



# Contenders: America's Most Original Presidential Candidates

Joe Richman

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The arduous, often unpredictable journey to the US presidency has attracted some of the most unique characters in history. With "unusual" presidential candidates grabbing headlines for the foreseeable future, *Contenders* shines a welcome spotlight on individuals who felt inspired to offer their uncommon perspectives and special talents to lead the nation.

From heartbreaking near misses (Stevenson, Bryan) and historic firsts (Woodhull, Chisolm, Smith) to campaigns that never stood a chance (Allen), *Contenders* provides fascinating insights into the American political process along with unforgettable tales of the individuals we've met along the way. Featuring:

- Victoria Woodhull: the first woman to run for president
- Williams Jennings Bryan: the speech that changed politics
- Adlai Stevenson: a candidate in the age of television
- Margaret Chase Smith: Cold War in pearls
- Shirley Chisolm: the politics of principle
- Gracie Allen: the Joke that became a campaign
- The "Veep": Alben Barkley's "Buck" stopped with Harry Truman
- And more!



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