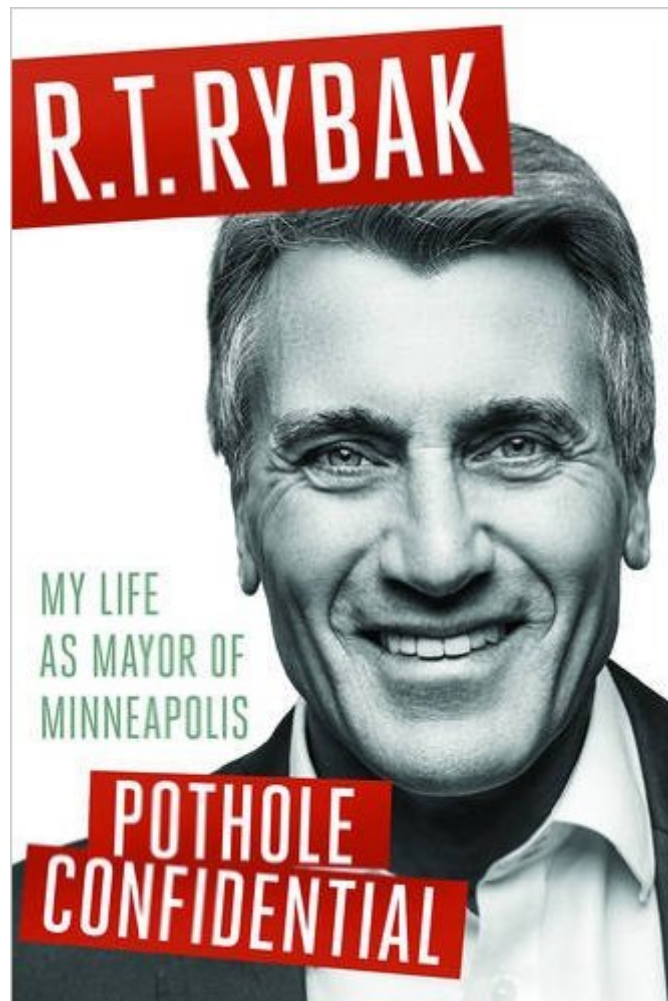


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Pothole Confidential: My Life As Mayor Of Minneapolis



Synopsis

A pajama party at the Minneapolis "St. Paul International Airport inadvertently helped launch R.T. Rybak's political career (imagine a rumba line one hundred protesters long chanting, "We deserve to sleep, hey!"), but his earliest lessons in leadership occurred during his childhood. Growing up in a middle-class neighborhood, attending private school with students who had much more than he did, spending evenings at his family's store in an area where people lived with much less, he witnessed firsthand the opportunity and injustice of the city he called home. In a memoir that is at once a political coming-of-age story and a behind-the-scenes look at the running of a great city, the three-term mayor takes readers into the highs and lows and the daily drama of a life inextricably linked with Minneapolis over the past fifty years. With refreshing candor and insight, Rybak describes his path through journalism, marketing, and community activism that led to his unlikely (to him, at least) primary election on September 11, 2001. His personal account of the challenges and crises confronting the city over twelve years, including the tragic collapse of the I-35W bridge, the rising scourge of youth violence, and the bruising fight over a ban on gay marriage (with Rybak himself conducting the first such ceremony at City Hall on August 1, 2013), is also an illuminating, often funny depiction of learning the workings of the job, frequently on the fly, while trying to keep up with his most important constituency, his family. As bracing as the "fresh air" campaign that swept him into office, Rybak's memoir is that rare document from a politician: one more concerned with the people he served and the issues of his time than with burnishing his own credentials. As such, it reflects what leadership truly looks like.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press; First Edition edition (April 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816699402

ISBN-13: 978-0816699407

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Amazing book. Totally engaging. Well written. RT is unique in his passion for leading his beloved city of Minneapolis for twelve years as Mayor. Through Rybak's eyes you learn how his heart and brain work, how the adrenaline of politics courses through his veins, and how devoted he is to both his city and his family. In general, it's fascinating to get a glimpse into the world of an American Mayor and know that many of the challenges he describes are happening all over the USA. I cannot recommend this book enough. You will laugh out loud countless times. You will be touched by the sadness and grief wrought by crime, aging infrastructure, difficult budgets and Mother Nature.

Frustrating book..there is just something about this guy the speaks 'insiders club' His policies to the poor members of his city never worked...Poverty still evident today. He adores Al Franken. Reading this...I have to say that this western left wing leaning academic politician seemed more of a frat boy than that of mayor. skip this book....

Wonderful book! R.T. has written an eloquent account of his years as Mayor of Minneapolis that is at times laugh-out-loud funny, at times educational, and at times so moving I had to take a break from reading due to the tears in my eyes. I love Minneapolis (my home for the past 21 years), and I adore this valuable leader (my Mayor for 12 of those years)!

I could hear RT's voice with every word. He is the real deal, and this book is a must read for anyone looking to run for public office, especially Minneapolis!

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