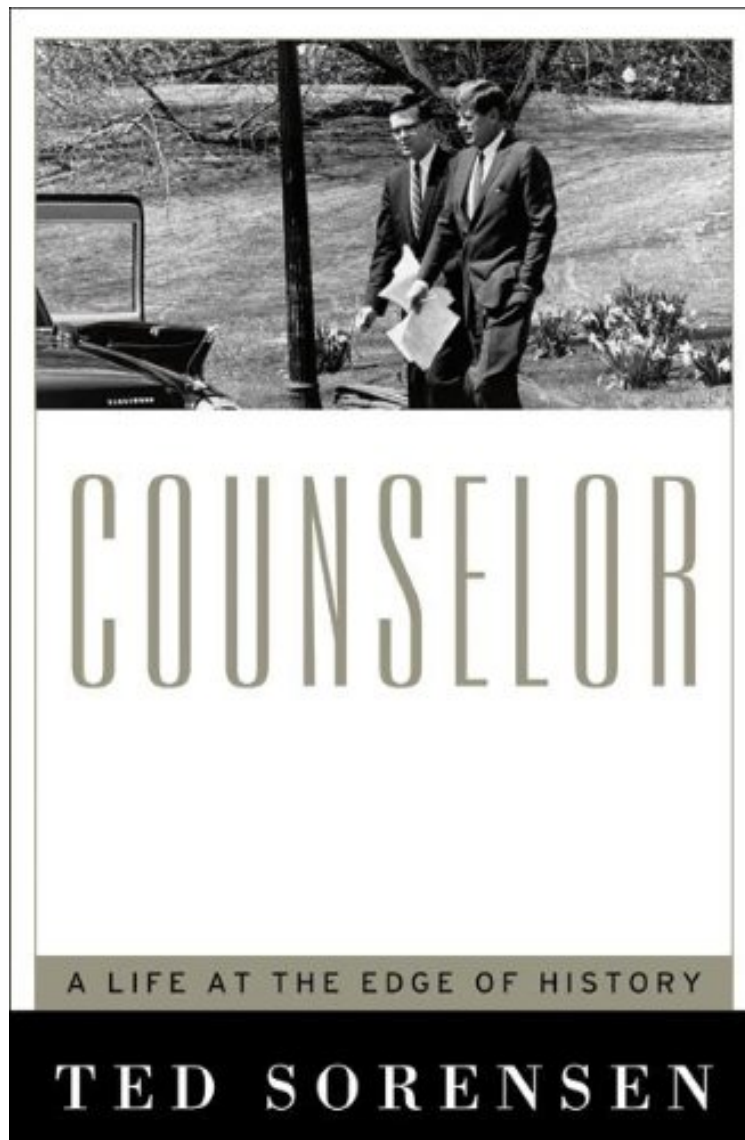


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## Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History

*Von Ted Sorensen*

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**Von Ted Sorensen : Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
ExcellentVon MedicusIf you want to comprehend JFK and his unique influence on the world, this book is an

enormous asset. Delightful and full of deepest insight.

**Kurzbeschreibung**In this gripping memoir, John F. Kennedy's closest advisor recounts in full for the first time his experience counseling Kennedy through the most dramatic moments in American history. Sorensen returns to January 1953, when he and the freshman senator from Massachusetts began their extraordinary professional and personal relationship. Rising from legislative assistant to speechwriter and advisor, the young lawyer from Nebraska worked closely with JFK on his most important speeches, as well as his book *Profiles in Courage*. Sorensen encouraged the junior senator's political ambitions from a failed bid for the vice presidential nomination in 1956 to the successful presidential campaign in 1960, after which he was named Special Counsel to the President. Sorensen describes in thrilling detail his experience advising JFK during some of the most crucial days of his presidency, from the decision to go to the moon to the Cuban Missile Crisis, when JFK requested that the thirty-four-year-old Sorensen draft the key letter to Khrushchev at the most critical point of the world's first nuclear confrontation. After Kennedy was assassinated, Sorensen stayed with President Johnson for a few months before leaving to write a biography of JFK. In 1968 he returned to Washington to help run Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign. Through it all, Sorensen never lost sight of the ideals that brought him to Washington and to the White House, working tirelessly to promote and defend free, peaceful societies. Illuminating, revelatory, and utterly compelling, *Counselor* is the brilliant, long-awaited memoir from the remarkable man who shaped the presidency and the legacy of one of the greatest leaders America has ever known. From Publishers Weekly Starred . Signature ed by Michael Beschloss

In this modest, elegant, appealing and introspective autobiography, Ted Sorensen writes about his service to John Kennedy as senator and president with a candor that, he confesses, would have been inconceivable while writing his glowing 1965 reminiscence, *Kennedy*, or while Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was alive. The Nebraska-born Sorensen describes himself as a moralist not unlike his Unitarian father, C.A. Sorensen, a onetime state attorney general (and a Republican). He reproaches himself for still feeling shame and stigma about the emotional illnesses of his Russian-Jewish mother, Annis Chaikin Sorensen, and for his two divorces, which will make him feel embarrassed until my dying day. Sorensen does not spare the man who remains his old hero. He declines to defend or rationalize JFK's carefree misconduct and broken marriage vows, writing, It was wrong, and he knew it was wrong. He criticizes Kennedy's failure while a senator in 1954 to help censure the Wisconsin demagogue Joseph McCarthy. Unlike some of Kennedy's most extreme defenders, he does not insist that JFK would have withdrawn American troops from Vietnam after reelection in 1964. Excluded from Kennedy's glittering social life, Sorensen recalls the president's cool crowd regarded him with thinly veiled patronizing. New sidelights include Jackie's later private observation that her husband was truly frightened that Lyndon Johnson might someday become president. Sorensen knows that history will view him mainly as architect of much of Kennedy's enduring rhetoric and the collaborator (at least) on JFK's famous 1956 book, *Profiles in Courage*. Such prominence unsettled the Kennedys, who wanted JFK's speeches and writings to be taken as his own. Sorensen reveals that after the commercial success of *Profiles*, Kennedy privately gave him a large share of the book's substantial royalties, and Sorensen wrote his boss a letter pledging not to push for recognition of my participation in its writing. The faithful Sorensen felt crushed in 1987 when Jackie Onassis wrote him an angry letter implying (unfairly) that Sorensen might be ambitious to seize credit for her husband's speeches. Sorensen says he never knew how much his old frostiness and protectiveness of his relationship with JFK estranged some colleagues. Blessed with a happy third marriage, he has clearly mellowed. But for Sorensen, as this book demonstrates, the 45 years since JFK's assassination including an important New York legal career, a role advising Robert Kennedy during his presidential race, efforts to win the late Bobby's Senate seat and an aborted nomination to head Jimmy Carter's CIA have been epilogue. As Sorensen painfully observes, when the Kennedy brothers died, it robbed me of my future. 16 pages of bw photos. (May) Michael Beschloss is the author, most recently, of *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989*, just published by Simon Schuster in paperback. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen This is an important book, and its also a poignant one. As Jackie Kennedy once said of a speech that Ted Sorensen gave about her husband, it captures not only the soul of John Kennedy but also the soul of Sorensen. This clear-eyed but loving memoir is fascinating. (Walter Isaacson) Ted Sorensen's *Counselor* is that rare gift to history: an account of mighty events by a participant who stood at their heart, and a writer masterful enough to make us understand them as well. (Robert Caro) Ted Sorensen's words inspired a generation, and his counsel and judgment helped steer our nation through some of its most difficult hours. This gripping, candid memoir illuminates a revered era in American history. Sorensen has written a book that will be cherished for generations. (Barack Obama) Ted Sorensen has given us a very welcome up close and personal view of life and politics at the side of John F. Kennedy. There are fresh insights and enduring lessons for this and future generations to study and embrace. And painful memories of what we lost. (Tom Brokaw) With eloquence and honesty, Sorensen takes us on a tour of many of the most important moments of the second half of the American Century, from who wrote *Profiles in Courage* to the Cuban Missile Crisis to Dallas and its terrible aftermath. This is an illuminating

and engaging book. (Jon Meacham)