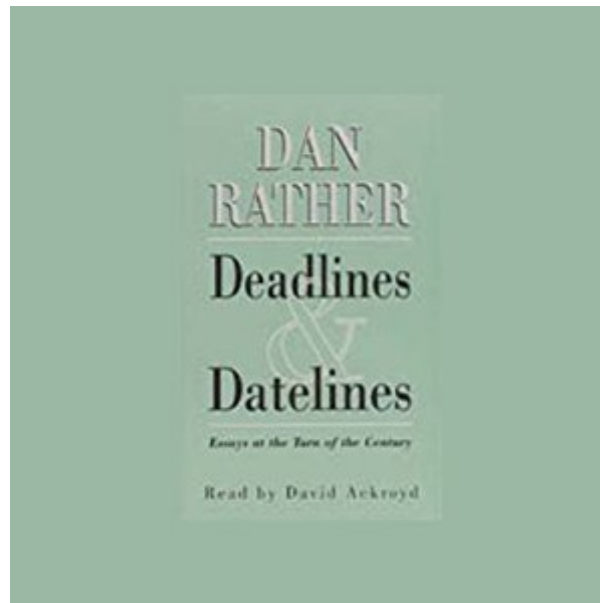


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Deadlines And Datelines: Essays At The Turn Of The Century



Synopsis

Ranging from political campaigns to public school crises to turmoil in Russia, the bestselling author and CBS Evening News anchor examines the tragedies and triumphs that shape our nation. Complete with new essays on recent events, Rather explores America at the end of the twentieth century and looks ahead to its future as we enter the twenty-first. With his distinctive blend of frontline energy and a journalist's knack for a good story, Rather looks at the awesome struggles and everyday accomplishments he's witnessed at home and around the globe. With candor, compassion, and sometimes irreverence, Rather examines world leaders and local heroes. Deadlines and Datelines is not without lighter moments. In one laugh-out-loud essay, Rather skewers the phenomenon of "dumb bass," or bass that are bred to go after any hook in sight. On the culture beat, Rather offers personal interviews and insightful appreciations as well as a compelling tribute to JFK, Jr. Throughout these essays, Rather offers readers a wide range of thought-provoking observations, and shows yet again the skill and intelligence that have made him "part of our world" for more than four decades. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

This collection of essays from his syndicated weekly column is sorta like Nick Clooney's in Cincinnati. This book contains 99 short composites espousing his point of view on diverse themes; he's not afraid to state his likes, dislikes, and fears plus his sense of humor. Like his take on Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' which is different but thought-provoking, and the "immorality" in the White House during Lincoln's term. Surely he wasn't serious about an Oscar for Debbie Reynolds as

an old woman. She was just playing herself, as she always did. He chose her because she was born in Texas. Hey, she grew up in California! For his deficient memory, she was the 'original' Tammy, then Sandra Dee took over in "the Doctor" with Peter Fonda. Debbie is a good entertainer but not so successful in normal living, as being "turned on" is the only way she knows how to be. Last year, she moved her movie memorabilia to Pigeon Forge (not too far from Dollywood) in the Smokies and, as a result, was chosen to ride the main float in their Christmas parade. Now, that's a star -- to come to Tennessee after the flob in Las Vegas. It appears that she lives through her obese daughter, Carrie, who writes. He had flattering things to say about Dolly Parton, a native of this state but not representative of us all. He bemoans the fact of the seasons overlapping in 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Easter,' due to marketing and displays in the stores. I wish we could go back to the old days when fruit and veggies are available only in the growing season for America; they do taste better then, as he lamented. He likes to go where the action is. In June 1996 in Moscow, at 3 a.m. after filing his last report on the Russian elections and on the way to his hotel, he heard the voice of Ella Fitzgerald who'd just died. She had a pure quality to her voice, received much acclaim in life as in death. He wrote, "We never knew much about her personal life; we never knew anything about her except in her songs." If he listened to MUSIC OF YOUR LIFE and Chuck Southcott, he'd be sad to learn that she'd lost both legs due to diabetes, and her friends would take her for a daily afternoon ride around Los Angeles while Chuck played her songs on the radio. She may have seemed "alone" in her singing, but her friends in the Society of Singers made her life bearable, so as not to be completely alone. Some of these "timely" accounts are dated, but all in all I found it an interesting book. I'm glad I have it as he is one of my favorite broadcasters. The comprehensive index was helpful. I will miss seeing his friendly face on the nightly CBS news; he was the best reporter ever, and I hope he will contribute to Sixty Minutes. Maybe he can replace Andy Rooney?

Deadlines and Datelines isn't a regular book with a central theme or one message, or even chapters that are put together that have a plot. Deadlines and Datelines has many essays written by Dan Rather (and a few other people wrote a few essays in the book and are credited) that are based on his weekly news column and his CBS radio report. Basically Dan Rather has written many different essays that are about things like when his friend Bill Cosby's son was taken from him and how he used to watch the super bowl with his son and since he was gone he asked if Dan Rather could come over, he explained that you shouldn't be sad that his son is gone because Bill Cosby is famous, but because he was a great man. A lot of essays have great meaning, and have some comical meanings, but he seems to write seriously, but he does when talking about comical things,

like in one of his essays he talks about the v-chip which is supposed to be a chip which could limit what types of programs children could watch, he then gives examples of ratings that would be better than the standard: TV-MA, TV- PG, TV- 14. And another one he talks about how people have altered different books when they made the movies to make it more appealing to teenagers, with more things they are interested in. What is so great about this book is that it has so many morals and messages, it really makes you think. Deadlines and Datelines has many different stories that talk about things that are surprisingly serious, and it is written in a way that is really interesting. The book hooks you in after the first essay because of the knowledge of Dan Rather and the life experience of him. He talks about some of the most important issues like an essay about how libraries are so important and that many Americans take that for granted, and how First Lady Hilary Clinton has been trying so hard to get many people to go to libraries again. But even subject that would seem to be boring are really made interesting through the eyes of Dan Rather in Deadlines and Datelines. His different experiences are very enjoyable to read, because of how he explains them thoroughly and really makes people learn something, or makes someone care about something that he didn't care about before. And the truthfulness in his writing is exceptional, because his writing is very down to earth, and about stuff that could really moves anyone. His viewpoints are not at all bias, and really make for a great read.-Austin R. Ardizzone

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