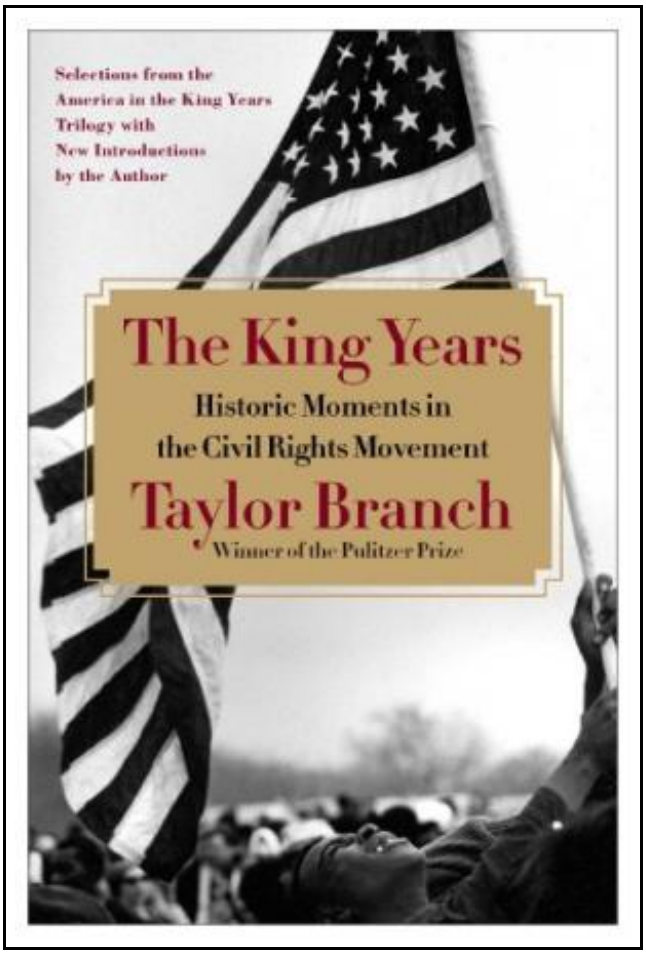
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Simon & Schuster. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 224 pages. Taylor Branch, author of the acclaimed America in the King Years trilogy, presents the essential moments of civil rights history in clear context and gripping detail. The King Years delivers riveting tales of everyday heroes who achieved miracles in constructive purpose and yet poignantly fell short. Here is the full sweep of an era that still reverberates in national politics. Its legacy remains unsettled; there are further lessons to be discovered before free citizens can once again move officials to address the most intractable, fearful dilemmas. This vital primer amply fulfills its authors dedication: For students of freedom and teachers of history. This compact volume brings to life eighteen pivotal dramas, beginning with the impromptu speech that turned an untested, twenty-six-year-old Martin Luther King forever into a public figure on the first night of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. Five years later, minority students filled the jails in a 1960 sit-in movement, and, in 1961, the Freedom Riders seized national attention. Branch interprets Kings famous speech at the 1963 March on Washington, then relives the Birmingham church bombing that challenged his dream of equal souls and equal votes. We see student leader Bob Moses mobilize college volunteers for Mississippis 1964 Freedom Summer, and a decade-long movement at last secures the first of several landmark laws for equal rights. At the same time, the presidential nominating conventions were drawn into sharp and unprecedented party realignment. In King, J. Edgar Hoover, and the Nobel Peace Prize, Branch details the covert use of state power for a personal vendetta. Crossroads in Selma describes Kings ordeal to steer the battered citizens movement through hopes and threats from every level of government. Crossroads in Vietnam glimpses the ominous wartime split between King and President Lyndon...

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