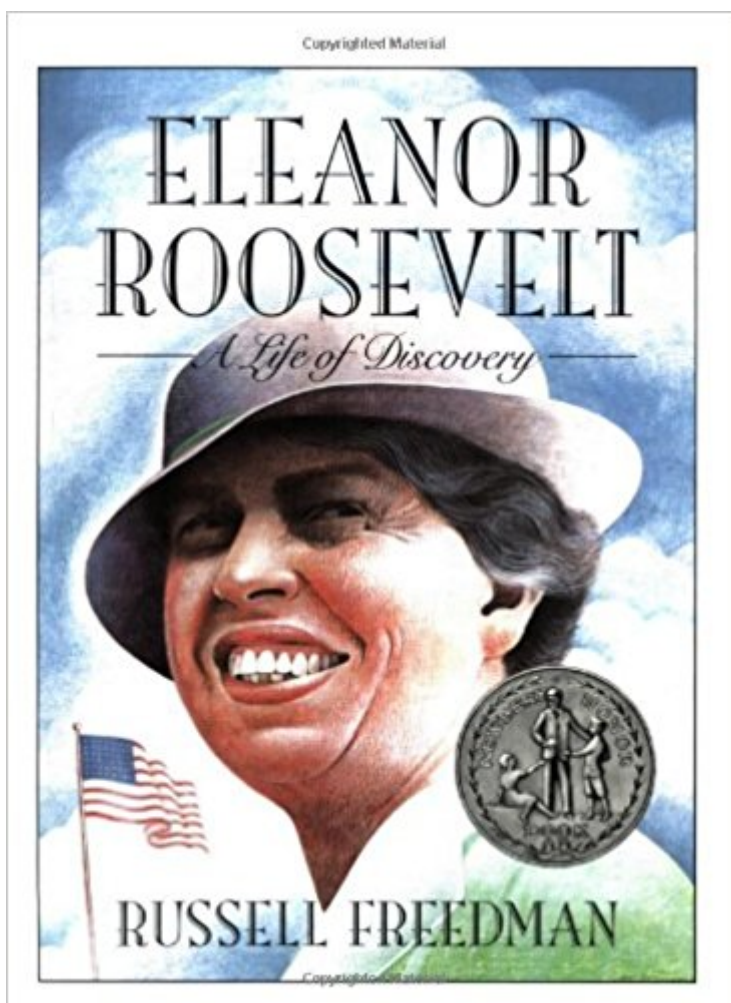


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# Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life Of Discovery (Clarion Nonfiction)



## Synopsis

The intriguing story of Eleanor Roosevelt traces the life of the former First Lady from her early childhood through the tumultuous years in the White House to her active role in the founding of the United Nations after World War II. A Newberry Honor Book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A natural follow-up to Freedman's biography of FDR, this impeccably researched, highly readable study of one of this country's greatest First Ladies is nonfiction at its best. As a role model for girls and an inspiration to both genders, Eleanor Roosevelt remains unsurpassed. Freedman relates how she transcended both an unhappy childhood (her parents separated when she was six; her mother died when Eleanor was eight, and her father, an alcoholic, died two years later) and a timid nature to become one of the most outspoken, vigorous, highly regarded women in history. The vast range of her interests and activities--journalism, politics and social activism--becomes even more remarkable as the author deftly considers Eleanor Roosevelt's times and her social milieu.

Approximately 140 well-chosen black-and-white photos amplify the text. Freedman writes both authoritatively and compellingly, and the Eleanor that emerges is a complex, flesh-and-blood individual, not a dull heroine of textbook history. He also deals plainly with some of the more sordid aspects of the Roosevelts' married life (namely FDR's infidelity), but he never sensationalizes, and his honesty and candor signal his respect for his subject and for his readers. This biography cannot be recommended highly enough. Ages 9-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This

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Grade 6-12-Fans of Eleanor Roosevelt will enjoy this detailed anecdotal record of her life, while those unfamiliar with her life will count themselves among her admirers by the end of their listening. Barbara Caruso ably narrates Eleanor's transformation from shy and gawky young girl to internationally known world traveler and major political force. Convinced that what she wanted from life could only be attained by "the opportunity for doing something useful," Eleanor seized every chance afforded her by her position as wife of the president to work for peace and prosperity both at home and overseas. Caruso's matter-of-fact tone matches Mrs. Roosevelt's personality. Her reading is crisp and no-nonsense-a good choice for conveying Roosevelt's pragmatic and self-effacing character. Listeners will want to take a look at Russell Freedman's book (Clarion, 1993) for the many splendid black-and-white photographs it contains. Highly recommended for both school and public library collections.

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I was really surprised by this book. I was expecting an average biography, but I was pulled in from the opening page. As a child, Eleanor Roosevelt was told constantly by her mother to develop her social skills and manners because she didn't have any looks. The daughter of the wealthy and socially prominent Roosevelt family, niece to Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor had a close relationship with her father, but felt inferior to her beautiful and disapproving mother. Eleanor's early family life was torn with unhappiness as her mother became estranged from her alcoholic father. Eleanor was mostly raised by her grandmother when the family moved in after the separation of her mother and father, and the death of both her parents by age ten. Eleanor first began to develop her amazing personality when she went to finishing school at fifteen in Europe. She was very intelligent and a favorite of the girls and headmistress. After her coming out in New York at eighteen, Eleanor and her distant cousin Franklin became secretly engaged, and married after Franklin finished law school. Eleanor was interested in Franklin and helping him as he became active in politics. Eleanor became devastated after learning of Franklin's affair with Lucy Mercer. This was the catalyst that capitulated Eleanor to become the independent woman and political fighter for women's rights and human injustice. Although Eleanor eventually decided to continue her marriage to Franklin, and was a faithful and true supporter of his political aspirations, she lost the love of their early marriage. She built a life around her children and the many friendships she had made from the political committees and travels she was to take for her now husband President who was paralyzed from

polio. She loved being an educator and serving the poor and downtrodden. She was an advisor to her husband, and had great influence on his policies. When President Franklin died, she was appointed to many important committees and continued to serve the public under several other presidents. She was an avid writer and speaker who traveled the world to bring support and relief to those in need. Eleanor became known as the Most Influential Woman of her lifetime. She was loved by many and hated by her dissenters. This is her story. Once reading this biography you will never forget her courage, her love of life, her heart for the bettering of the American people, and her worldwide mission to help those in need. This is an exceptional read.

As a fan, still, of Eleanor Roosevelt, I was anxious to read her words and see how they would encourage this writer in her quest. The result did not disappoint, although it did make me feel like a couch potato! I think the idea of facing one's fears, without worrying if we look foolish is something I have taken away from the book.

I'd studied the Roosevelt era, watched movies about Franklin Roosevelt's presidency, knew that Eleanor Roosevelt was a very bright, articulate and "headstrong" wife...but I confess, that was about the extent of what I knew about her. I first got this book from the library as an assignment for one of the children I homeschool. I was trying to find "real life" heroes for them above and beyond Wonder Woman and Spiderman! I read the book first myself and was amazed at this woman. She was incredible! It was made all the more poignant for me because my father was one of the servicemen she met on one of her overseas trips. I enjoyed the many pictures, but the writing was great and the story compelling. My great niece enjoyed the book too. I enjoyed it so much that I decided I wanted a hardback cover book for my own library...hence, this purchase. It will be one of the "hand-me-downs" to other family members. In the meantime, I don't have words any more compelling than these to encourage others to purchase and read this book. I'm sure you'll admire and respect Eleanor Roosevelt as much as I do...she goes way above and beyond politics!

This book is a short biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. It covers all the main parts of her life from early childhood to her death. It includes several pictures of herself, her family and friends. It is a great book for young adults and adults of all ages.

This book offers meaningful insight into one of the great women of recent history. It is easy reading with complex content. The relationship between Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, her upbringing and

the life she was put into through the politics of her husband, her opportunities and capacities to impact her world, and the politics of WWII, all integrated, and highlighted with photographs, interviews, and background.

This is for a little older a child than the one I ordered it for, but it's a great introduction to Eleanor Roosevelt for a child of around 9 or 10.

Reading all the Newberry winners and this is one. Tried to read the whole book but wasn't in the mood for it. So skimmed part of it. Would be good for a biography school project.

Great history book. What a awesome lady she was! Great tribute to her.

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