



His Father's Son: The Life of General Ted Roosevelt, Jr.

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The story of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., a fortunate son who proved himself on the battlefields of two world wars.

General Omar Bradley said of him, I have never known a braver man or a more devoted soldier. But for much of his life, Theodore Roosevelt's son Ted seemed born to live in his father's shadow. With the same wide smile, winning charm, and vigorous demeanor, Ted possessed limitless potential, with even the White House within his reach.

In the First World War, Ted braved gunfire and gas attacks in France to lead his unit into battle. Yet even after returning home a hero, he was unable to meet the expectations of a public that wanted a man just like his father. A diplomat, writer, and man of great adventure, Ted remained frustrated by his lack of success in the world of politics, witnessing instead the rise of his cousin, Franklin, to the office that had once seemed his for the taking.

Then, with World War II looming, Ted reenlisted. In his mid-fifties with a gimpy leg and a heart condition, he was well past his prime, but his insistence to be in the thick of combat proved a vital asset. Paired with the irascible Terry de la Mesa Allen Sr., Ted soon distinguished himself as a front-line general in a campaign that often brought him into conflict with another hard fighter, George Patton. On D-Day, Ted became the oldest soldier and the only general in the Allied forces to storm the beach in the first wave, hobbling across the sand with his cane in one hand and a pistol in the other. His valor and leadership on Utah Beach became the stuff of legends and earned him the Medal of Honor.

His Father's Son delves into the life of a man as courageous, colorful, and unwavering as any of the Roosevelt clan, and offers up a definitive portrait of one of America's greatest military heroes.

His Father's Son: The Life of General Ted Roosevelt, Jr. Details

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Alexw says

A fascinating account of a true hero who fought in both World Wars. A Congressional Medal of Honor winner who was respected by all his men.

Tom says

A good book to read as another D-Day anniversary comes around. That, of course, is what most of us know about Ted Jr., but as this book shows, he led an unusually active and adventurous life before Normandy. He was, after all, his father's son.

Steve says

A very interesting look at the life of Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt, Jr. (1887-1944) the oldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt, knowledge of whom I had previously gotten through footnotes to other events (his father's life and D-day on Omaha beach). Throughout his life Ted strove to be like his father, but he never reached the political heights that his father did, partly due to his cousins Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and never received the fame that his father did, but he lived a very impressive life. He strove to make his father proud and lived in the shadow of his father, which had its benefits but also its definite negatives. Making his own way as a business man, politician, statesman, sportsman, and most impressively as a soldier being one of the first Americans in combat in WWI well as one of the first generals off the landing craft during the invasions of Africa, Sicily and Utah beach in WWII. A well researched and highly readable biography of a fascinating but largely overlooked man. I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads giveaways.

Michael Vincent says

This is an excellent and very interesting work. Brady gives enough detail to help you know Roosevelt and his family, but does not get bogged down in minutiae. Roosevelt lived a fascinating life, in many ways taking chances and living large like his father, while accomplishing much in his life. A notable work for presidential and political historians, those who like big-game hunting, and WWI and WWII buffs.

Barry says

The biography of General Ted Roosevelt Jr who is rightly called the fourth pillar of the Roosevelt dynasty.

He served admirably in WWI and then in his mid fifties re enlisted and led from the front. On D-Day he was the oldest soldier and only general to storm the beach in the First wave. With a cane for his gimpy leg in one hand and a pistol in the other. Though he perished, his valor earned him a Medal Of Honor. Superior biography of a superior man who indeed was His Father's Son.

Jay says

A very good book about a forgotten but brave and accomplished man of one of America's most famous families.

Tom says

Rather than being a traditional biography of General Roosevelt, Mr. Brady takes on the more daunting challenge of including the stories of all of TR's children to some extent. This very informative, if sometimes a little slow, volume includes valuable information to scholar and neophyte alike. What a fascinating character "Young Ted" was - I've known some men who served under him in WWII and it was their admiration of the man which sent me to this tome. Truly, a "Chip off the Old Block" which was hard to do when "the Old Block" was Theodore Roosevelt!

Gregory says

The title says it all. He was shaped by his famous father and his demanding expectations. Yet, Ted never questioned this, nor did he ever feel cheated. Yet, I get the sense that Ted never found his place in life. He was the son of a famous man and the Roosevelt name could be a blessing or a curse. Brother Kermit, for example, never figured it out. Ted, on the other hand, carried on the mantle as best he could. he was capable and talented soldier and officer in two world wars, an author, and publisher. He failed at making a political career. Like two other Roosevelts, he was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Unlike, his father and cousin, though, Ted's stint was not a launching pad to a higher office. If anything, it was an anchor to his career because he was implicated in the Teapot Dome scandal of the administration of President Warren Harding. When Ted ran unsuccessfully for governor of New York in 1924, his cousin Eleanor drove around a flatbed with a giant teapot on it to remind voters.

I think one does get to know Ted Roosevelt in this biography, but it has its limitations. For example, his wife and children are hardly mentioned at all. For a man who was famously a son, one wonders about his own relationship to his children and how he handled that responsibility.

Robert S says

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. would arguably have multiple books and films about his life, except he lives in the shadow of his father President Theodore Roosevelt as well as cousin President Franklin Roosevelt.

Even the author seems to fall into the trappings at times of writing Ted Jr in the shadow of his more famous family members.

Despite largely failing in the political arena (especially considering his father's successes), Teddy Jr thrived on the battlefield like his father and carved his own place in history in the process.

His Father's Son is an interesting read, particularly if you wish to know more about one of the other Roosevelts.

Robert Enzenauer says

Great biographical history. I remember Henry Fonda playing the character of BG T Roosevelt in the *Longest Day*, and now I know why he was using a cane. This is really well-written historical biography. And BG Teddy Roosevelt, JR was certainly equal. to the father in his courage, drive, eccentricity. It is amazing how all three of President T Roosevelt's sons served in World War I, including one killed as a pilot. Teddy Roosevelt Jr. was grievously injured , receiving a bullet through his knee in World War I, giving him a limp forever after. And then T. Roosevelt goes back after an intervening rather unsuccessful career in business and politics between the two world wars, to command his "old regiment" in World War II. He had more combat amphibious assaults in World War II than any other general, landing in Africa and Italy. There is a lot of concern by the West Pointers like Bradley and Eisenhower who are reluctant to give an important command at D-Day Normandy invasion to a "citizen-soldier" like BG Teddy Roosevelt junior. But he had proven himself as an inspirational commander, who lead from the front. And BG Roosevelt leads his regiment to land at Omaha Beach (while one of his sons also lands on Day 1 on another beach. and then only days later died of a fatal heart attack at age 57 years, leading his men in the biggest Allied assault in history. Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor . When his father Colonel T Roosevelt was finally awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Cuba, he came only one of two father-son teams awarded the nation's highest medal for valor. (Along with Arthur McArthur at Missionary Ridge during the Civil War and his son Douglas McArthur for his actions in the Philippines.)

Ann says

A different view of Ted Roosevelt Jr. Focusing on the positive aspects and attributes of his life rather than the political disappointments of not being able to run for President and follow in his father's footsteps. His father was such a hard act to follow and had such expectations for his sons that could hardly be accomplished in view of his own personality which was larger than life. Ted Jr. certainly gave it his all and in reality was a highly successful man in his own right - served in both WWI and WWII, was a successful diplomat, businessman, was compassionate, cared deeply for his wife and children and his brothers and sisters. He was simply overshadowed by his father. There is an undertone of the damage and angst that parental high expectations cause in children that feel a sense of failure and unmet expectations in life - a good thing for parents to ponder.

Richard Colapinto says

American hero

Loved reading about Ted Roosevelt - an American hero, Medal of Honor. As his father said to him during his WWI experience, (paraphrasing) what he has done will shine brightly not only now but for generations. I'm so glad this book was written because his service in two world wars, with distinction, demands nothing less.

Chris says

Finally a book about Ted Roosevelt, Jr. I was always struck by the shocking unfairness of his death to a heart attack at age 57 during the Normandy campaign. Like Patton he was denied a warrior's death. An interesting man whose life was totally eclipsed by his father, his cousin-FDR, and FDR's wife. Loyal, diligent, and brave he was no stranger to failure and the whims of politics. Another entitled man who didn't make it to the top but who led a rich life and was beloved by those he served- Puerto Rico, Philippines, and the U.S. Army. It's a shame more Americans don't know of him. He died too soon like his father.

Joseph J. says

This is a good read especially to those of us interested in the Roosevelt family-Oyster Bay and Hyde Park. I was curious about the post 1920 relationship of TR Jr. and FDR. And despite TR Jr.'s vigorous campaigns against FDR and involvement in the America First movement, the hatchet was buried during WWII, when Ted was promoted the Brigadier General and left for Europe and his fate. Actually good natured correspondence between the two is cited before the war; perhaps blood is thicker than politics! Much of the book is replete with details of Ted's military career in both world wars, and his hunting expeditions (yes, the killing of a panda is a painful read.). Again this is of interest to those with a particular interest in the legacy and great shadow cast by Teddy Roosevelt.

David Barnes says

A very entertaining telling of an interesting story
