

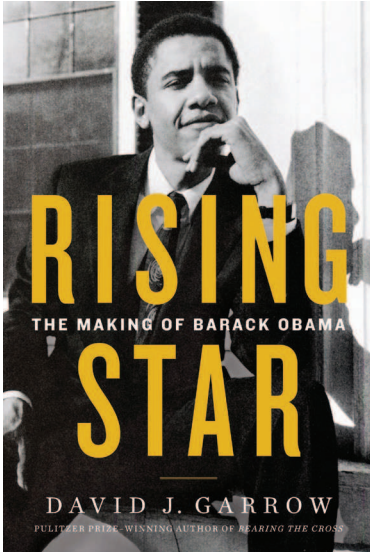
BOOK REVIEW: 'Rising Star: The Making of Barack Obama'

by David J. Garrow
William Morrow
Hardcover, \$45.00
1472 pages
ISBN: 978-0-06-264183-0

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner
News

"Barack Obama's speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention instantly catapulted him into the national spotlight and led to his election four years later as America's first African-American president. In this penetrating biography, David J. Garrow delivers an epic work about the life of Barack Obama, creating a rich tapestry of a life little understood, until now..."

In *Rising Star*, Garrow has created a vivid portrait that reveals not only the people and forces that shaped the future president but also the ways in which he used those influences to serve his larger aspirations. This is a grip-



ping read about a young man born into uncommon family circumstances, whose faith in his own talents came face-to-face with fantastic ambitions and a desire to do good in the world."

Any Obama fan is likely to find this in-depth portrait fascinating, as it is filled with plenty of little-known factoids and anecdotes about him

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—Excerpted from the Bookjacket

For some reason, presidential biographies by Pulitzer Prize-winners tend to be rather lengthy. Consider David McCullough's on John Adams (752 pages) and Harry Truman (1120 pages), Doris Kearns Goodwin's on Abe Lincoln (1,341 pages) and FDR (760 pages), and Robert Caro's continuing series on LBJ (3,180 pages and counting).

Now, another Pulitzer Prize-winner, David J. Garrow, has published an epic opus of 1,472 pages on the life of Barack Obama, focusing on the years prior to the presidency. And it's a safe bet that Garrow just might eventually write a sequel

maternal grandparents in the absence of both his mother and father.

Garrow also documents "Barry's" use of marijuana in high school and of cocaine in college, when he started preferring "Barack." And the author reveals the identity of the woman Obama lived with for a couple of years during his stint in Chicago as a grassroots organizer.

We also learn that Obama not only worked with a lot of Bible-thumping sisters during his initial stint in the Windy City, but that he was already planning to become president of the United States way back then. And there's the blow-by-blow of his strained relationship with Genevieve Cook, the rudderless White woman he dated during his tenure in New York City.

Everything you always wanted to know about Barack Obama but were afraid to ask, and then some!

FILM REVIEW: Prince Charming Courts Sickly Next-Door Neighbor in 'Everything, Everything'

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

It's Maddy Whittier's (Amandla Stenberg) 18th birthday, but she won't be celebrating the occasion at a party or restaurant. In fact, she won't be leaving the house or even having friends over anytime soon.

That's because she has SCID, a rare genetic disorder that basically makes her allergic to everything.

Consequently, she's been stuck inside a hermetically-sealed house since being diagnosed with the disease at the age of three, shortly after her father and brother's untimely deaths in a terrible car crash.

Lucky for Maddy, her mom, Pauline (Anika Noni Rose), is a physician who could afford to raise her in a luxurious, if sterile, environment free of the germs that could compromise her immune system in an instant. Although Maddy grew up curious about the outside world, she's gotten used to exploring it over the internet with the help of online courses and a support group for kids with her illness.

Then, Maddy receives the best birthday gift she could ever imagine when new neighbors move in right next door. For, one member of the family, Olly (Nick Robinson), is a boy about her own age. And all it takes is a glance through the glass window for the handsome hunk to fall head-over-heels in love with her.

The ardent admirer uses sign language to ask Maddy for her phone number, before typing "U R beautiful" in his very first text. Olly's zeal only increases upon learning about her affliction, and he asks if there's any way he could be



'Everything, Everything'

decontaminated to come over for a visit.

But that's against doctor's orders, especially other from afar. Hormones raging, Maddy is suddenly discontent with her sheltered existence in an antiseptic gilded cage.

Will she recklessly abandon the protective bubble to rush into the arms of a perfect Prince

Charming she barely knows?

That is the burning question at the heart of "Everything, Everything," a bittersweet, bildungsroman based on the young adult novel by Nicola Yoon. The picture was directed by Stella Meghie who successfully adapted the book into a syrupy soap opera certain to satisfy fans of the source material.

A tender enough tear-

jerker to dehydrate even this crabby curmudgeon!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated PG-13 for mature themes and brief sensuality

Running time: 96 minutes

Distributor: Warner Brothers Pictures

To see a trailer for *Everything, Everything*, visit TheSkanner.com

Portland Center Stage at

THE ARMORY

Tickets & information:
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Right: DeLanna Studi in Astoria: Part One. Photo by Jennie Baker.

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