



Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip

By Matthew Algeo

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From Missouri to New York and back again, this recounting of an amazing journey chronicles the road trip of a former president and his wife and their amusing, failed attempts to keep a low profile. Diners, bellhops, and cabbies shouted out “Hiya, Harry!” whenever they recognized the former president, and, out for his daily constitutional on the streets of New York, Harry even stumbled into the sidewalk shot of the newly launched *Today* show. Along the way there are brief detours into relevant topics, such as the postwar American auto industry, McCarthyism, the development of the nation’s highway system, and the decline of Main Street America. By the end of the 2,500-mile journey, readers will have a new and heartfelt appreciation for America’s last citizen-president.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Public radio reporter Algeo (*Last Team Standing*) brings the 1950s into focus with a fascinating reconstruction of Harry and Bess Truman's postpresidential 2,500-mile road trip. I like to take trips—any kind of trip, Truman wrote. They are about the only recreation I have besides reading. Between 2006 and 2008, Algeo retraced their journey with stopovers at some of the same diners and hotels the couple visited. When Truman left the White House in 1953, he returned to Independence, Mo., rejecting lucrative offers he felt would commercialize the presidency. His only income was a small army pension. Acquiring a 1953 Chrysler, the Trumans set out with no fanfare and a curious notion of traveling incognito. However, reporters and newsreel cameras soon turned their vehicular vacation into an ongoing media event. The book benefits from extensive research through oral history interviews and papers at the Harry S. Truman Library, and Algeo's own interviews with eyewitnesses. With deliberate detours, this book is a portal into the past with layers of details providing unusual authenticity and a portrait of the president as an ordinary man. 20 b&w photos, 1 map. (May)

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Review

"One of the Best Books of the Year." —*Washington Post*

"An engaging account . . . Well-researched." —*Wall Street Journal*

"Now, this is what's called a road trip." --*In Transit, New York Times* travel blog

"Matthew Algeo recalls [my grandparents'] memorable trip beautifully and with the sense of humor it deserves." —**Clifton Truman Daniel**, grandson of Harry S. Truman

"*Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure* resonates Aaron Copeland's 'Fanfare for the Common Man'—brassy, bright, energetic, brief and declaratively American." —*Washington Times*

"Enlivened by Algeo's endeavors to see the places where Truman stopped, this is an engaging historical sidebar." —*Booklist Online*

"Algeo chronicles this unlikely excursion in great and wonderful detail. . . . [An] enchanting glimpse into a much simpler age." --*Library Journal*

"An absolutely wonderful book." —*Virginian-Pilot*

About the Author

Matthew Algeo is an award-winning journalist who has reported from three continents for public radio's *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, and *Morning Edition*. He is the author of *The President Is a Sick Man* and *Last Team Standing*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Hughes:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are really reading whatever they have because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will want this Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip.

Linda Amato:

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Chris Boos:

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