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2006 National Book Award Finalist Publishers Weekly BEST BOOK of 2006 *Publishers Weekly* ★ Review *Kirkus* ★ Review

THE LOOMING

TOWER

AL-QAEDA AND THE ROAD TO 9/11 LAWRENCE WRIGHT

RUNNING TIME: 16.5 hours - Unabridged CATEGORY: CURRENT EVENTS/POLITICS

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LAWRENCE WRIGHT is

an author, screenwriter, and a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. He is a graduate of Tulane University, in New Orleans. Wright has published six books including the recent:

God's Favorite and has won many national awards for his journalism and magazine reporting.

Winner of several AudioFile Earphone Awards, ALAN SKLAR has narrated about 100 audiobooks, including Black Hawk Down, The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings, and Red Dragon.



LAWRENCE WRIGHT THE LOOMING TOWER Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11

Read by Alan Sklar

This sweeping narrative history of 9/11 includes important new information about the people, ideas, events, and intelligence failures that culminated in the attacks, told for the first time from both the American and Arab sides of the story.

The Looming Tower achieves an unprecedented level of intimacy and insight by telling the story through the interweaving lives of four men: the two leaders of al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri; the FBI's counter-terrorism chief, John O'Neill; and the former head of Saudi intelligence, Prince Turki al-Faisal.

The Looming Tower broadens and deepens our knowledge of signal events by taking us behind the scenes. Here is Sayyid Qutb, founder of the modern Islamist movement, lonely and despairing as he meets Western culture up close in 1940s America; the privileged childhoods of bin Laden and Zawahiri; family life in the al-Qaeda compounds of Sudan and Afghanistan; O'Neill's high-wire act in balancing his all-consuming career with his equally entangling personal life—he was living with three women, each of them unaware of the others' existence—and the nitty-gritty of turf battles among U.S. intelligence agencies.

Brilliantly conceived and written, *The Looming Tower* draws all elements of the story into a galvanizing narrative that adds immeasurably to our understanding of how we arrived at September 11, 2001.

KEY POINTS/MARKETING

- 2006 National Book Award Finalist
- A 2006 Publishers Weekly Best Book
- New York Times bestseller, New York Times Editors' Choice
- Hardcover has been #1 on Amazon for the last week (as of August 14th)
- Major review attention including cover feature of The New York Times Book
- Review(8/6), Book of the Times 8/1 review, and two starred reviews

PRAISE FOR FOR THE LOOMING TOWER

"What a riveting tale Lawrence Wright fashions in this marvelous book. *The Looming Tower* is not just a detailed, heart-stopping account of the events leading up to 9/11, written with style and verve... A thoughtful examination of the world that produced the men who brought us 9/11, and of their progeny who bedevil us today"—Dexter Filkins, *The New York Times Book Review* cover

"A searing view of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, a view that is at once wrenchingly intimate and boldly sweeping in its historical perspective ... a narrative history that possesses all the immediacy and emotional power of a novel, an account that indelibly illustrates how the political and the personal, the public and the private were often inextricably intertwined."

-Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times

"Important, gripping... One of the best books yet on the history of terrorism."

—★ Publishers Weekly

"A towering achievement. One of the best and more important books of recent years. Lawrence Wright has dug deep into and written well a story every American should know." **—Dan Rather**

"Comprehensive and compelling... Essential for an understanding of that dreadful day."

—★ Kirkus

"The Looming Tower is a book of synthesis, of re-emphasis, of explaining seemingly isolated events in an improved context. Wright provides a cohesive narrative, tying together what previously seemed like loose ends."—Boston Globe



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