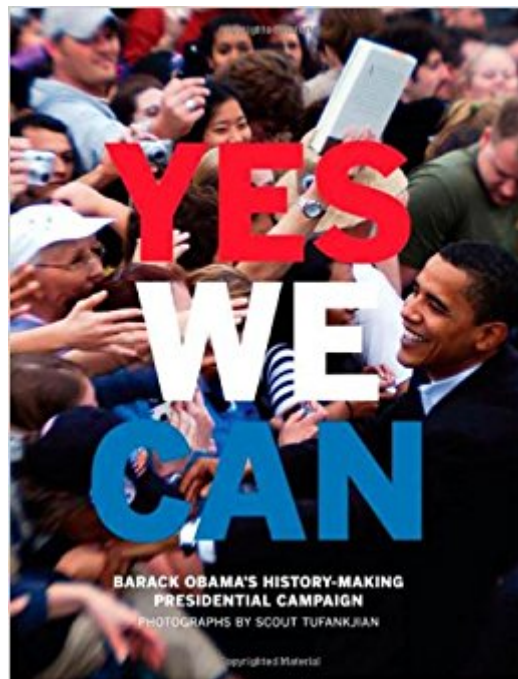




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Yes We Can: Barack Obama's History-Making Presidential Campaign



Synopsis

Yes We Can is a personal and comprehensive record of Barack Obama's world-changing campaign for the presidency. With more than 200 color photographs by award-winning photojournalist Scout Tufankjian, the book takes the reader on an unforgettable journey. Barack Obama's run for president touched something profound in America, awakening a civic engagement, pride, and passion that many had perhaps given up on. In the course of his campaign, Obama inspired millions of Americans - young and old, rich and poor, rural and urban, and from every racial and ethnic background. These images, by the only photographer who covered his entire campaign from start to finish, pay heed not only to the man who would be President, but also the people who came to see him, hear him, and vote for him. Yes We Can is a rich portrait of Obama's historic campaign - a campaign that is as much about Americans and their hopes and dreams as it is about the man that gave them voice.

A Look Inside Yes We Can: Barack Obama's History-Making Presidential Campaign with Photographer Scout Tufankjian

The first time I photographed Barack Obama, I really didn't want to go. I knew who he was and was interested in him, but I had plans for that weekend - plans that did not involve driving five hours to New Hampshire to photograph what I assumed would be a deadly dull event. But when Kelly Price, my editor at Polaris Images, told me the German newsmagazine Stern would pay me to make that five hour drive, I canceled my plans, climbed into my Camry, and drove up to Portsmouth. It was probably the best decision I ever made. To some extent, my predictions had been accurate. The book signing was a photographer's nightmare. The building was huge, dark, cavernous, and impossible to find. I showed up late and in a panic. Looking around, I was convinced that there was no way I was going to be able to make a decent picture in that room. When Obama walked into the room, my aesthetic issues with the room became immediately irrelevant. The crowd was transfixed. Hell, some of the other news photographers were transfixed. And this was New Hampshire! New Hampshire photographers are not impressed by politicians. Ever. Immediately after the event was over, even before filing my pictures, I called Kelly and told her that I was going to cover the Obama presidential campaign. I did not offer her a choice. The fact that he wasn't technically running yet was immaterial. I knew that this was going to be important and I wanted to be there. Despite my complete lack of "on-the-bus" experience, the national editor at Newsweek took a huge risk and assigned me to cover Barack Obama's announcement tour. For the first two days of the campaign I would be a part of the traveling press corps. I would have to learn fast. And I did. For the next twenty-three months, I followed Obama from event to event, only heading home for quick breaks to meet with editors and

to remind my boyfriend what I looked like. I followed him into coffee shops and diners, auto manufacturing plants and bowling alleys. I followed him in a rental car and I flew in his charter jet. I photographed Obama wooing potential voters in huge, expensive houses and on poverty-stricken Indian reservations. I covered small events, where I was the only photographer present, and I covered massive rallies with more than 75,000 people in cities like Denver and Berlin. Even as the campaign stretched from one year to two, and as I marked my third winter photographing the Senator, I have not lost interest in this campaign and the people that have supported it. Whether the audience included a skeptical old farmer from Tama, Iowa, who was surprised to slowly realize that he had something in common with this young black politician from Hawaii or an eight-year-old boy from LA who couldn't stop saying "He is going to be President! He looks like me and he is going to be President!" the people's reaction to the Senator and his campaign have fueled my work. The looks on their faces, the questions on their lips, and the ways that they hang on his every word, are a constant reminder of how lucky I have been to document this moment in history. -Scout Tufankjian

The Journey of an American Icon: Excerpts from Yes We Can

Book Information

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& Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The cover graphics imply a brash book, but the contents have nuance and subtle grace. The book bills Tufankjian only as the photographer and her photographs are wonderful. With as many character shots of spectators as of the man himself, with framing and

depth of field choices that are eloquent without being pretentious, she captures mood and atmosphere with seeming ease. But it is her brief autobiographical text at the start of each chronological section that additionally sets the book apart, allowing the reader to feel in the midst of the press corps as it followed Obama around the country. A tribute not only to Obama, with some pull quotes from his speeches, but to Tufankjian's skills with her Nikon. © 2008 MH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I still can't believe it. It hasn't sunk in that Barack Obama is now the President-Elect of the United States. I can't believe that the long-shot candidate I started following almost two years ago actually won. I can't believe the American people elected a man named Barack Obama. I can't believe that the guy who spent two years making faces into my camera is going to be the leader of the free world. And to think, the first time I photographed Barack Obama, I didn't want to go. I was interested in him, but I had plans that weekend that did not involve driving five hours to New Hampshire to photograph what I assumed would be a deadly dull event. I had been right about a few things. The event was in a building that was dark, cavernous, and impossible to find. I showed up late and in a panic. Looking around at the space, I wondered why I had even bothered. But when Obama walked into the room, my concerns became irrelevant. The crowd was transfixed. Hell, some of the other news photographers were transfixed. And this was New Hampshire! New Hampshire photographers are not impressed by politicians. Ever. Immediately after the event ended, even before filing my pictures, I called Kelly and told her that I was going to cover the Obama presidential campaign. I did not offer her a choice. The fact that he wasn't technically running yet was immaterial. I knew that this was going to be important, and I wanted to be there. For the next twenty-three months, I followed Obama from event to event, only heading home for quick breaks to meet with editors and remind my boyfriend what I looked like. I followed Obama into coffee shops and diners, auto manufacturing plants and bowling alleys. I followed him in a rental car, and I flew in his charter jet. I photographed him wooing potential voters in expensive houses and on poverty-stricken Indian reservations. I covered small events where I was the only photographer present, and I covered massive rallies with more than 75,000 people. Even as the campaign stretched from one year to two, and as I marked my third winter As a friend said on election night, we are now living in a different world than the one we woke up in. I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to witness this moment in history.

As a volunteer on the ground during the 2008 Obama campaign, this was such a powerful book for

me. It is a great value on , as it is not priced very reasonably. A great gift for any friend or family member that was part of the 2008 campaign.

In my effort to build a commemorative collection of Barack Obama artifacts, this book speaks to his campaign--Yes We Can! I am proud to have this book as an addition to my Presidential memorabilia.

These pictures capture more than events; they capture emotions. A superb record of an exciting campaign. Tufankjian is a gifted photographer with great subjects.

Wonderful document, fascinating record of the 2008 campaign. Great photos and interesting text by the photographer. I only wish the photographer had written more.

This is a great book containing photos of Senator Obama's 2008 election run.

Excellent item. Exceeded expectations! Would recommend to others. Great price. Glad I decided to buy adding to my President Obama collection.

Has a brilliant eye and an exquisite sense of timing. Her close in views always find the exact topic, and capture the humanity in each of us.

VERY, VERY GOOD

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