



## Captains and the Kings: The Story of an American Dynasty

By Taylor Caldwell

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**Captains and the Kings: The Story of an American Dynasty** By Taylor Caldwell

**New York Times Bestseller: Sweeping from the 1850s through the early 1920s, this towering family saga examines the price of ambition and power.**

Joseph Francis Xavier Armagh is twelve years old when he gets his first glimpse of the promised land of America through a dirty porthole in steerage on an Irish immigrant ship. His long voyage, dogged by tragedy, ends not in the great city of New York but in the bigoted, small town of Winfield, Pennsylvania, where his younger brother, Sean, and his infant sister, Regina, are sent to an orphanage. Joseph toils at whatever work will pay a living wage and plans for the day he can take his siblings away from St. Agnes's Orphanage and make a home for them all.

Joseph's journey will catapult him to the highest echelons of power and grant him entry into the most elite political circles. Even as misfortune continues to follow the Armagh family like an ancient curse, Joseph takes his revenge against the uncaring world that once took everything from him. He orchestrates his eldest son Rory's political ascent from the offspring of an Irish immigrant to US senator. And Joseph will settle for nothing less than the pinnacle of glory: seeing his boy crowned the first Catholic president of the United States.

Spanning seventy years, *Captains and the Kings*, which was adapted into an eight-part television miniseries, is Taylor Caldwell's masterpiece about nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America, and the grit, ambition, fortitude, and sheer hubris it takes for an immigrant to survive and thrive in a dynamic new land.

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#### Review

“An absorbing story . . . Thought-provoking. Those who were enthralled by the power described in *The Godfather* will be even more so when they read this book.” —*Cleveland Press*

“A spellbinding tale . . . Her sense of timing and her ability to keep even the most alert reader guessing is something readers don’t find very often.” —*Hartford Courant*

“Her best novel.” —*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“This bestselling author can tell an engrossing story. She proves it once again in this gigantic novel.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“There is intrigue, violence, abrupt shift of fortune, enigmatic characters, full details of scene and history, and the unflagging pace of varied action.” —*Buffalo Evening News*

“*Captains and the Kings* is a thought-provoking, utterly spellbinding novel in the great tradition of Taylor Caldwell’s earlier works, *Testimony of Two Men* and *Great Lion of God*.” —*The Literary Guild Magazine*

#### About the Author

Taylor Caldwell (1900–1985) was one of the most prolific and widely read authors of the twentieth century. Born Janet Miriam Holland Taylor Caldwell in Manchester, England, she moved with her family to Buffalo, New York, in 1907. She started writing stories when she was eight years old and completed her first novel when she was twelve. Married at age eighteen, Caldwell worked as a stenographer and court reporter to help support her family and took college courses at night, earning a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Buffalo in 1931. She adopted the pen name Taylor Caldwell because legendary editor Maxwell Perkins thought her debut novel, *Dynasty of Death* (1938), would be better received if readers assumed it were written by a man. In a career that spanned five decades, Caldwell published forty novels, many of which were *New York Times* bestsellers. Her best-known works include the historical sagas *The Sound of Thunder* (1957), *Testimony of Two Men* (1968), *Captains and the Kings* (1972), and *Ceremony of the Innocent* (1976), and the spiritually themed novels *The Listener* (1960) and *No One Hears But Him* (1966). *Dear and Glorious Physician* (1958), a portrayal of the life of St. Luke, and *Great Lion of God* (1970), about the life of St. Paul, are among the bestselling religious novels of all time. Caldwell’s last novel, *Answer as a Man* (1981), hit the *New York Times* bestseller list before its official publication date. She died at her home in Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1985.

To read more about the life and work of Taylor Caldwell, please visit [www.taylorcaldwell.com](http://www.taylorcaldwell.com).

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