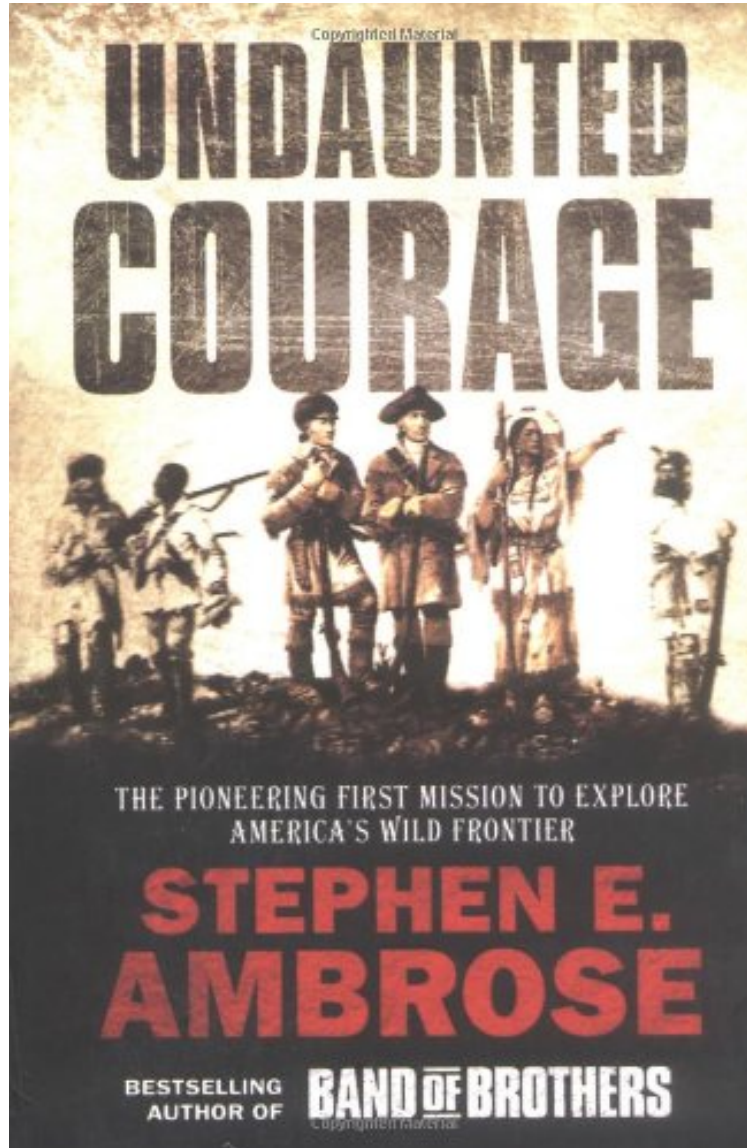


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Undaunted Courage: The Pioneering First Mission to Explore America's Wild Frontier

Stephen E. Ambrose

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BigBlueLeaf purchased this for my Kindle, I love reading about history and events that shaped the modern world, and had read many great reviews of this book. I have loved most of the books related to WWII written by S. Ambrose, but for some reason I just couldn't get into this book. I found it slow going to begin with and after the first 140 pages it still didn't pick up my interest enough to even try to finish it. So I moved onto another book, maybe I will try it again later on. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, Timeless Story - Well Written By Steve Dietrich Ambrose brings the magic of the Lewis Clark expedition alive with this magnificent book. A great author can struggle with a pedestrian story and a great story be tarnished by an unskilled author. However, *Undaunted Courage* is the re-telling of a classic story from the heart of America by a great author who also loves and lives the material. There are so many mini-stories woven into the book that it helps to stimulate entertaining discussions of this historic accomplishment. The book also brought to me a far greater appreciation of Jefferson's great impact on art and science in the young republic. While we think of the expedition in terms of its impact on our political history, it was equally important in gaining an understanding of the biological and geographical wonders of the uncharted wilderness. It is a wonderful gift to young people to help them understand the foundation of our westward growth. Reads with the excitement of a novel and the enlightenment of good history. It is hard not to repeat the many good things said about this book other than to mention that if I were to be allowed only 5 books to take for a year of isolation this would be one. It's easy, but rewarding reading. Highly recommended and a book that's filled a lot of Christmas stockings and birthday packages in our family. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A historic adventure By Dennis Michael This is an actual historical event that Ambrose brings to life in the form of an adventure story; it's not a dry history lesson. It starts a bit slow with the early lives of Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, but becomes an adventure in the wilderness. I think the most remarkable character is Sakajawea, their guide and interpreter. She went on the trail pregnant, gave birth in the field, then carried the baby on her back. Another remarkable aspect of the expedition is that for the entire treacherous journey, only one man was lost; this attests to the excellent leadership of Lewis and Clarke.

'This was much more than a bunch of guys out on an exploring and collecting expedition. This was a military expedition into hostile territory'. In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead a pioneering voyage across the Great Plains and into the Rockies. It was completely uncharted territory; a wild, vast land ruled by the Indians. Charismatic and brave, Lewis was the perfect choice and he experienced the savage North American continent before any other white man. *UNDAUNTED COURAGE* is the tale of a hero, but it is also a tragedy. Lewis may have received a hero's welcome on his return to Washington in 1806, but his discoveries did not match the president's fantasies of sweeping, fertile plains ripe for the taking. Feeling the expedition had been a failure, Lewis took to drink and piled up debts. Full of colourful characters - Jefferson, the president obsessed with conquering the west; William Clark, the rugged frontiersman; Sacagawea, the Indian girl who accompanied the expedition; Drouillard, the French-Indian hunter - this is one of the great adventure stories of all time and it shot to the top of the US bestseller charts. Drama, suspense, danger and diplomacy combine with romance and personal tragedy making *UNDAUNTED COURAGE* an outstanding work of scholarship and a thrilling adventure.

About the Author Stephen E. Ambrose, leading World War II historian, was the author of numerous books on history including the Number 1 bestselling *BAND OF BROTHERS*, *D-DAY* (on which *SAVING PRIVATE RYAN* was based) *PEGASUS BRIDGE* and *WILD BLUE*. He is founder of the Eisenhower Center and the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He died in 2002.