



Bobby and J. Edgar Revised Edition: The Historic Face-Off Between the Kennedys and J. Edgar Hoover that Transformed America

By *Burton Hersh*

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In this riveting account of the explosive relationship between Robert F. Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover, renowned journalist and author Burton Hersh sets their highly publicized clashes in the context of Joe Kennedy's ongoing manipulation of Congress and his children's careers, and his lifelong connections to organized crime. Theirs was a unique triumvirate, marked by conflict and betrayal, and culminating in a near-Shakespearean tragedy. Based on compelling new research, and told in gripping anecdotal style, Hersh chronicles the complex relationship between the two antagonists, from their early brushes during the McCarthy years to their controversial deaths.

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- Sales Rank: #1763181 in Books
- Published on: 2008-09-21
- Released on: 2008-09-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.25" w x 6.25" l, 1.39 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 656 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Historian and journalist Hersh (*The Old Boys*) might well have titled his excellent book "Collision Course," for that is exactly what J. Edgar Hoover and the Kennedys were on from as early as the 1930s. The many tensions between Bobby (as both attorney general and senator) and the power-hungry FBI director are well known. What Hersh brings to the party is important new research and intensive analysis revealing the complex background attendant to the confrontations of the 1960s. The third party to RFK's and Hoover's sparring was Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., whose long history of professional affiliations with such gangsters as Johnny Rosselli, and amorous flirtations with the likes of Gloria Swanson, swelled one of Hoover's secret files and (like JFK's peccadilloes) did much to complicate dealings with "the Director." Joe's past still overshadowed everything when in December 1961 the father was incapacitated by a stroke, leaving his boys to deal with an FBI head who secretly despised not only the father but his brood. On this stage, in a drama populated by such fascinating and contradictory characters as Roy Cohn, Martin Luther King Jr., Jimmy Hoffa and mob boss Carlos Marcello, Hersh reveals the ways of power, deceit and survival-of-the-fittest in Kennedy-era D.C. (*June 1*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Formerly a journalist who covered politicians such as the Kennedys in their prime, Hersh here circles the relationship between FBI totem J. Edgar Hoover and his nominal boss, Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Writing in slang-slinging style, Hersh's wise-guy prose should amuse connoisseurs of the skeletons in Kennedy closets. Rattling bone after bone, Hersh sweeps along chronologically, compiling the monetary and salacious scandals that Hoover assiduously collected. Patriarch Joseph Kennedy is prominent in Hersh's rendition of the family story, specifically his alleged connections with mobsters. Marinating in the stories drawn from the vast Kennedy literature, Hersh opines that RFK's anti-Mob crusade lay behind the assassination of JFK, whom the blackmailing Hoover, in any event, had the goods on due to presidential assignments stuffed in his much-feared files. Amid the anecdotal avalanche, which includes RFK's supposed dalliance with Marilyn Monroe during her death spiral, Hersh does emphasize RFK's personal maturation and liberal inflections, thereby giving a bite to fans of Camelot while feeding a full meal to its skeptics.
Taylor, Gilbert

Review

"Very important history and wonderful reading." -- Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

"Burton Hersh has found the perfect subject for his splendid gifts as masterful writer, brilliant thinker, and fine historian." -- Doris Kearns Goodwin

"Burton Hersh has brought to life the dark and secret world of American intelligence in its formative years. It is breathtaking comprehensive piece of research and a miracle of lucid writing.... the ultimate study of the men who laid the foundation for the American intelligence community." -- Daniel Schorr

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