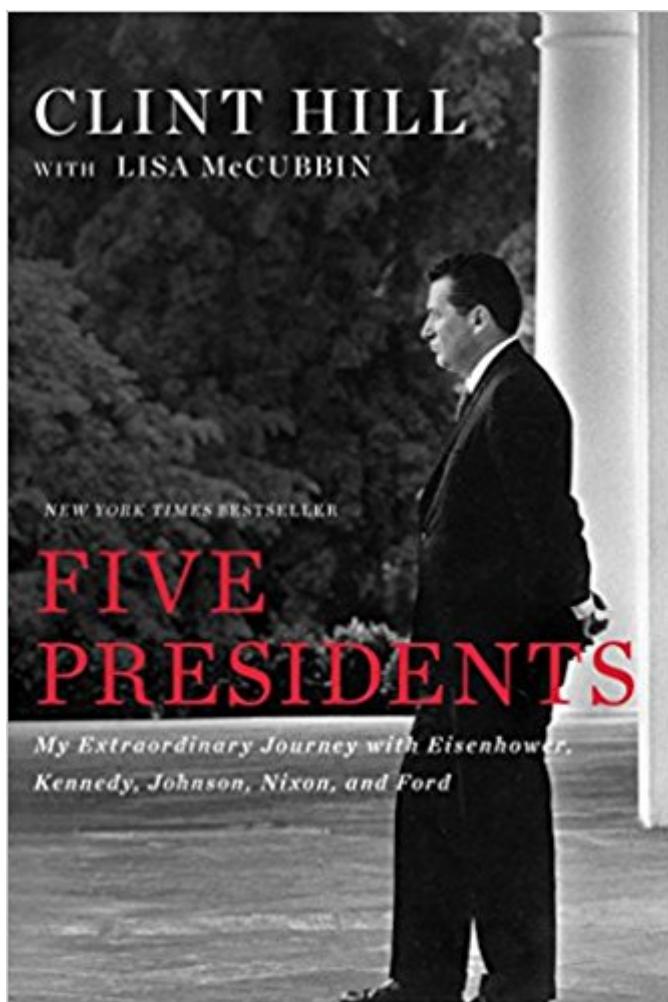


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Five Presidents: My Extraordinary Journey With Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, And Ford



Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Mrs. Kennedy and Me* and *Five Days in November* reflects on his seventeen years on the Secret Service for presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford. The assassination of one president, the resignation of another, and the swearing-in of the two who followed those traumatic events. Clint Hill was there, on duty, through Five Presidents. After an extraordinary career as a Special Agent on the White House Detail, Clint Hill retired in 1975. His career spanned the administrations of Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Gerald R. Ford. A witness to some of the most pivotal moments in the twentieth century, Hill lets you walk in his shoes alongside the most powerful men in the world during tumultuous times in America's history—the Cold War; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy; the Vietnam War; Watergate; and the resignations of Vice President Spiro Agnew and President Nixon. It was indeed a turbulent time—and through it all, Clint Hill had a unique insider perspective. His fascinating stories will shed new light on the character and personality of each of these five presidents, as Hill witnesses their human sides in the face of grave decisions.

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Customer Reviews

Clint Hill is the New York Times bestselling author of *Mrs. Kennedy and Me* and *Five Days in November*. A former Secret Service agent who was in the presidential

motorcade during the John F. Kennedy assassination, Hill remained assigned to Mrs. Kennedy until after the 1964 election. He then was assigned to President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House and later to Richard Nixon, eventually becoming the Assistant Director of the Secret Service for all protection. He retired in 1975. Lisa McCubbin is the coauthor of four New York Times bestsellers: Five Presidents; Mrs. Kennedy and Me; Five Days in November; and The Kennedy Detail. A former television news anchor and reporter, she currently resides in the San Francisco Bay area. Visit her at LisaMcCubbin.com.

Five Presidents 2> 2> As a Special Agent in the United States Secret Service, I had the honor and privilege of serving five presidents—Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Gerald R. Ford—three Republicans and two Democrats. From my unique vantage point, I had the rare opportunity to observe the human side of these men—the most powerful men in the world—as each dealt with the enormous responsibilities and unforeseen challenges thrust upon them, and how their individual characters and personalities affected grave decisions. My seventeen years in the Secret Service spanned the period that encompassed the U-2 spy incident; the Cold War; the Cuban Missile Crisis; the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy; the civil rights movement, riots and burning of major U.S. cities; the Vietnam War; Watergate; and the resignations of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and President Nixon. In less than two decades, America went from being unquestionably the most respected and admired nation in the world to a country whose image had become tarnished by violence, scandal, and deceit. It is interesting to note that of these five presidents, only Eisenhower had a normal run as president—elected by the people and serving two full terms. Kennedy was elected in 1960 by the slimmest of margins, and his term lasted just one thousand days, cut short by an assassin. Suddenly, the vice president became president. Johnson was reelected the following year, but when the demands of the office and the casualties of the Vietnam War became more than he could bear, he chose not to run for a second term. Nixon was elected in 1968, and again in 1972, but in the wake of the Watergate scandal, he became the first United States president to resign, in 1974. A year earlier, when Nixon’s vice president, Spiro Agnew, resigned in disgrace, Nixon appointed Gerald Ford as vice president. Thus, upon Nixon’s resignation, Ford became president, never having been elected to the office. It was a turbulent time, and there I was, in the middle of it all. As with our two previous books, my talented writing partner, Lisa McCubbin, and I have attempted to bring history to life through my experiences. While Mrs. Kennedy and Me focused on my interactions with

Jacqueline Kennedy, and Five Days in November detailed those tragic days surrounding the assassination, the Kennedy section in this book focuses on my observations of and interactions with President Kennedy. There is unavoidably some overlap, but the recollections of my years with Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford are revealed here for the first time. There is no doubt that the assassination of President Kennedy was a defining moment for me, and it would affect me on many levels for the rest of my life. I was thrust onto the pages of history, but it has often bothered me that I would be remembered solely for my actions on that one day. For there was much that led up to that moment, and much that followed. Like the five presidents I served, there were many things that influenced the decisions I made, the actions I took, the man I became. It has indeed been an extraordinary journey.

Definitely a page turner of the nth degree. Clint and Lisa weave an insider's view of the Presidency as no one else can. Their crisp and readable prose makes this a fascinating and enjoyable book that is hard to put down. We all know about Clint's interaction with John and Jacqueline Kennedy but the anecdotes of the others he protected are priceless. This is all new material here. Tales of Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon, Agnew and Ford will keep you craving more. When you are finished you'll want Clint and Lisa to write a sequel with other historical gems too. Books like this are rare, informative and incredibly enjoyable to read. A winning combination!

Clint Hill has done it again! This incredible book is a MUST READ for anyone with the slightest interest in history. Five Presidents is a rare window into the personalities and characters of five uniquely different presidents written by the Secret Service agent who was there not to judge them, but to protect them. He saw the strengths and weaknesses of these men as they wrestled with life and death decisions. The 60's and 70's were extremely turbulent decades for America. The 60's presidency and it was the only time in our history when five presidents in a row over a span of 20 years failed to serve two full terms -- due to assassination, protests over an unpopular war, threat of impeachment, pardon of his predecessor's crimes, incompetence. And Clint Hill was there an arm's length away. There is no hearsay, no editorializing, no opinion, no political point of view--only what he saw and what he heard as history unfolded before his eyes, and you feel like you are right there with him. He was there for the birth of a son, the death of a son and was splattered with a president's blood. He felt Lyndon Johnson's hot breath and the poke of his finger as he bullied and intimidated those around him. He portrays how these

men spent their private time, their leisure time, and how they treated the people around them. He reveals what it was like to be with Ike on the golf course, how JFK loved to sail and truly seemed to care about his family, how LBJ treated guests at his ranch, how Nixon's paranoia lead to his downfall, how Ford's decency calmed the nation. He saw how Eisenhower was worshiped as a hero around the world. Mr. Hill sacrificed his own life, marriage, fatherhood, and emotional health to protect these five presidents. He witnessed the joys, triumphs, agony, disappointment, human frailty, ego, lust for power, and facilitators of the most powerful person in the world. Thank you, Clint Hill, for all that you have done and for sharing your story with us in Five Presidents.

If you want a detailed, intelligent, eloquent tale of presidential history read Clint Hill's "Five Presidents" which covers his 17 years in the Secret Service protecting occupants of the White House. From the days of Eisenhower, when security was far more casual than it would be after the assassination of JFK, to the Ford administration Mr Hill tells the stories which illuminate the lives of each leader in a thoughtful way. He allows us to see the human side, but keeps the anecdotes to the humorous/insightful, devoid of the trashy/speculative material so many "insiders" go to in order to boost sales. This is Clint Hill's story and it is peopled with all the names we have heard in the headlines, but on a human scale. He explains the passion Eisenhower had for golf but does not make it an attack on him. We learn about Lyndon Johnson from someone who walked right beside him daily. Of course there are more stories about Hill's years with Jacqueline Kennedy, a favored time of his career. And one is certain that Mrs Kennedy would approve the way he describes working with her and the president. Lisa McCubbin is the co-author of this book and it is clear that she has magnificently set the tone and voice with which it is written. Selecting the stories to tell and shaping the narration has resulted in a grand book, which will resonate with all interested in a life of service to his country. Bravo to both authors.

While I was alive, though somewhat young in the early part of this book, I was reminded constantly the turmoil our country has gone through. This reads like a history book but with one big difference – this is a smooth and easy read and you cannot put it down. I highly recommend this book to you. I promise you won't find yourself yawning at any time. Also, as an added benefit, there are many fine and high-resolution photos included.

Mesmerizing! Timely! Thought provoking in the light of the Presidential election upon us, and deep

insight into the life of a Special Agent. They and their families are the unsung heroes of our nation.

After finishing I felt I needed to give Mr. Hill and his wife a big hug!!

This is a fascinating look at history, as told by a man who was literally a step away from some of the most influential people of the 20th century. Mr. Hill's travels as a new Secret Service Agent with President Eisenhower, virtually spanning the globe; his time on the Kennedy Protective Detail; and his incredibly close association with Lyndon Johnson convey the sense of being right there with him as he dealt with the principals he was assigned to protect. I was quite taken with Mr. Hill's insights into the character of Richard Nixon - and his observations about Gerald Ford, the so-called "accidental president." Running through almost the entire narrative, however, are the events of that awful day in Dallas in 1963. In particular, Mr. Hill's torment over his inability to reach the President's vehicle in time to keep the fatal shot from reaching its target. His recount of the feelings of guilt he carries with him left me with tears in my eyes.

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