

# DARING YOUNG MEN RICHARD REEVES

READ BY JOHNNY HELLER

"A dazzling story of bravado, management genius and the perilous circumstances of our first great showdown with Stalin's Russia." —TOM BROKAW

In the early hours of June 26, 1948, phones began ringing across America, waking up the airmen of World War II—pilots, navigators, and mechanics—who were finally beginning normal lives with new jobs, new wives, and new babies. President Harry S. Truman was recalling them to active duty to try to save the desperate people of the western sectors of Berlin, the enemy capital many of them had bombed to rubble only three years before. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin had ordered a blockade of the city, using hundreds of thousands of Red Army soldiers to close off all access to the city. He was gambling that he could drive out the small detachments of American, British, and French occupation troops. Truman's response: "We stay in Berlin. Period."

Drawing on service records and hundreds of interviews in the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, Reeves tells the stories of these civilian airmen. They did the impossible, living in barns and muddy tents, flying over Soviet-occupied territory day and night, and ignoring Russian fighters and anti-aircraft fire trying to drive them to hostile ground. These brave young heroes did not stop until Stalin backed down and lifted the blockade. And with the signing of the mutual defense agreement that created NATO, the Berlin Airlift had changed the world.

**Richard Reeves** is the author of 3 presidential biographies, *President Nixon*, *President Kennedy*, and *President Reagan*. A syndicated columnist and winner of the American Political Science Association's Carey McWilliams Award, he lives in New York and Los Angeles.

**Johnny Heller**, an Audie Award winner, has been named one of the Top Fifty Voices of the Twentieth Century by *AudioFile* magazine. He has narrated the *New York Times* bestseller *A Bull in China* by Jim Rogers, and his narration of *Closing Time* by Joe Queenan earned him an *AudioFile* Earphones Award.



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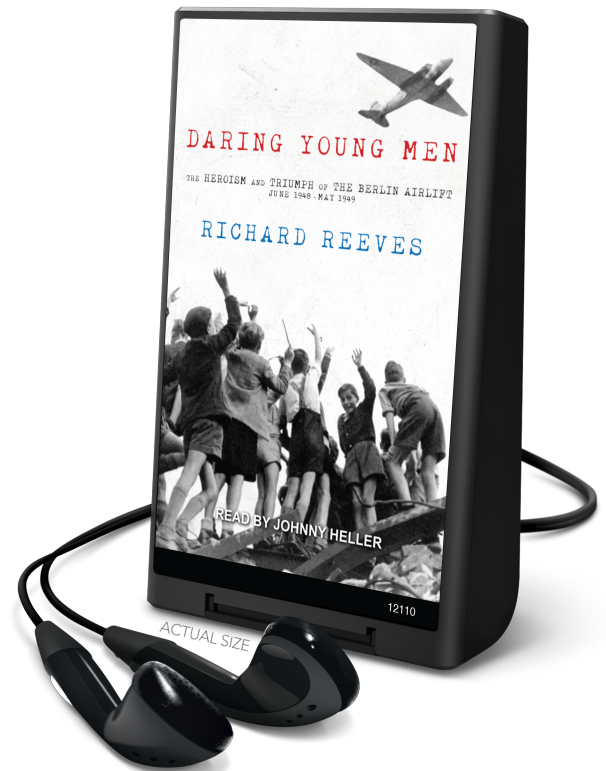
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