

WAKING GIANT

DAVID S. REYNOLDS

READ BY ARTHUR MOREY

A fascinating and definitive history of Jacksonian America
by Bancroft Prize-winning author David S. Reynolds.

The years from 1815 to 1848 were arguably the richest period in American life. In *Waking Giant*, historian David S. Reynolds illuminates the era's exciting political story alongside the fascinating social and cultural movements that influenced it. He casts fresh light on Andrew Jackson, who redefined the presidency, as well as John Quincy Adams and James K. Polk, who expanded the nation's territory and strengthened its position internationally.

Waking Giant captures the turbulence of a democracy caught in the throes of the slavery controversy, the rise of capitalism, and the birth of urbanization. Reynolds brings alive the reformers, abolitionists, and prohibitionists who struggled to correct America's worst social ills. He uncovers the political roots of some of America's greatest authors and artists, from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Edgar Allan Poe to Thomas Cole and Asher B. Durand, and he reveals the shocking phenomena that marked the age: bloody duels and violent mobs; Barnum's freaks and all-seeing mesmerists; polygamous prophets and wealthy prostitutes; table-lifting spiritualists and rabble-rousing feminists. Meticulously researched and masterfully written, *Waking Giant* is a brilliant chronicle of America's vibrant and tumultuous rise.

Award-winning author **David S. Reynolds** is a distinguished professor of English and American studies at the Graduate Center and Baruch College of the City University of New York. He is the author of *John Brown*, *Abolitionist*, *Walt Whitman's America*, and *Beneath the American Renaissance*. He lives in Old Westbury, New York.

A former literary manager of Chicago's Body Politic Theatre, **Arthur Morey** taught acting at Fordham and writing at SUNY Rockland, Northwestern University, and the School of the Art Institute. Winner of three *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, he has narrated books by John Irving, Richard Russo, John McCain, and others.



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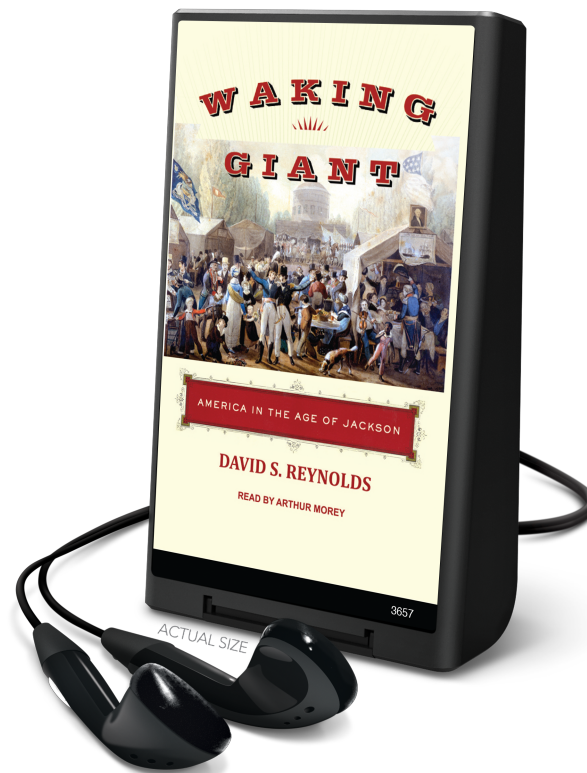
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