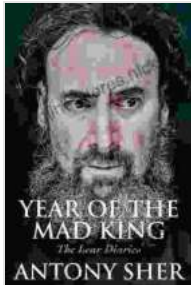


# Year Of The Mad King: The Lear Diaries

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Year of the Mad King: The Lear Diaries



**Year of the Mad King: The Lear Diaries** by Antony Sher

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 13349 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 208 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



In the tumultuous year of 1968, as the United States was embroiled in the Vietnam War and civil unrest, a young American woman named Susan Sheehan embarked on a remarkable journey that would shape both her life and the course of American journalism.

Sheehan, a recent graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, was drawn to the presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy. Kennedy, a charismatic and idealistic senator, represented the hopes and dreams of a generation. Sheehan was granted unprecedented access to Kennedy's inner circle, and she meticulously recorded her observations in a series of diaries.

Kennedy's assassination in June 1968 shattered Sheehan's world. She was devastated by the loss of her friend and mentor, and she struggled to make sense of the tragedy. In the aftermath of Kennedy's death, Sheehan turned to her diaries as a way to process her grief and to bear witness to the tumultuous events of the year.

In 1973, Sheehan published a selection of her diaries under the title "The Year of the Mad King." The book was an instant bestseller and was hailed by critics as a masterpiece of American journalism. Sheehan's unflinching honesty, her keen eye for detail, and her ability to capture the zeitgeist of the time made "The Year of the Mad King" a must-read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or journalism.

The book's title is a reference to the play "King Lear" by William Shakespeare. In the play, King Lear is a powerful and respected monarch who descends into madness after he divides his kingdom among his three daughters. Sheehan's use of the title suggests that the United States in 1968 was a country in turmoil, a country that had lost its way.

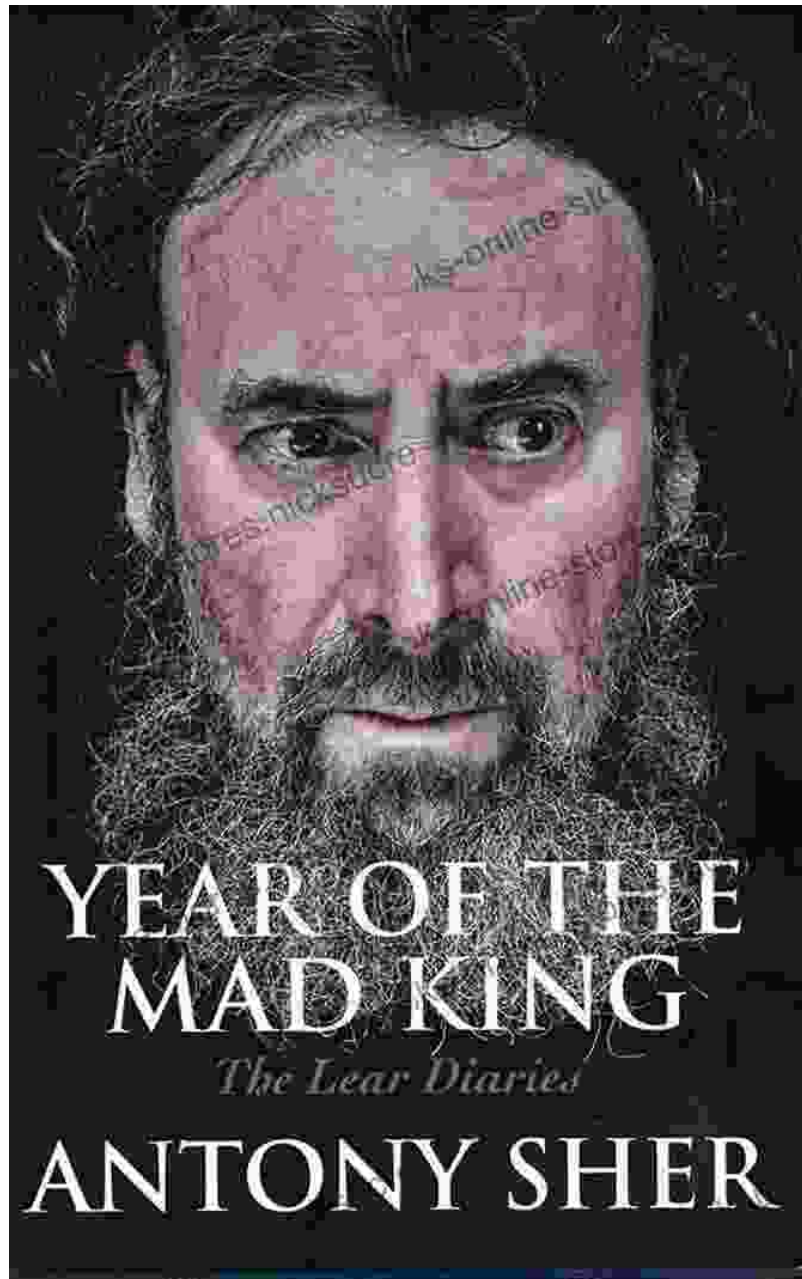
"The Year of the Mad King" is divided into three parts. The first part, "The Kingdom," introduces the key players in the Kennedy campaign and provides a detailed account of the campaign's early days. The second part, "The Fall," chronicles the events leading up to Kennedy's assassination. The third part, "The Aftermath," explores the aftermath of Kennedy's death and Sheehan's own struggle to come to terms with the tragedy.

Sheehan's writing is both personal and political. She is not afraid to share her own thoughts and feelings, but she also provides a clear-eyed account of the events of the year. She is particularly effective at capturing the chaos

and confusion of the Kennedy campaign, and she does not shy away from the darker aspects of the campaign, such as the violence and the relentless media scrutiny.

"The Year of the Mad King" is a powerful and moving account of a tumultuous year in American history. Sheehan's writing is honest, insightful, and often heartbreaking. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or journalism.

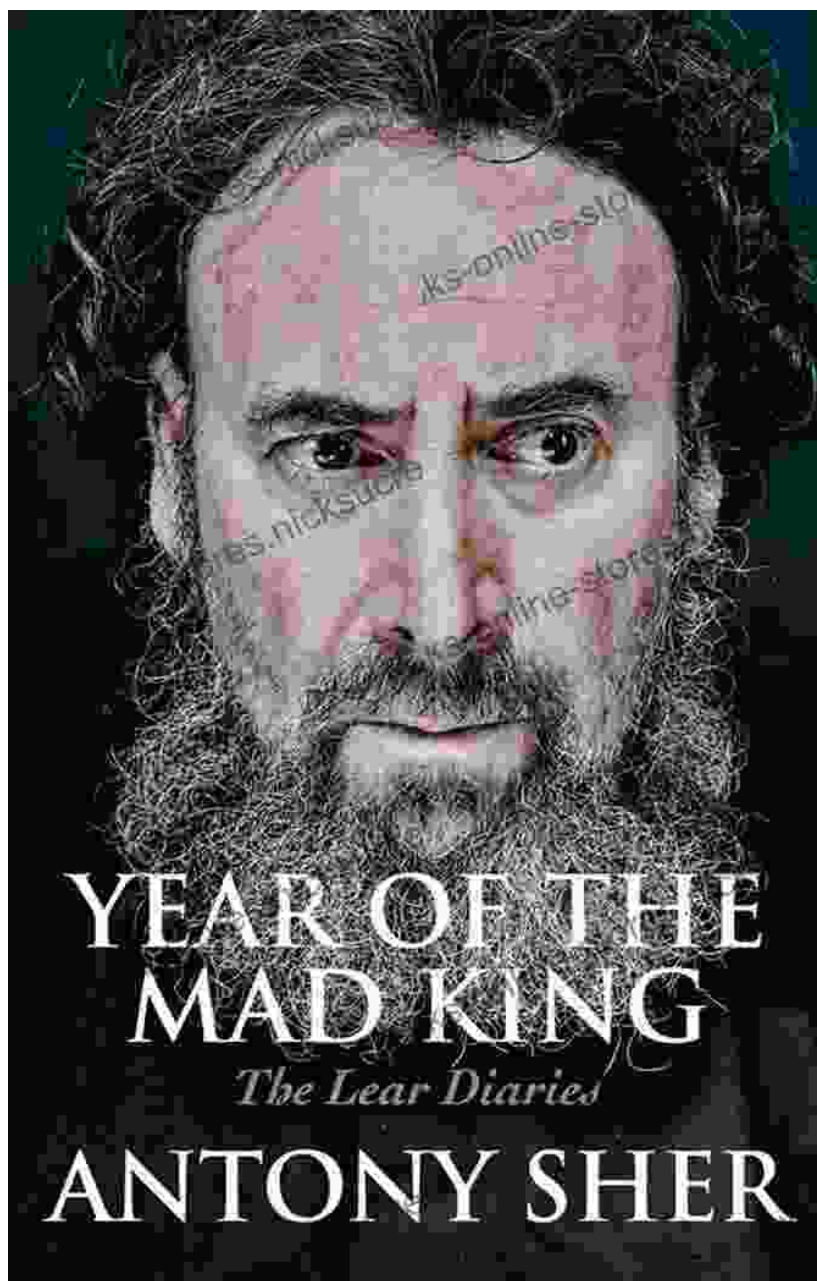
**Susan Sheehan**



Susan Sheehan was born in New York City in 1942. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1964 and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1966. After working as a reporter for the Washington Post and the New York Times, Sheehan joined the staff of The New Yorker in 1974. She has written extensively about politics, social issues, and the arts.

Sheehan has won numerous awards for her work, including the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 1983. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

## **The Year of the Mad King**



The Year of the Mad King was published in 1973. The book was an instant bestseller and was hailed by critics as a masterpiece of American journalism. Sheehan's unflinching honesty, her keen eye for detail, and her ability to capture the zeitgeist of the time made "The Year of the Mad King" a must-read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or journalism.

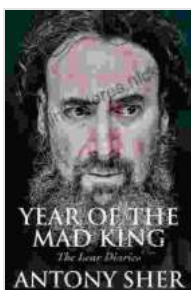
The book has been translated into more than 20 languages and has been adapted into a television miniseries.

## Legacy

"The Year of the Mad King" remains a powerful and moving account of a tumultuous year in American history. Sheehan's writing is honest, insightful, and often heartbreaking. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or journalism.

The book has also had a lasting impact on American journalism. Sheehan's willingness to share her own thoughts and feelings, and her ability to capture the human side of the story, helped to revolutionize the way that journalists write about politics.

"The Year of the Mad King" is a classic work of American journalism. It is a book that will continue to be read and studied for generations to come.



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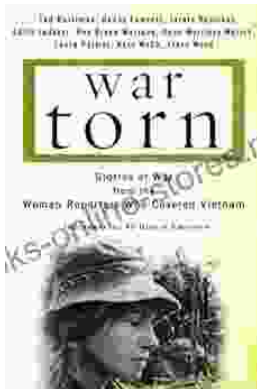
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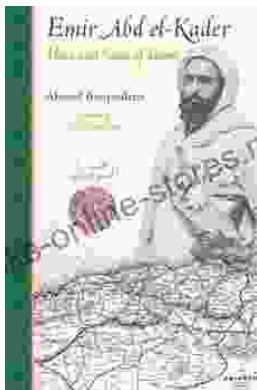
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