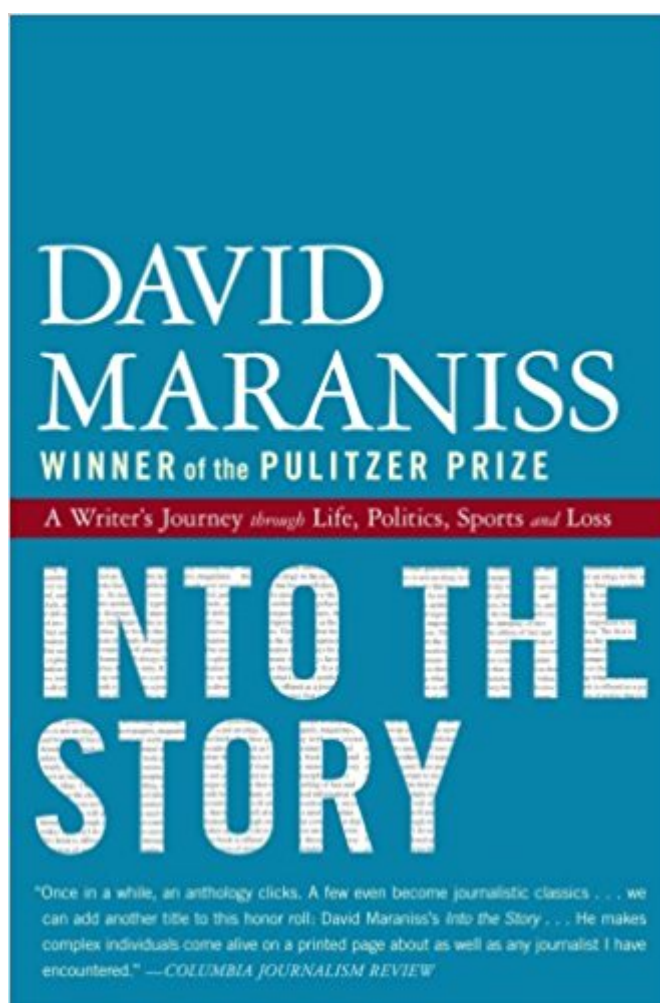




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# Into The Story: A Writer's Journey Through Life, Politics, Sports And Loss



## Synopsis

INTO THE STORY is the first collection of the work of David Maraniss, one of the most honored and versatile writers of his generation. The thirty-two stories here cover a rich array of topics, ranging from seminal moments in modern history to intimate personal reflections, each piece illuminated by the author's deep reporting and singular sensibility.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this collection of previously published articles and excerpts from his books, Pulitzer Prize-winning Maraniss (Clemente) ranges over topics from the death of his sister and the deaths of strangers on September 11 to the political fortunes of Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore and the timeless contributions to sports of legendary figures like Vince Lombardi, Muhammad Ali, and Roberto Clemente. With his characteristic elegance, Maraniss explores in these sketches just how ordinary life is until it is not. Thus, he gathers memories from survivors that seem trivial—such as the student walking into his German class at Virginia Tech joking with his professor—but that provide a reflection of the universal in the particular. He also examines in these essays the odd, chaotic mixture of banality and horror in the tragic experience itself. Visiting Vietnam with American soldier Clark Welch, Maraniss witnesses Welch conversing with North Vietnamese villager Nguyen Van Lam—two sworn enemies over 30 years ago—and marvels at the connections of history and individual lives and the intentions that rip people apart and

sew them back together. Maraniss wonders how Vince Lombardi might have reacted to the shift of power between players and coaches in today's professional football world. Behind all his quaint notions of spartan discipline, team love, and obedience to the leader, Lombardi above all was adaptable, reacting to conditions quickly enough to bend things his way. Maraniss's lively sketches illuminate the lives of significant cultural and political figures and intimately capture various moments that define modern American cultural history. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Maraniss, a multiple Pulitzer Prize winner, is a veteran newspaper journalist and the author of biographies of Bill Clinton and Vince Lombardi, as well as a book about the politically charged 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. This collection of previously published pieces demonstrates his ability to capture, with a few well-chosen words, people and events with photographic clarity. The book's profiles focus on the author's two loves, politics and sports (Clinton, Obama, Gore; Lombardi, Ali, Clemente), but Maraniss also writes about universal themes: the death of a sister; the events of 9/11; the Vietnam War. He approaches all of his subjects from an objective journalist's point of view: there is no hero worship in his profiles of admirable people, and no air of judgment in his portrayals of scoundrels (such as Edwin Edwards, the former Louisiana governor convicted on racketeering charges). The book is like a Maraniss sampler: read it, and then seek out the books from which some of its essays were drawn. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A big fan of Maraniss's writing and resource-gathering and citation, I'd not heard of this until I watched an interview with him on C-Span. It's an interesting compilation of his own experiences, both professional and personal, and it's a good read. Each chapter can stand alone, and overall, they give some insight into this very skilled author and historian. It isn't as strong as his other books, but it's a different genre, and well worth the time spent.

David Maraniss is a great writer. He has a gift for narrative and almost always tugs on the heartstrings. Somehow, despite Maraniss's immense talent, INTO THE STORY, doesn't quite work. It is hard to explain, but in reading the pieces straight through, they don't hold up as well as they do individually. The best are taken from his great books on Clinton and Lombardi. When reading them, you want to pick up those books again. The others read like "bonus" pieces that on their own satisfy, but in an anthology come back to the same punch line once too often. Perhaps that is what

becomes apparent, that he has one tale, a great one, but read so many times in a row it loses its spark.

I've only gotten through the first couple of chapter of this book, but it seem to be really interesting from a humanistic point of view. He dives into the trials and tribulations of his sister's tragic death and with him coming to terms with is fatality. In addition, delivers correlation between on-site reporting and what actually is on the front-page for viewers to realize. This is definitely a must read as added clarification for those who have one source of information as their guide to journalistic reality.

This is a remarkable collection of short essays by one of the most skilled and accomplished political biographers in America.

I bought this book to read some of David Maraniss before buying one of his books that takes a deeper commitment on my part. I thoroughly enjoyed his writing style and his honesty and fairness. I will DEFINETLY be buying/reading more books from this author!

David Maraniss is one of my favorite authors. I have read all his books, except the one on Al Gore, which I have no interest in. This book is sort of a "Reader's Digest" version of some of his other books. One of my favorite books of all time,

excellent

I HAVE COME TO EXPECT ONLY THE BEST FROM ANY ORDER TENDERED TO ...AND AM NEVER DISAPPOINTED. THIS LATEST D. MARANISS BOOK WAS DELIVERED WELL WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME FRAME...A CONVENIENCE BECAUSE IT WAS A BIRTHDAY GIFT. THANK YOU...ONCE MORE!

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