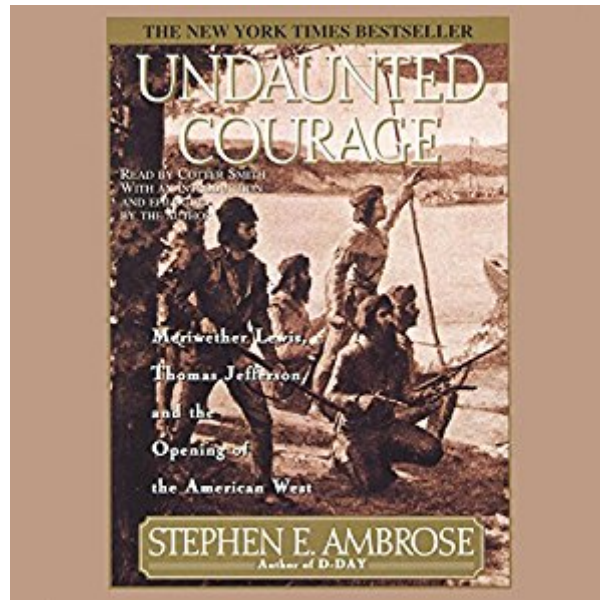




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Undaunted Courage



Synopsis

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead a voyage up the Missouri River, across the forbidding Rockies, and -- by way of the Snake and mighty Columbia -- down to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and his partner, Captain William Clark, endured incredible hardships and witnessed astounding sights. With great perseverance, they worked their way into an unexplored West and when they returned two years later, they had long since been given up for dead. Lewis is supported by a variety of colorful characters: Jefferson and his vision of the West; Clark, the artist and map-maker; and Lewis -- the enigma, who led brilliantly but considered the mission a failure. After suffering several periods of depression -- and despite his status as national hero -- Lewis died mysteriously, apparently by his own hand. --This text refers to an alternate Audible Audio Edition edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As someone who has recently been fascinated by the Expedition, I found this book to be an incredibly easy read. The pages flew by and flowed together very well. In my opinion, the book was somewhat slow in the beginning but that was probably more me than the book as I was more interested in the Expedition itself than the early life of Meriwether Lewis. This book puts into perspective how difficult the trip was and how even with modern technology, this trip would've still been difficult. I learned a few things such as what a sextant is. It was interesting to read Lewis's descriptions of the Native Americans describing them as savages while also admiring them. I think a lot of history books gloss over the Expedition with only minor details. It was interesting to learn of his

fight against the Blackfeet as well as the medical issues endured by the men via the weather and also medical conditions brought on by themselves through intercourse with Native American women. We also see a glimpse into the tight relationship between Lewis and Clark. Lewis was very much a scientist and reading about what wildlife he saw as the first American to do so was really cool. With some locations, Ambrose frequently tells us around where the present day location is and being a Google Maps lover, I would look it up. It was fascinating to see places where I could visit myself that Lewis and Clark had visited. In all, I can see myself coming back to this book to read again. I won't spoil the ending for those who haven't read it but it was also sad to read of the battle Lewis had with alcoholism and malaria(?)

purchased this for my Kindle, I love reading about history and events that shaped the modern world, and had read many great reviews of this book. I have loved most of the books related to WWII written by S. Ambrose, but for some reason I just couldn't get into this book. I found it slow going to begin with and after the first 140 pages it still didn't pick up my interest enough to even try to finish it. So I moved onto another book, maybe I will try it again later on.

Normally, I'm not one to read much nonfiction, but my sister recommended that I read this book, because it is among her favorite books. I called her tonight, after I finished reading chapter 39, genuinely distraught, because I didn't know Lewis's life ended in that way, plus I was in awe by how eloquently that chapter was written, describing what was possibly going through Lewis's mind before his death. Thanks so much to my sister for the recommendation, who recommends that I read Clay Jenkinson next and listen to his "Jefferson Hour" podcast.

Ambrose brings the magic of the Lewis & Clark expedition alive with this magnificent book. A great author can struggle with a pedestrian story and a great story be tarnished by an unskilled author. However, *Undaunted Courage* is the re-telling of a classic story from the heart of America by a great author who also loves and lives the material. There are so many mini-stories woven into the book that it helps to stimulate entertaining discussions of this historic accomplishment. The book also brought to me a far greater appreciation of Jefferson's great impact on art and science in the young republic. While we think of the expedition in terms of its impact on our political history, it was equally important in gaining an understanding of the biological and geographical wonders of the uncharted wilderness. It is a wonderful gift to young people to help them understand the foundation of our westward growth. Reads with the excitement of a novel and the enlightenment of good history. It is

hard not to repeat the many good things said about this book other than to mention that if I were to be allowed only 5 books to take for a year of isolation this would be one. It's easy, but rewarding reading. Highly recommended and a book that's filled a lot of Christmas stockings and birthday packages in our family.

This is an actual historical event that Ambrose brings to life in the form of an adventure story; it's not a dry history lesson. It starts a bit slow with the early lives of Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, but becomes an adventure in the wilderness. I think the most remarkable character is Sakajawea, their guide and interpreter. She went on the trail pregnant, gave birth in the field, then carried the baby on her back. Another remarkable aspect of the expedition is that for the entire treacherous journey, only one man was lost; this attests to the excellent leadership of Lewis and Clarke.

Very well researched and written book! I now have a real understanding & appreciation for what the L&C expedition was felt like for those that were a part of it. Reading behind the scene details about Lewis & Clark as people and explorers gives this book that human element. It gives insight into the politics of the expedition as well as details of river system exploration, the recording & illustrations Native Americans encountered, flora & fauna & wildlife. This book is a must read for any history buff or interested person wanting to know what life on the American frontier was really like.

Author Stephen Ambrose tells an amazing story about Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's expedition across North America. Can you imagine the COURAGE it took to make this journey. Imagine, it's early 1800, there are no roads and it's your job is to cross the American frontier to discover the land we bought via the Louisiana Purchase. Undaunted Courage is a fascinating book because 1) it is written well; 2) it tells a very interesting story about a historic event and; 3) at times you get to feel like you are the trip with Lewis & Clark. These men were truly amazing. All in all, this book is informative and a worthwhile read. I recommend it highly.

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