

THE

KENNEDYS

DYNASTY

AND

DISASTER

1848-1983

JOHN H. DAVIS

AUTHOR OF  
THE BOUVIERS

THE  
KENNEDYS

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John H. Davis, author of the best-selling *The Bouviers* and *The Guggenheims*, brings his consummate skill as biographer and researcher to this monumental portrait of the Kennedys. Here, spanning 135 years, is the complete Kennedy story, from the family's Irish roots and the early generations in East Boston to the present.

As first cousin to Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, John Davis knew the First Lady from childhood and, through her, the Kennedy family. His observations and insights from personal contact with the Kennedys reveal much about their character and motivations, as a family and as individuals, and so illuminate a fascinating chronicle of the family's history.

Davis explores the origins of the Kennedy mystique—the glittering dynastic image that for a time was taken for the whole truth—as well as the dark realities behind the “Camelot” aura. More significant, in the end, than the Kennedys' many admirers were their powerful enemies. Davis shows how they made such enemies and how they left themselves vulnerable to retaliation—ultimately to assassination. He probes the mysteries that remain about John Kennedy's assassination and its investigation, drawing on important information recently uncovered.

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Davis goes on to assess all that has been learned to date about the Chappaquiddick tragedy, and details Edward Kennedy's 1980 bid for the presidential nomination. Finally, tracing the decline of the Kennedys' prestige, he follows the fortunes of the Kennedy family to the present day.

*The Kennedys* is a critical account of the rise and fall of a political dynasty—a penetrating and comprehensive portrait of a family that has dominated the consciousness of the American public for four decades.

John H. Davis was born in New York and educated at Princeton, Columbia, and the Italian Institute for Historical Studies in Naples, where he studied on a Fulbright scholarship. His previous books include *The Bouviers: Portrait of an American Family* and *The Guggenheims: An American Epic*. John Davis has been closely following the lives of the Kennedys ever since his cousin, Jacqueline Bouvier, married John F. Kennedy in 1953. He lives in New York City.

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