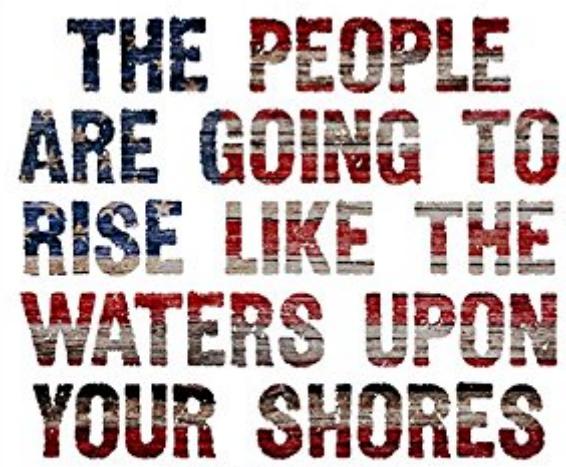


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# The People Are Going To Rise Like The Waters Upon Your Shore: A Story Of American Rage



## **Synopsis**

On June 14, 2016, Jared Yates Sexton reported from a Donald Trump rally in Greensboro, North Carolina. One of the first journalists to attend these rallies and give mainstream readers an idea of the raw anger that occurred there, Sexton found himself in the center of a maelstrom. Following a series of tweets that saw his observations viewed well over a million times, his reporting was soon featured in the Washington Post, NPR, Bloomberg, and Mother Jones, and he would go on to write two pieces for the New York Times. Sexton gained over 18,000 followers on Twitter in a matter of days and received online harassment, campaigns to get him fired from his university professorship, and death threats that changed his life forever. *The People Are Going to Rise Like the Waters Upon Your Shore* is a firsthand account of the events that shaped the 2016 presidential election and the cultural forces that powered Donald Trump into the White House. Featuring in-the-field reports as well as deep analysis, Sexton's book is not just the story of the most unexpected and divisive election in modern political history. It is also a sobering chronicle of our democracy's political polarization - a result of our self-constructed, technologically assisted echo chambers.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HighBridge, a Division of Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: August 25, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0753L2HCH

Best Sellers Rank: #32 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Political History & Theory #73 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections #102 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Executive Branch

## **Customer Reviews**

This is an excellent read! The author does a remarkable job documenting the road up to the 2016 election while providing a revealing depiction of the ground zero of the campaign rallies. This book highlights the many significant cultural influences that shaped the election and provide insight into

the present-day American political landscape. This is a must read for all Americans and I believe will prove to be a seminal piece on the wild 2016 election.

But yet so frustrating to rehash the emotions of one of the most erratic political cycles I've ever witnessed. What a great firsthand glimpse into the happenings on all sides of the aisle. Definitely recommend.

The main thing to make clear about *The People Are Going to Rise* is that Mr Sexton has a point of view. This is a less spectacle-based form of gonzo journalism than that popularized by the likes of Hunter S. Thompson, but no less compelling. Sexton is as much a character in the book as Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. He tries different things, he gets deep into discussions with people he doesn't understand, and he injects himself into the narrative. He's not shy about pointing out where he stands, and that means some people who fundamentally disagree with Sexton's take will probably not be able to see past their own opinions. And that's to their detriment. Because this book is as critical of Bernie Sanders and Bernie Bros as it is of Trump and his bewildering supporters. It pulls no punches in analyzing Hillary Clinton. And, fundamentally, this is a book where the central theme is not "Trump is bad," but that Trump is just one symptom of a plague of rage and disenfranchisement. One stand-out moment in the book is where Sexton takes a staunch conservative stranger with him on a road trip to a Hillary Clinton rally. The person-to-person exchange characterizes the tone of what the book seems to be saying: what we have now isn't normal, but there is a normal that doesn't involve hatred and destruction and violence and death. To get there, Sexton seems to say, we need to close our mouths and open our ears. This is a remarkable book. Its immediacy is breathtaking, but the scope feels like it bears the weight of history. Perhaps this comes from the care put into contextualizing events. Sexton's voice is clear and engaging, the writing strong and passionate without being dogmatic. Highly, highly recommended.

This book is a collection of essays on various topics related to the 2016 campaign, not necessarily in a single narrative. The author was hounded online and harassed for reporting on what he heard at a Trump rally. I found going over the old memories both cathartic and horrifying. But to me, the author got in the way, especially in the second half. The writing goes from being descriptive and objective, to editorializing in the worst way. What I'm guessing happened is that these essays were written in real time as they happened, and that Saxton started out with an open mind to the people

he was listening to, but following the attacks on him by angry Trump supporters, he retreated to the safety of his own politics. This could have been fixed with good editing, and the healing that comes from distance in time and place. Alas, the book is not well edited, and Sexton's politics, as they are revealed to us, are fairly bad. One of his weirder passages is as follows: "Social media have branded them [Bernie Sanders' supporters] as children in need of a timeout, and maybe that isn't far from the truth. They looked at the political circles you and I followed and felt disgusted by their shallowness and craven attitudes. To them, there was right and then there was wrong." (pp.177-8) It's not clear who the "you" refers to in this paragraph. Apparently his ideal reader for this book is someone who doesn't believe in right and wrong, or maybe someone who thinks that the progressive wing of the Democrats needs a time out. This sort of rhetoric becomes standard in the latter half of the book: Julian Assange is a supervillain with an icy stare, etc. He doesn't have much respect for views that lie outside the media establishment. For example, he believes that NAFTA "bolstered our economy and led to higher standards of living" (p.88), even though he has friends and family in Indiana whose standard of living decreased after NAFTA and who, unlike him, correctly identified its impact on their lives. He trusts the wonks over his own family. You can also see the author's mainstream media background reflected in his mistaken beliefs that the Fairness Doctrine would have regulated cable (false), that Roger Stone was an influential member of the Nixon campaign (false), and that Trump had an email server which was secretly communicating with a Russian bank. (false). All of these falsehoods are things that circulate widely within the media establishment and not so much outside of it. I enjoyed the first quarter of this book, but gave up on it midway through the third quarter.

An insightful, boots-on-the-ground look at the most divisive political campaign in history. It was hard to relive some of these moments, but the book carefully tracks the anger brewing in the populace on both sides of the aisle. A very compelling read.

Honest portrayal of the 2016 presidential election by a man who blended into the crowd. I had a feeling of doom reading it, even though I (and all of us) already knew the outcome, and have been living with the repercussions. Very astute observations of our current politics as a whole. Highly recommended for anyone who is into politics - and for anyone who wants to understand how we've all arrived at this highly-divided political point in time.

I borrowed this from the library. It's an easy read and I think it's a good look at the non Trump supporters view of the last election. In reading it I was definitely guilty of picking something that I already agreed with, but it was good to see it all written down.

Insightful and dramatic. He nailed it. He needed a better editor, though. At one point he referred to South Carolina's Senators as Tim Scott and Trey Gowdy. There were also, inexplicably, missing periods at the end of paragraphs. Very distracting when the reader notices errors. Overall, though, I enjoyed his firsthand account.

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