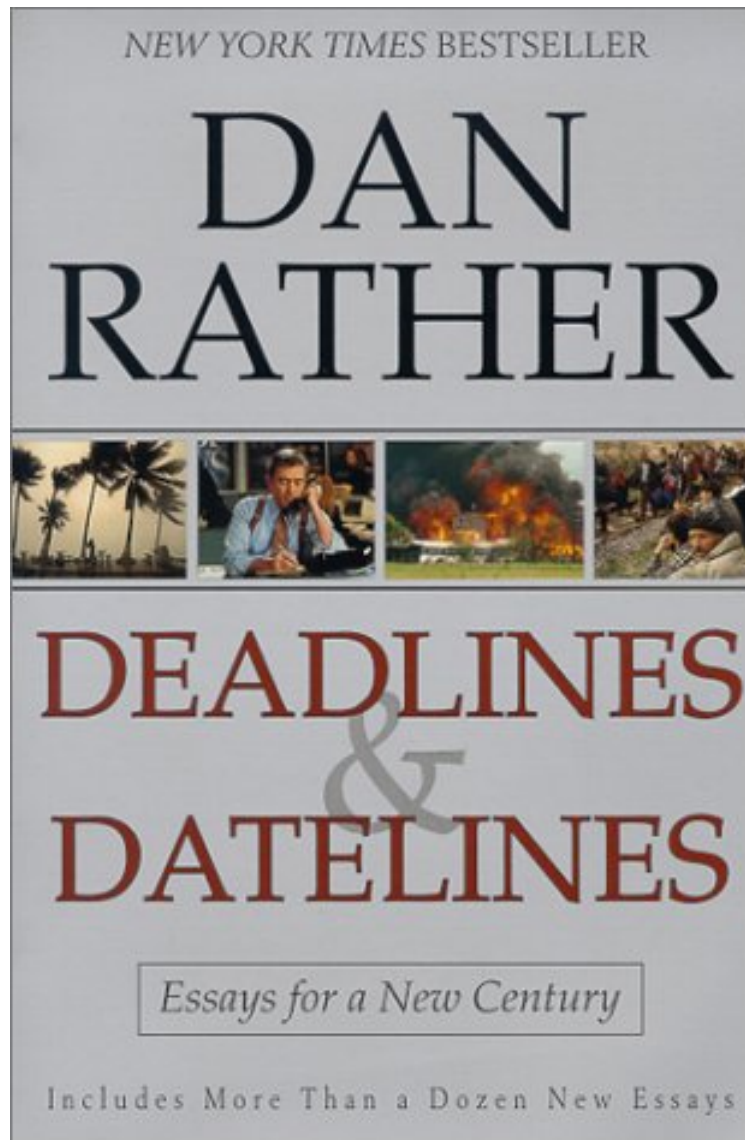


## Deadlines and Datelines

*Dan Rather*

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**Dan Rather : Deadlines and Datelines** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deadlines and Datelines:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Variety is the Spice of Life.By Betty BurksThis collection of essays from his syndicated weekly column is sorta like Nick Clooney's in Cincinnati. This book contains 99 short composites espousing his point of view on diverse themes; he's not afraid to state his likes, dislikes, and fears plus his sense of humor. Like his take on Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' which is different but thought-provoking, and the

"immorality" in the White House during Lincoln's term. Surely he wasn't serious about an Oscar for Debbie Reynolds as an old woman. She was just playing herself, as she always did. He chose her because she was born in Texas. Hey, she grew up in California! For his deficient memory, she was the 'original' Tammy, then Sandra Dee took over in "the Doctor" with Peter Fonda. Debbie is a good entertainer but not so successful in normal living, as being "turned on" is the only way she knows how to be. Last year, she moved her movie memorabilia to Pigeon Forge (not too far from Dollywood) in the Smokies and, as a result, was chosen to ride the main float in their Christmas parade. Now, that's a star -- to come to Tennessee after the flob in Las Vegas. It appears that she lives through her obese daughter, Carrie, who writes. He had flattering things to say about Dolly Parton, a native of this state but not representative of us all. He bemoans the fact of the seasons overlapping in 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Easter,' due to marketing and displays in the stores. I wish we could go back to the old days when fruit and veggies are available only in the growing season for America; they do taste better then, as he lamented. He likes to go where the action is. In June 1996 in Moscow, at 3 a.m. after filing his last report on the Russian elections and on the way to his hotel, he heard the voice of Ella Fitzgerald who'd just died. She had a pure quality to her voice, received much acclaim in life as in death. He wrote, "We never knew much about her personal life; we never knew anything about her except in her songs." If he listened to MUSIC OF YOUR LIFE and Chuck Southcott, he'd be sad to learn that she'd lost both legs due to diabetes, and her friends would take her for a daily afternoon ride around Los Angeles while Chuck played her songs on the radio. She may have seemed "alone" in her singing, but her friends in the Society of Singers made her life bearable, so as not to be completely alone. Some of these "timely" accounts are dated, but all in all I found it an interesting book. I'm glad I have it as he is one of my favorite broadcasters. The comprehensive index was helpful. I will miss seeing his friendly face on the nightly CBS news; he was the best reporter ever, and I hope he will contribute to Sixty Minutes. Maybe he can replace Andy Rooney?

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Strong Book that Makes you Think

By Austin R. Ardizzone

Deadlines and Datelines isn't a regular book with a central theme or one message, or even chapters that are put together that have a plot. Deadlines and Datelines has many essays written by Dan Rather (and a few other people wrote a few essays in the book and are credited) that are based on his weekly news column and his CBS radio report. Basically Dan Rather has written many different essays that are about things like when his friend Bill Cosby's son was taken from him and how he used to watch the super bowl with his son and since he was gone he asked if Dan Rather could come over, he explained that you shouldn't be sad that his son is gone because Bill Cosby is famous, but because he was a great man. A lot of essays have great meaning, and have some comical meanings, but he seems to write seriously, but he does when talking about comical things, like in one of his essays he talks about the v-chip which is supposed to be a chip which could limit what types of programs children could watch, he then gives examples of ratings that would be better than the standard: TV-MA, TV- PG, TV- 14. And another one he talks about how people have altered different books when they made the movies to make it more appealing to teenagers, with more things they are interested in. What is so great about this book is that it has so many morals and messages, it really makes you think. Deadlines and Datelines has many different stories that talk about things that are surprisingly serious, and it is written in a way that is really interesting. The book hooks you in after the first essay because of the knowledge of Dan Rather and the life experience of him. He talks about some of the most important issues like an essay about how libraries are so important and that many Americans take that for granted, and how First Lady Hilary Clinton has been trying so hard to get many people to go to libraries again. But even subject that would seem to be boring are really made interesting through the eyes of Dan Rather in Deadlines and Datelines. His different experiences are very enjoyable to read, because of how he explains them thoroughly and really makes people learn something, or makes someone care about something that he didn't care about before. And the truthfulness in his writing is exceptional, because his writing is very down to earth, and about stuff that could really moves anyone. His viewpoints are not at all bias, and really make for a great read.

-Austin R. Ardizzone

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Interesting reading when you have some spare time

By Eric Johnson

I recently completed the reading of Dan Rather's collection of essays entitled Deadlines and Datelines. I found this book to be quite interesting for several reasons. One of the main reasons that I enjoyed reading it was because of the way it was organized. The book is compilation of a number of Mr. Rather's writings for his daily newspaper column "Dan Rather Reporting" and other short writings. Since they have been compiled over many years, none of them are current. It may seem like that would be a downside to this book, but I find it interesting to look back on what was being reported while the events were taking place, now that we have seen what actually happened. It can be compared to looking back over newspaper from several years ago to see what was happening in the world when you now have the ability to look back and put it in perspective. Another reason I found this book to be quite enjoyable was the wide variety of topics covered by the essays contained within the collection. Rather included writings on everything from such serious topics as the Oklahoma City bombing to topics as comical as the article on Texas "dumb bass" that are bread to be easier to catch. This is one of those books that you don't have to read cover to cover; you can pick any particular essay from any part of the book and read it without having to complete those that precede it. One of my favorite essays was one written just after Clinton took office. It featured advice for the then new president of the United States, which included 1.) Advising that Clinton give up cigar smoking, 2.) Suggesting that he give up golf, and 3.) Recommending that he get a

dog. I particularly liked this one because it was hilarious to look back on what Clinton actually did during his term in office, and relating it to the "advise" offered by the author. The only downside to this book was that it wasn't really a book in the sense of being a novel or a story. Despite that, this assortment of short compositions did make for entertaining reading when I found a spare moment.

Ranging from political campaigns to public school crises to turmoil in Russia, the bestselling author and CBS Evening News anchor examines the tragedies and triumphs that shape our nation. Complete with new essays on recent events, Rather explores America at the end of the twentieth century and looks ahead to its future as we enter the twenty-first. With his distinctive blend of frontline energy and a journalist's knack for a good story, Rather looks at the awesome struggles and everyday accomplishments he's witnessed at home and around the globe. With candor, compassion, and sometimes irreverence, Rather examines world leaders and local heroes. *Deadlines and Datelines* is not without lighter moments. In one laugh-out-loud essay, Rather skewers the phenomenon of "dumb bass," or bass that are bred to go after any hook in sight. On the culture beat, Rather offers personal interviews and insightful appreciations as well as a compelling tribute to JFK, Jr. Throughout these essays, Rather offers readers a wide range of thought-provoking observations, and shows yet again the skill and intelligence that have made him "part of our world" for more than four decades.

From Publishers Weekly Like his rival anchors, Rather has been busy writing, but this book doesn't aim to rival Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation* or Peter Jennings's *The Century*, let alone Rather's own engaging memoirs. This collection is based on Rather's syndicated weekly column and daily CBS radio program. While he claims to have tried "to avoid mere commentary and to offer solid reporting," nearly all the pieces here are short, slight and predictable; often, they feel as dated as yesterday's headlines. The topics include many recent news events and personages: Ward Connerly, Jon Benet Ramsay, the WNBA, Cuban baseball, Saddam Hussein. His columns on the Monica Lewinsky scandal, compiled before President Clinton was acquitted, are particularly stale. Better are his brief tributes to newsmen Charles Kuralt and Fred Friendly. In a few places, Rather offers longer and more thoughtful pieces: Malcolm X prompts the observation that "there has never been a symbol without a need"; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* strikes Rather as a metaphor for AIDS. But his section of "Lighter Side" pieces, like the book as a whole, is better suited to the ephemeral status of a newspaper column than to preservation between hard covers. (June) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* From the personal to the political, television news reporter and anchor Rather favors a multimedia approach to sharing his thoughts and opinions with the public. This collection of essays includes materials from Rather's weekly newspaper column, his daily radio program, and articles written for magazines and newspapers. Like many collections of contemporary commentary, this one includes stories, such as the Clinton investigation and impeachment, that have been eclipsed by later events. Short essays, most written in 1997 and 1998, are grouped in sections on news from across America, foreign policy, national politics, personalities, and lighter topics. Rather's previous book, *The Camera Never Blinks Twice* (LJ 10/15/94), continued his memoirs begun in *The Camera Never Blinks* (LJ 6/1/77) and *I Remember* (LJ 10/1/91). Recommended for public libraries where the collected works of journalists circulate well and for comprehensive academic journalism collections. -AJudy Solberg, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Kirkus* sThe well-known and respected television anchorman-correspondent shows a flair for essays in this collection that presents snapshots of our life and concerns in the 1990s. Rather has previously demonstrated his ability for memoirs in *The Camera Never Blinks Twice* (1994) and *I Remember* (1991), and although a few of the 99 short compositions in here were written by his colleagues, most are Rather's. They appeared originally as either a newspaper or magazine article or as a broadcast from Rather's daily radio program, and are categorized here into five chapters: "In the News, Across America," "Foreign Policies, Global Perspectives," "The Washington Scene: Politics and Politicians," "Tributes," and "The Lighter Side." The book isn't arranged chronologically, so the flexibility allows the stories to flow easily from one subject to another, one year to another. The subjects range from hard-hitting matters (human rights, foreign affairs) to lighthearted lifestyle stories (fishing, cartoons, entertainment, personalities), and there are seven essays philosophical and not sensational commenting on Kenneth Starr's investigation of President Clinton. Throughout, Rather provides helpful follow-ups and additional comments to keep the reader up-to-date about characters and events since the story's original appearance. His writing may not be as magically poetic as that of other news personalities, such as the late Charles Kuralt (the subject of one of the essays), but his strength for journalistic details serves well not only the serious stories but also the anecdotal ones. Even Rather's most personal and emotional essay, "The Last Grandmother" (written in 1985 and the only one not from the 1990s), is sweet while avoiding sentimentality because of his skill for straightforward reportage. Rather loosens the necktie of his television persona and chats amiably about our times, offering readers a glimpse of his point of view, his likes and dislikes, his fears, and his humor. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.