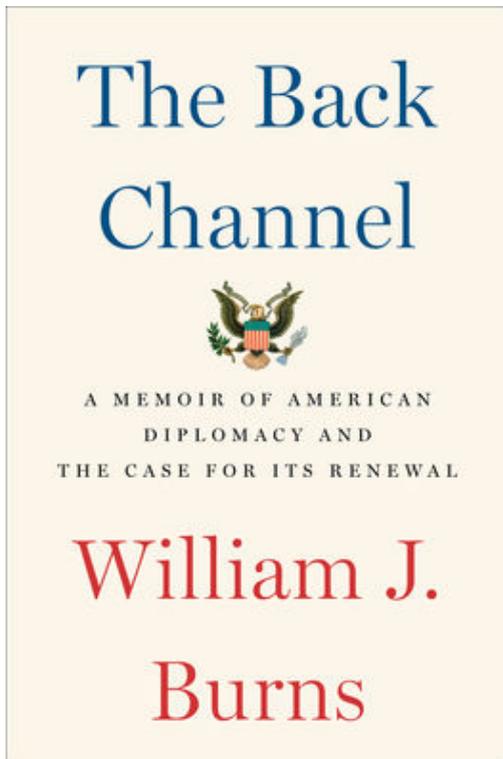


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"Bill Burns is a treasure of American diplomacy."—Hillary Clinton

"The Back Channel shows how diplomacy works, why it matters, and why its recent demise is so tragic."—Walter Isaacson, author of *Leonardo da Vinci*

Over the course of more than three decades as an American diplomat, William J. Burns played a central role in the most consequential diplomatic episodes of his time—from the bloodless end of the Cold War to the collapse of post-Cold War relations with Putin's Russia, from post-9/11 tumult in the Middle East to the secret nuclear talks with Iran.

In *The Back Channel*, Burns recounts, with novelistic detail and incisive analysis, some of the seminal moments of his career. Drawing on a trove of newly declassified cables and memos, he gives readers a rare inside look at American diplomacy in action. His dispatches from war-torn Chechnya and Qaddafi's bizarre camp in the Libyan desert and his

warnings of the "Perfect Storm" that would be unleashed by the Iraq War will reshape our understanding of history—and inform the policy debates of the future. Burns sketches the contours of effective American leadership in a world that resembles neither the zero-sum Cold War contest of his early years as a diplomat nor the "unipolar moment" of American primacy that followed.

Ultimately, *The Back Channel* is an eloquent, deeply informed, and timely story of a life spent in service of American interests abroad. It is also a powerful reminder, in a time of great turmoil, of the enduring importance of diplomacy.

Advance praise for *The Back Channel*

"Bill Burns is simply one of the finest U.S. diplomats of the last half century. *The Back Channel* demonstrates his rare and precious combination of strategic insight and policy action. It is full of riveting historical detail but also, more important, shrewd insights into how we can advance our interests and values in a world where U.S. leadership remains the linchpin of international order."—James A. Baker III

"From one of America's consummate diplomats, *The Back Channel* is an incisive and sorely needed case for the revitalization of diplomacy—what Burns wisely describes as our 'tool of first resort.'"—Henry Kissinger

"Burns not only offers a vivid account of how American diplomacy works, he also puts forward a compelling vision for its future that will surely inspire new generations to follow his incredible example."—Madeleine K. Albright

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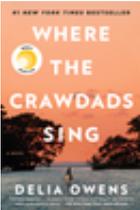
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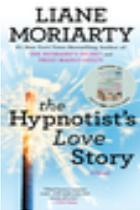
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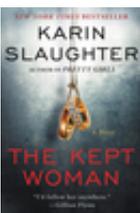
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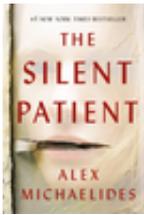
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