

Candice Millard

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About this Person

Born: 1967 in Ohio, United States
Nationality: American
Occupation: Writer
Other Names: Millard, Candice Sue
Updated: July 12, 2012

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born 1967; married Mark Uhlig, May, 2001; children: three. **Education:** Baker University, B.A.; Baylor University, M.A. **Addresses:** Home: Leawood, KS.

CAREER

and journalist. Former writer and editor at *National Geographic* magazine.

WORKS

WRITINGS:

- *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, Doubleday (New York, NY), 2005.
- *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*, Doubleday (New York, NY), 2011.

Contributor to periodicals, including *National Geographic*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Time*.

MEDIA ADAPTATIONS

The River of Doubt and *Destiny of the Republic* have been made into audiobooks, Random House Audio, 2006 and 2011.

SIDELIGHTS

Candice Millard's first book, *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, recounts an expedition into the Amazon jungle taken by the U.S. president, his son Kermit Roosevelt, and various scientists. Also along was Brazilian Colonel Candido Rondon, who had discovered the source of the River of Doubt in 1909. After losing the presidential race to Woodrow Wilson in 1912, Roosevelt looked to adventure through the Roosevelt expedition in 1914 to help get over his political defeat. He and his companions encountered more problems than they anticipated, coming upon piranha and anaconda, enduring disease, near-starvation, Indian attack, and losing one man to drowning and another to murder.

In an interview with Josephine Anna Kaszuba Locke on the *BookLoons* Web site, Millard noted: "For me, what was most interesting about this expedition was the opportunity to get a very intimate picture of Roosevelt, to see him simply as a man--a leader not on the scale of nations and armies but among this small group of men who are fighting for their lives." Writing in *Library Journal*, William D. Pederson observed that the author "turns this incredible story into one that easily matches an Indiana Jones screen adventure." In a review for *Booklist*, Brad Hooper suggested that those who like "American history and travel narratives will take delight in living through these exciting pages."

In Millard's second book, *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*, she presents a combined biography of President James A. Garfield as well as his killer, Charles Guiteau. Guiteau was a delusional and possibly even insane man who became convinced that God wanted him to kill Garfield after Garfield refused to grant him a position in his administration. Millard provides a detailed picture of the tragedy and its effects, which allows readers a glimpse of the social, political, and cultural climate of the time.

Reviewing the work in the *New York Times Book Review*, contributor Kevin Baker assessed that Millard "makes, at times, the common biographer's mistake of inflating her subject's importance and virtues. Contrary to what she implies, neither Garfield's

administration nor his death brought about advances in civil rights, nor a grand reconciliation with the South, then busy creating the Jim Crow state. ... Though Garfield's death had little historical significance, Millard has written us a penetrating human tragedy." *Booklist* contributor Brad Hooper claimed that this book "stands securely at the crossroads of popular and professional history." A *Publishers Weekly* contributor said: "Millard's story doesn't add much to previous understanding, but it's hard to imagine its being better told." A *Kirkus Reviews* contributor assessed: "Millard follows up her impressive debut ... by ... demonstrating the power of expert storytelling to wonderfully animate even the simplest facts." Stephen L. Hupp, a contributor to *Library Journal*, observed that the work is "recommended for presidential history buffs and students of Gilded Age America."

FURTHER READINGS

FURTHER READINGS ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

PERIODICALS

Booklist, August, 2005, Brad Hooper, review of *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, p. 1987; August 1, 2011, Brad Hooper, review of *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*, p. 16.

Entertainment Weekly, October 21, 2005, Gilbert Cruz, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 80.

Houston Chronicle, January 20, 2006, Chris Patsilelis, review of *The River of Doubt*.

Kirkus Reviews, August 1, 2005, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 832; December 1, 2011, review of *Destiny of the Republic*.

Library Journal, September 1, 2005, William D. Pederson, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 160; October 1, 2011, Stephen L. Hupp, review of *Destiny of the Republic*, p. 86.

New York Times Book Review, October 16, 2005, Bruce Barcott, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 14; October 2, 2011, Kevin Baker, review of *Destiny of the Republic*.

Publishers Weekly, July 11, 2011, review of *Destiny of the Republic*, p. 48.

Time, February 13, 2006, Lev Grossman and Richard Lacayo, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 74.

USA Today, November 3, 2005, Deirdre Donahue, review of *The River of Doubt*, p. 7D.

Washington Post Book World, September 16, 2011, Candice Millard, "Candice Millard on the writing life."

ONLINE

BookLoons, <http://www.bookloons.com/> (April 24, 2006), Josephine Anna Kaszuba Locke, interview with the author.

Candice Millard Home Page, <http://www.candicemillard.com> (January 18, 2012).

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