham, Jackie Onassis, Oprah, Reagan and even George Bush. At the time, I liked the thing, not even questioning how much of it was actually created by Kennedy himself rather than by one of his writers.

Donna says

He definitely will never be beat as the quickest political wit!

Don says

A great short collection of quotes from the campaign and political career of President Kennedy. It showed a humorous and witty side that is often lost in other historical accounts of his life. It was a really enjoyable read.

Nicole Overmoyer says

Startlingly and depressingly accurate quotes that applied as much in 1960 as they do in 2012.

David says

Most of the quotes were not all that memorable, but the book does have quite a few photos of President Kennedy which makes it enjoyable to leaf through.

Dionne says

It was interesting to learn a little more about Kennedy.

Monicaaaa says

Essentially this is a book of witty quotes made by President John F. Kennedy. I would have enjoyed this more, because he was a very witty man and interesting individual but there were some issues. Many of the quotes repeated themselves, so i felt like I was reading the same thing all the time, like I was walking in circles. Many also weren't in chronological order in the sections they were in. I would have rather have seen them in order of the times he said them.

Kristy Pavlichko says

I was not fond of the formatting of this book. Being that it was published in 1964, I feel I cannot complain too much. It was separated into sections of campaigning, the presidency, the family, and press conferences. It was comprised of quotes all from JFK. It just didn't flow well. It was however very interesting to read some of the things he said as well as to see that he too, campaigned in Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania.
