Lee Edwards renders a penetrating account of the icon who put the conservative movement on the national stage. Replete with previously unpublished details of his life, Goldwater established itself as the definitive study of the political maverick who made a revolution.

Goldwater's book, and his candidacy, showed that the New Deal had not created a new consensus and that the country need not continue on its steady slide toward socialism. In Goldwater, conservatives believed they finally had a man who could win back the GOP, the presidency, and the hearts and minds of the people. Everything came crashing down on the day JFK was assassinated. Republicans would be running against the invulnerable ghost of JFK, rather than the much more vulnerable president. They also would have to square off against Lyndon Johnson, a man utterly devoid of principles. But that was...