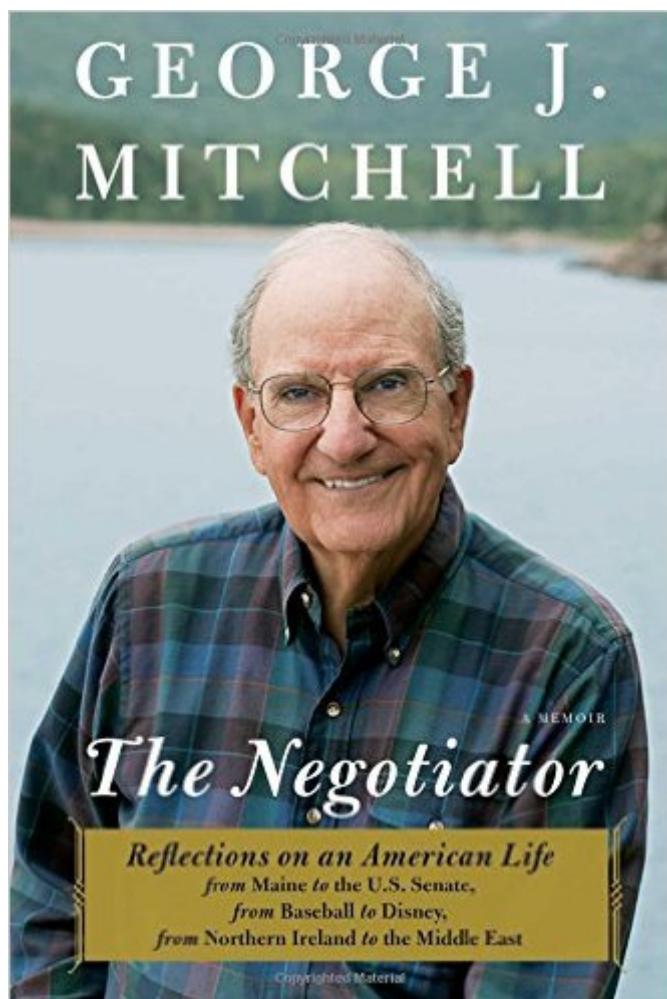


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The Negotiator: A Memoir



Synopsis

Compelling, poignant, enlightening stories from former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell about growing up in Maine, his years in the Senate, working to bring peace to Northern Ireland and the Middle East, and what he's learned about the art of negotiation during every stage of his life. It's a classic story of the American Dream. George Mitchell grew up in a working class family in Maine, experiencing firsthand the demoralizing effects of unemployment when his father was laid off from a lifelong job. But education was always a household priority, and Mitchell embraced every opportunity that came his way, eventually becoming the ranking Democrat in the Senate during the administrations of George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Told with wit, frankness, and a style all his own, Senator Mitchell's memoir reveals many insights into the art of negotiation. Mitchell looks back at his adventures in law and politics—including instrumental work on clean air and water legislation, the Iran-Contra hearings, and healthcare reform—as well as life after the Senate, from leading the successful Northern Ireland peace process, to serving as chairman of The Walt Disney Company, to heading investigations into the use of steroids in baseball and unethical activity surrounding the Olympic Games. Through it all, Senator Mitchell's incredible stories—some hilarious, others tragic, all revealing—offer invaluable insights into critical moments in the last half-century of business, law, and politics, both domestic and international.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Interesting story of one our last Senate leaders who didn't see it as his mission to see his President

fail. George Mitchell clearly understood the role of the majority leader as one of collaboration, debate, and compromise for the sake of the entire country, not just his political and financial supporters. That attitude gave him impressive credibility to continue bringing warring factions together and finding common ground. Even when he failed in his efforts, his reputation as a neutral arbitrator remained intact. His observations on the Middle East and the current Congress make for interesting analysis and reading.

They don't make them anymore like George Mitchell, who has had a remarkable career in and out of politics. For those who don't remember, Mitchell first became known as a senior aid to former Maine Senator and Presidential candidate Ed Muskie; he then became a federal judge; when Muskie became Secretary of State in the Carter administration, Mitchell was appointed Senator pro tem in his place; he then won a full term on his own, and in only his second term became the Senate Majority Leader; after retirement, Mitchell had major roles in negotiating the Northern Ireland peace accords, authoring the definitive report on steroids in baseball, and acting as President Obama's special envoy to the Middle East. Along the way he turned down a potential nomination to the Supreme Court and was the only Senator to stand up to Ollie North in the Iran-Contra hearings and remind us all that there are many ways to be a patriot. Mitchell is about as decent a man as a politician can be. Unfortunately, his memoir, like the man himself, is a bit on the boring side. Although he has the Irish heritage (along with the Lebanese) Mitchell is not a good story teller. Maybe because he's essentially too decent to really name names and call people out. He's also written several other books -- including the inside account of the Iran Contra hearings (along with former Republican Senator Bill Cohen) and an inside account of the Northern Ireland Peace Negotiations -- and consequently, he covers these episodes from his life very briefly. But I was interested in his take on what is currently happening in the Middle East and why there is really no chance of a negotiated settlement as long as Mahmoud Abbas and Benjamin Netanyahu are in power.

This was a gift for my husband on our anniversary. He hasn't finished reading it as yet, but seems to be enjoying it so far since he reads me excerpts from it occasionally. We both have great respect for this gentleman who is from our home state of Maine. He hit the nail on the head when he said politics is not what it used to be years ago. Now it is all about money. When Senator Mitchell and Bill Cohen were in the Senate they worked together diligently and exercised a lot of what we used to call common sense. Times have certainly changed.

Buy or borrow a copy of this book and sit down and read it. Chances are that you, like me, will end up wishing George Mitchell were a member of your family. We need more George Mitchells in this world; we are so fortunate to have this one!

This is fabulous. Mitchell's writing style is highly readable. Anyone who has even been to Maine will love all the vignettes and characters. It shows how one can "be all you can be," no matter your start. A good family is the best foundation.

I had the privilege of hearing Senator Mitchell talk of his new book to a very large audience at NYU where the brilliant Colum McCann introduced him with words that should themselves be published. I had no doubt the pages would ring with truth and humor and rare courage. This is a hero of honesty, bravery, statemanship and selfless dedication. Believe in the American dream and a man who embodies it to help heal our larger world. He and his book are treasures. Annette Sara Cunningham

A nice, anecdote filled memoir written very much in George Mitchell's unique voice. No surprising revelations or bombshell's, just a reaffirmation that this deeply decent man and others of his generation are so sorely missed in public life in America today.

I bought this book for my hubby and he so enjoyed it as George Mitchell is a local guy and my hubby loves politics. George had a very interesting career and is well respected around the world. A great read for anyone, you don't have to love politics to enjoy this book.

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