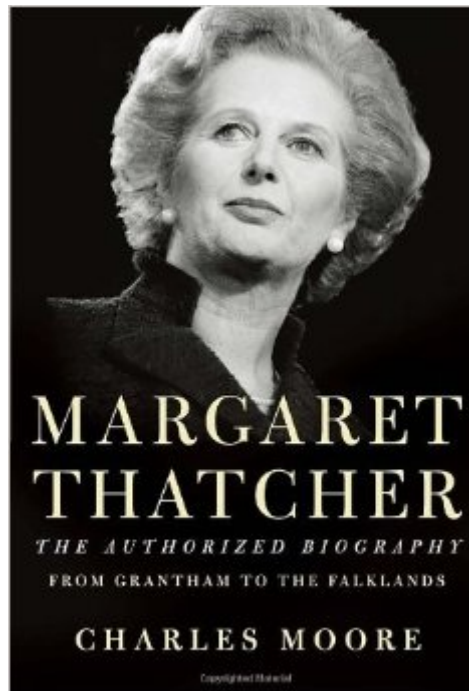


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Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham To The Falklands: The Authorized Biography



Synopsis

With unequaled authority and dramatic detail, the first volume of Charles Moore's authorized biography of Margaret Thatcher reveals as never before the early life, rise to power, and first years as prime minister of the woman who transformed Britain and the world in the late twentieth century. Moore has had unique access to all of Thatcher's private and governmental papers, and interviewed her and her family extensively for this book. Many of her former colleagues and intimates have also shared previously unseen papers, diaries, and letters, and spoken frankly to him, knowing that what they revealed would not be published until after her death. The book immediately supersedes all other biographies and sheds much new light on the whole spectrum of British political life from Thatcher's entry into Parliament in 1959 to what was arguably the zenith of her power—victory in the Falklands in 1982. Drawing on an extraordinary cache of letters to her sister Muriel, Moore illuminates Thatcher's youth, her relationship with her parents, and her early romantic attachments, including her first encounters with Denis Thatcher and their courtship and marriage. Moore brilliantly depicts her determination and boldness from the very beginning of her political career and gives the fullest account of her wresting the Tory leadership from former prime minister Edward Heath at a moment when no senior figure in the party dared to challenge him. His account of Thatcher's dramatic relationship with Ronald Reagan is riveting. This book also explores in compelling detail the obstacles and indignities that Thatcher encountered as a woman in what was still overwhelmingly a man's world. Moore's admiration for Thatcher is evident, yet his portrait is convincingly clear-eyed, conveying both how remarkable she was and how infuriating she could be, her extraordinary grasp at mastering policy and what needed to be done, and her surprising vulnerabilities. At the moment when Margaret Thatcher becomes a part of history, Moore's portrait enlivens her, compellingly re-creating the circumstances and experiences that shaped one of the most significant world leaders of the postwar era.

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Customer Reviews

Nearly 20 years of interviews and research have produced a masterpiece! Charles Moore has produced an epic biography of Margaret Thatcher that is sure to be a classic. I have not read through it all thoroughly, but what I have read proved to be immensely readable, full of previously undisclosed details and opinions about the Iron Lady, and perhaps the best biography I have ever read. Moore weaves biography, history, politics, psychology and sociology together in such a way that one cannot help but to be educated on a myriad of topics while reading this book. Much of what I remember about Thatcher while I was a teen and young adult had so much back-story revealed to me that I found myself more aware of Lady Thatcher, but also about British politics, American politics, political and historical figures, and world events of those times. Reading this book is an education. One theme I picked up on here, as I have in reading about other great leaders like Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Ronald Reagan, Theodore Roosevelt and many others is that their personalities are not typical. They are literally different than most of us. Margaret Thatcher was a "mule," to use a description from the book. She worked extraordinarily hard her whole life. It is not enough to have dreams, ideas, or philosophies. The greats among us have the drive and energy to turn vision into action, and leave a lasting legacy. Margaret Thatcher developed her political philosophy during the course of her life and married that philosophy to her incredible energy to become a political force and renowned politician and leader. This book is over 800 pages, with extensive footnotes, hundreds of sources, and a delight to read.

Margaret Thatcher was an amazing political leader. In her own lifetime she was both admired and reviled by many. Even on the occasion of her death the responses could be quite loud. Margaret Thatcher: From Grantham to the Falklands is the first volume in a two volume biography of the Iron Lady by author Charles Moore. Moore spent many years working on this project. Lady Thatcher gave him access to her own material and encouraged others to talk to him. The only stipulation was that the book be published after her death. Moore is quite thorough in his work. He covers Thatcher's life in great detail. He also covers her personality. This is not an attempt to canonize the

subject. Thatcher is shown to be stubborn, difficult, and at times even a bit abusive of her colleagues. Moore points out her many weaknesses as well as her strengths. The overall image is not flattering, but it does show a very human Thatcher, something that we do not see very often when she is portrayed. Thatcher's father made a great impression on her early life. He was a storekeeper and a lay Methodist minister. Many of her strongest beliefs were instilled by her father at a early age. This included a strong work ethic and a strong desire to help those in need. For all of her critics claim to the contrary her greatest desire was always to look after the working men and women in England. Whenever she looked at a bill she tended to look at it like a housewife examining an item on the family budget. She disliked inflation because she felt that it wiped out the hard earned savings of industrious workers. She fought hard to sell off government owned housing to the people who lived in the housing. Moore tells us a lot about her early life.

Charles Moore's epic biography of Margaret Thatcher is sure to become a classic. More than 800 pages in length, utilizing hundreds of sources, this work took almost 20 years for publication. Now that the Iron Lady has passed away, Moore published this extraordinary biography which is the most candid and complete available. Margaret Thatcher, like nearly all great personalities and leaders, possessed incredible drive and passion. Hundreds of interviews and thousands of government and personal historical documents confirm that Thatcher had drive and passion, and combined with her belief in traditional values, was able to become a force in British politics and world affairs. Most interesting to me was her capacity to work. She was always focused on her goals, and looking forward to whatever needed to be done next. Many, even most of her associates, underestimated her abilities. She was not particularly charismatic or socially skilled, but was able to work with others to accomplish much of what she wanted to do at each stage of her life. The juicy details of her personal life are intriguing of course, but the insights of her family, friends, and associates is what really sets this work apart. The personal and government documents used as sources are many, but other well-written biographies utilize libraries full of documentation too. Less common, and more interesting to me, is the vast number of people interviewed for this work. They are often very candid, and not always in a flattering way. Moore expertly weaves the personal and historical together in such a way as to present the most thorough biography possible. Of course, not all recollections are factually accurate, but Moore points out any inconsistencies by Thatcher or others.

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