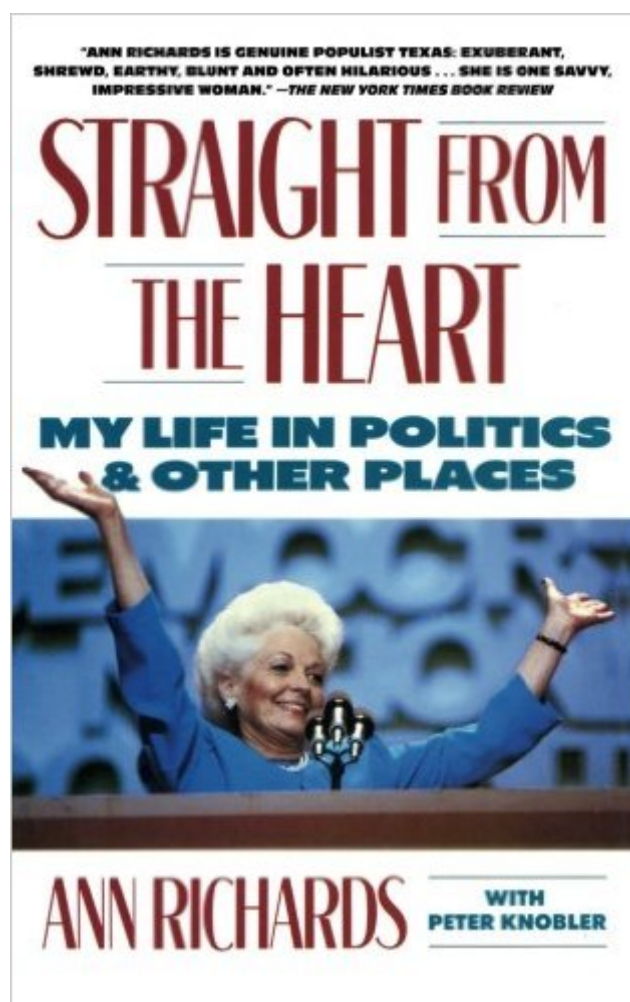


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# Straight From The Heart



## Synopsis

Ann Richardsânow the subject of the Broadway play *Ann*âtells her life story in her own trademark candor and spicy humor. *Straight from the Heart* is Ann Richardsâs story, told with the candor and spicy humor that were her trademarks. Born in a tiny town near Waco, Texas, she entered politics when her husband wouldnâtâand went on to become state treasurer, the first woman elected to statewide office in Texas in fifty years. She had her victories and her battles (the breakup of a thirty-year marriage and a bout with alcohol), but her love of Texas and Texas politics made her who she was. This extraordinary memoir by one of the nationâs leading politicians proves the wisdom of her observation that women âcan have a good and wonderful life, but that it only begins when they accept responsibility for it, not when they expect someone else to make it happen.â • Richards talks openly about the course of her life and the choices she made on the way. Her hard-won triumphs and savvy political career provide inspiring examples for all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This autobiography of former Texas Governor Ann Richards allows us to follow the political transformation of Texas and of our nation in the eyes of someone who participated in the changes. She grew up amidst segregation. She notes how racial prejudice arises from ignorance and unfamiliarity. It was in college that one class changed the direction of Ann Richards's life: Speech class. It would mold the woman who decades later would utter the famous line before the Democratic National Convention that "Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just

did it backwards and in high heels." Readers follow Ann Richards through her days with the Young Democrats in alliance with Lyndon Johnson. We learn how she led the North Dallas Democratic Women and how the FBI infiltrated its section that advocated integration. We feel the sadness of what it was like to be at the luncheon towards which John F. Kennedy was headed yet never reached due to his assassination. Ann Richards show readers her personal side and struggles. She describes what it is like being epileptic. What it is like to fight alcoholism. What it is like to be a woman running for office in Texas. This is a great book from a former Governor.

Mrs. Richards tells her story up through her two terms as Treasurer of Texas with candor, common-sense and a clear love of Texas. The writing is not the best - she is prone to introducing people and then not saying why she introduced them - but her tale of accomplishing amazing things simply building on her love of politics, family and Texas is inspiring. I was left with the feeling that I too could be a player wherever I hung my hat. While the book may have been written in part to help her to the Governorship, Mrs. Richards is candid about her motivations, weaknesses and political evolution. This book made me glad I live in Texas and sorry that Mrs. Richards is no longer our Governor.

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This is a must read for anyone trying to get a clear idea of women of this generation. Ann Richards cleared the way for many woman. Texas woman, especial now, need to read and get to know Ann

Richards!!!

Thought this book was a lot like I imagine talking with Ann would have been. Written in her vernacular and wit. Enjoyed it ...little slow in spots , but overall a good read on an entertaining and interesting lady

Our beloved Ann Richards gives us an idea of where she came from, and how she got where she's going. Written for comprehension at any reading level, she is her usual witty self. Some of the text is slightly disjointed, sometimes jumping topics or leaving stories unfinished. She writes of obviously painful phases in her life with grace and humility, while still preserving her privacy and dignity. An enjoyable read, leaving me wishing to know the continuation of the story, and hopeful that she will consider extending her political career.

It feels like Ann Richards is talking directly to you, I really enjoyed learning more about her. It ends right before she runs for governor, I would have liked to have read more about that. She never got around to that book, maybe she didn't want to & she didn't seem one for doing things that she didn't want to do!

Good memoir of a memorable governor whose entry into politics was not very political. Whether you liked her or not, you'll be interested in Richards' story.

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