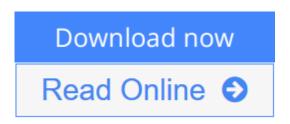


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Author, journalist, and Presidential speechwriter William Safire (1929-2009) is believed by many to be America's most influential political writer and columnist. The author of a well-known syndicated political column for the *New York Times*, he was also known as a speechwriter for President Nixon. He was a frequent guest on NBC's "Meet the Press;" and won the Pulitzer Prize for his commentary regarding corruption charges leveled against Bert Lance, Director of the Office of Management and the Budget, during the Carter Administration in 1978. He was a member of the Pulitzer Board starting in 1995, and Chief Executive and Chairman of the Dana Foundation. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded Safire the Presidential Medial of Freedom.

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