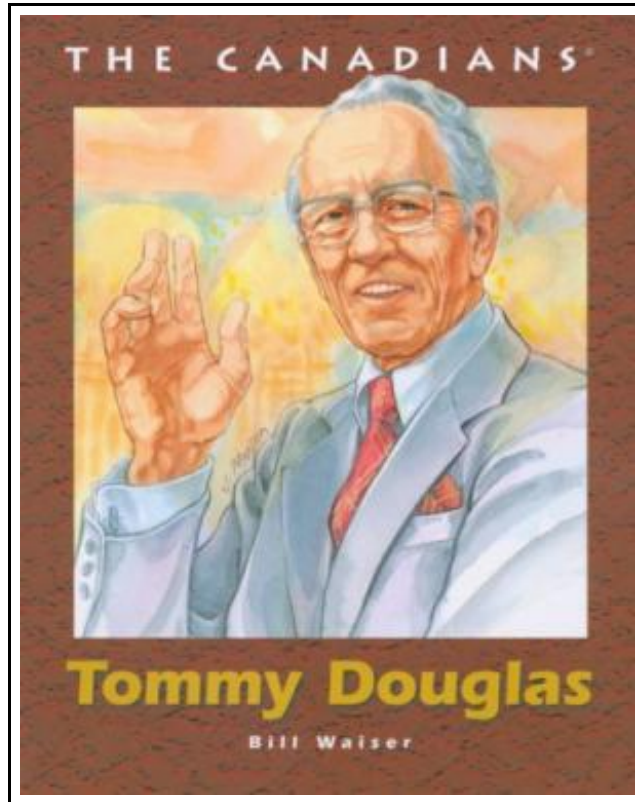


Tommy Douglas



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Reviews

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(Nakia Toy Jr.)

TOMMY DOUGLAS



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Fitzhenry & Whiteside. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Tommy Douglas, Bill Waiser, Saskatchewan Book Awards Shortlist - Children's Book, 2007 " Named CBC_s Greatest Canadian of all!" Tommy recalled in the 1950s, "I came to believe that health services ought not to have a price-tag on them, and that people should be able to get whatever health services they required irrespective of their individual capacity to pay." He was talking about what would become known as Medicare. Douglas was hospitalized at the age of 10 due to a bone infection he encountered four years earlier. After several operations-none of which were successful-and without the money to pay for a specialist, the doctors recommended that his leg be amputated.That_s when fate intervened. A famous Winnipeg orthopedic doctor met Tommy in the hospital ward one day and proposed to operate on Douglas for free, taking on the case as a teaching project for his students. The surgery saved his leg, quite possibly his life, and would be the beginning of his inspiration for universal medical care. Tommy Douglas was a Baptist preacher who organized his church as a relief centre for the poor in the hungry 1930s and rose to become a political legend in Saskatchewan, winning five straight majority governments and transforming the province. This acclaimed biography, written by a longtime friend and associate, closely follows his life through his working-class childhood and his boxing and political careers on the prairies to his years of national prominence as an advocate for peace, human rights, and Canadian independence. Douglas chose a hard road: in provincial government and federal opposition, he faced continuing hostility from mainstream institutions and the media. Often, though, his seeminglyradical proposals simply anticipated later events. The Saskatchewan government's medicare program provoked a bitter doctor_s strike and...



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