



## By Edmund Morris - Colonel Roosevelt (10/24/10)

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### **By Edmund Morris - Colonel Roosevelt (10/24/10)** Edmund Morris

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time Thirty years ago, "The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt" won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. A collector's item in its original edition, it has never been out of print as a paperback. This classic book is now reissued in hardcover, along with "Theodore Rex," to coincide with the publication of "Colonel Roosevelt," the third and concluding volume of Edmund Morris's definitive trilogy on the life of the twenty-sixth President. Although "Theodore Rex" fully recounts TR's years in the White House (1901-1909), "The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt" begins with a brilliant Prologue describing the President at the apex of his international prestige. That was on New Year's Day, 1907, when TR, who had just won the Nobel Peace Prize, threw open the doors of the White House to the American people and shook 8,150 hands, more than any man before him. Morris re-creates the reception with such authentic detail that the reader gets almost as vivid an impression of TR as those who attended. One visitor remarked afterward, "You go to the White House, you shake hands with Roosevelt and hear him talk--and then you go home to wring the personality out of your clothes." The rest of this book tells the story of TR's irresistible rise to power. (He himself compared his trajectory to that of a rocket.) It is, in effect, the biography of seven men--a naturalist, a writer, a lover, a hunter, a ranchman, a soldier, and a politician--who merged at age forty-two to become the youngest President in our history. Rarely has any public figure exercised such a charismatic hold on the popular imagination. Edith Wharton likened TR's vitality to radium. H. G. Wells said that he was "a very symbol of the creative will in man." Walter Lippmann characterized him simply as our only "lovable" chief executive. During the years 1858-1901, Theodore Roosevelt, the son of a wealthy Yankee father and a plantation-bred southerner,

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