



Season of the Witch: Enchantment, Terror, and Deliverance in the City of Love

By David Talbot

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The critically acclaimed, *San Francisco Chronicle* bestseller—a gripping story of the strife and tragedy that led to San Francisco's ultimate rebirth and triumph.

Salon founder David Talbot chronicles the cultural history of San Francisco and from the late 1960s to the early 1980s when figures such as Harvey Milk, Janis Joplin, Jim Jones, and Bill Walsh helped usher from backwater city to thriving metropolis.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The liberation of San Francisco came with a price. Talbot presents the tempestuous years, from 1967 to 1982, as a new-versus-old battle for the city's soul. In an extensive history bursting with details and larger-than-life personalities, Talbot champions the outsiders, a human carnival from hippies to drag queens to activists, against the authorities representing the old, mainly Catholic, establishment. The extensive cast of characters includes Janis Joplin, Patty Hearst, Jim Jones, Harvey Milk, and Bill Walsh. Talbot, who started the San Francisco-based web magazine *Salon* and previously wrote the bestseller *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years* (2007), presents gripping accounts of both crime sprees and football showdowns. Even people who were there might take away something new, and for others, the book offers a comprehensive introduction to the era. Talbot believes modern San Francisco values have changed the world, and he explores the crucible of the transformation, in all its hope, violence, and glory. --Bridget Thoreson

Review

“Exhaustive research yields penetrating character studies...Talbot incisively relates the atmosphere of service in the Haight...In a surprising ending, Talbot convincingly suggests that imperfect new mayor Dianne Feinstein resurrected the city’s heart as it rallied around the 49ers. In exhilarating fashion, Talbot clears the rainbow mist and brings San Francisco into sharp focus.” — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Talbot presents gripping accounts of both crime sprees and football showdowns. Even people who were there might take away something new, and for others, the book offers a comprehensive introduction to the era.” — *Booklist*

“A gritty corrective to our rosy memories...enthralling, news-driven history...smart and briskly paced tale... I found it hard to put down *Season of the Witch*.” — *San Francisco Chronicle*

“An ambitious, labor-of-love illumination of a city’s soul, celebrating the uniqueness of San Francisco without minimizing the price paid for the city’s free-spiritedness... the author encompasses the city’s essence... Talbot loves his city deeply and knows it well, making the pieces of the puzzle fit together, letting the reader understand... Talbot takes the reader much deeper than cliché, exploring a San Francisco that tourists never discover.” — *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

About the Author

David Talbot, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years*, is the founder and CEO of *Salon*. He lives in San Francisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Chan:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice

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