

PRESS KIT

STEVE VESCE

One **ORDINARY MAN**

*A novel based on the
true story of Harry Hopkins*

STEVE VESCE

AUTHOR

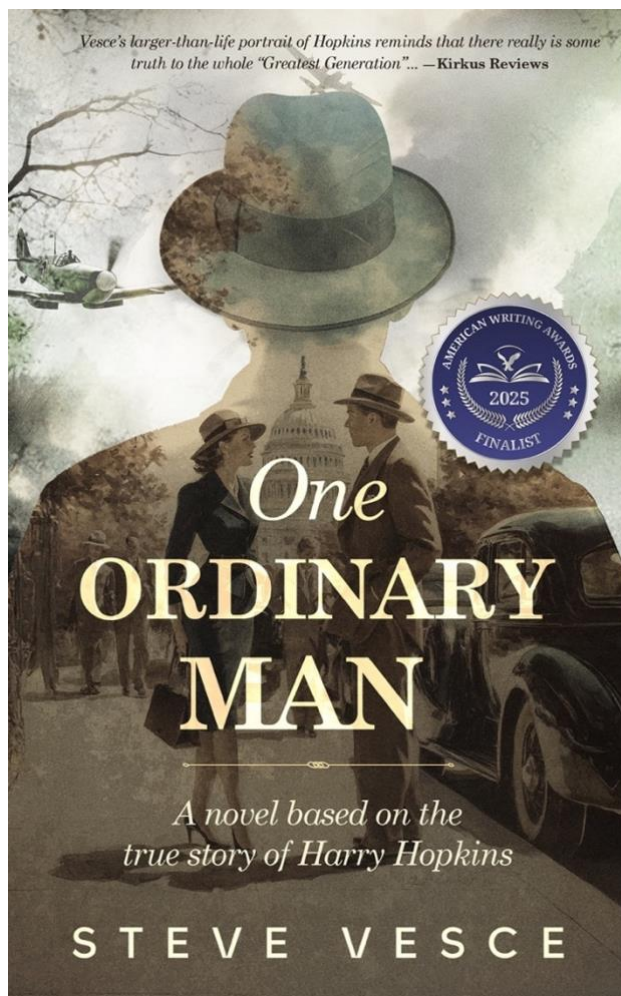
of the critically acclaimed *One Ordinary Man* - A novel based on the true Story of Harry Hopkins

SPEAKER

who delivers talks to audiences about the people, events, and issues that transformed America from the depths of the Great Depression to victory in World War II

ENTREPRENEUR

Founder and CEO of three pioneering companies and an Advisor and Director for multiple companies and not-for-profit institutions.



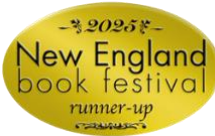
One Ordinary Man is the critically acclaimed and historically accurate novel about the inspiring, surprising, and remarkable true story of Harry L. Hopkins—one ordinary man who grew from obscurity to play a leading and pivotal role in helping America overcome the Great Depression, defeat Fascism, and win WWII.

It is a vibrant, witty, and captivating story that is at once, both human and larger than life. A story that captures the times, adversity, and incredible accomplishments of an inspiring American hero whose abiding faith in American democracy drove him to overcome incredible challenges and lift his country up from the darkest depths of the Great Depression to victory in World War II.

There is no surprise ending in *One Ordinary Man*. The story itself is the surprise—delivering a steady stream of new discoveries about America and Hopkins's achievements.

Available On [Amazon](#) (eBook, Paperback, Audiobook)
Publisher: [Verlibri](#) Media LLC
Release Date: October 15, 2025
Historical Fiction; Biographical Fiction; 620 pages

ACCLAIM FOR *One ORDINARY MAN*



"Beginning with page one of the novel, One Ordinary Man, I recognized the importance of this book... It is not only historically accurate, but it also reveals the author's knowledge of the major players on the world stage, especially Harry Hopkins. I could hear the echoes of my grandfather's voice in the words Steve Vesce put in his mouth and I recognized the familiar tone of the conversations he creates. His descriptions of my grandfather's interactions with world figures as well as family members all ring true... my grandfather came to life for me...a fascinating read from cover to cover."

Dr. June Hopkins

Harry Hopkins's Granddaughter

Professor of History, Emerita

*Author: Harry Hopkins and The Grand Alliance of the Second World War;
Harry Hopkins: Sudden Hero, Brash Reformer; Jewish First Wife, Divorced: The
Correspondence of Ethel Gross and Harry Hopkins (co-edited with Allison Giffen)*

"Vesce...manages to pique reader interest through his passionate dedication to historical detail.... he knows how to spin a good historical yarn. Vesce's larger-than-life portrait of Hopkins reminds that there really is some truth to the whole "Greatest Generation..."

Kirkus Reviews

"Fleet, revealing novel of FDR's indispensable deputy fighting the Depression and the Nazis. This brisk, lively novel imagines the world-changing life of Harry L. Hopkins.... crafting fictionalized incidents that honor the historical record. Vesce favors a reportorial approach...with... plenty of canny dialogue... many crisply told moments that breathe life into the historical facts. Vesce's fleet scenecraft captures sharp exchanges... the material... abounds with achievements and surprises."

Booklife Reviews

"One Ordinary Man tells the life story of Harry Hopkins in a way that feels both intimate and sweeping. The story is lively, heartfelt, and often moving, and it paints a portrait of a man who shaped the world from behind the curtain.....Scenes come alive with sharp little details that stick with you. I found myself caught up in the rhythm of the writing. It moves with a kind of pulse that mirrors Hopkins's own restless energy...The writing blends

historical detail with fictional color, and the story moves fast... It is a story about duty, grit, and a man who constantly drove himself forward even as his health failed him...

It is unsettling to see how familiar some of the fears and arguments feel today. The book makes that point without lecturing.... I would recommend One Ordinary Man to readers who enjoy historical fiction that feels close to real life."

Literary Titan - 5 STARS

"Steve Vesce's 'One Ordinary Man' is a wonderful gift to us... a fascinating page-turner of a read... This story serves to remind us of a time past when brilliance, tireless dedication and self-sacrifice could make the world a better and safer place... Read this book for inspiration and hope that there are still such men and women out there to lead us to a better future."

*David Heiman
Retired Management and Practice Leader Partner
Jones Day, a global law firm*

"There is nothing ordinary about the Man and nothing ordinary about the Book. As a lifelong history buff, One Ordinary Man elevated my love of history to a new level. It's like a time machine. I actually felt like I was there with Harry. Steve's writing is bold and brilliant."

*Bob Trimper
Retired President, Rank Xerox, Middle East Africa
Retired Chairman Comstec, UK*

"Steve Vesce's first novel is a cinematic piece of historical fiction about Harry Hopkins.... It's a smooth read, which is calling for a smart producer to turn into a film. Enjoy this story about the FDR era, and you'll inevitably contrast it with what's going on today."

*Michael Hirsh
Author/Journalist*

"This captivating historical novel brings Harry Hopkins, one of the country's greatest unsung heroes, to life.... It is rare to read a book that is, in equal measure, so factual yet so enjoyable."

Judge Thomas A Wallitsch (ret.)

EARNED MEDIA SUMMARY

Compiled by Lindsey Chastain, *The Writing Detective* • in partnership with Verlibri Media • June 2026

Awards & Recognition

- **Amazon Bestseller**
Bestseller status achieved at launch, October 2025
- [2026 Kirkus Indie Awards — Contender \(Discover Indie Reads\)](#)
Hand-selected for the Kirkus “Discover Indie Reads” roundup, 2026
- **2026 London Book Festival — Runner-Up (Historical Fiction)**
Runner-Up, London Book Festival 2026
- **New England Book Festival — Runner-Up**
Runner-Up, New England Book Festival
- **2025 American Writing Awards — Finalist (Historical Fiction)**
Finalist, American Writing Awards 2025
- **Literary Titan Gold Book Award**
5-Star Gold Award, Literary Titan
- **Endorsement: Dr. June Hopkins**
Professor of History Emerita, Georgia Southern University — granddaughter of Harry Hopkins

Editorial Reviews

- [Kirkus Reviews — Starred Coverage](#)
“Passionate dedication to historical detail... Vesce knows how to spin a good historical yarn.” — Kirkus Reviews
- [Booklife Reviews — Indie Spotlight – Historical Fiction](#)
“Fleet, revealing novel of FDR’s indispensable deputy fighting the Depression and the Nazis” — Booklife Reviews
- [Midwest Book Review — Historical Fiction Shelf, April 2026](#)
“Biographical fiction at its very best... absorbing, entertaining, and highly recommended.” — Midwest Book Review
- [The Coffee Pot Book Club — 5-Star Review, April 2026](#)
“A measured and effective work of historical fiction that restores focus to a figure whose influence was central, if not always visible.” — Mary Anne Yarde, Coffee Pot Book Club

- [Bargain Sleuth Reviews — ARC Review, May 2026](#)
"One Ordinary Man does a great job showing how important Harry Hopkins was to Roosevelt and the country's success." — Bargain Sleuth Reviews
- [After the Last Chapter \(Substack\) — Featured Review + Author Q&A, April 2026](#)
"The Man in the Spare Bedroom Who Won the War" — full review plus exclusive author interview
- [Fresh Fiction — Author Profile](#)
Author profile and book listing, Fresh Fiction, January 2026

Interviews & Press Features

- [New York Trend – July 3, 2026](#)
"Forgotten WWII Hero Takes Center Stage in Sweeping New Novel About the Man Who Helped Save Democracy"
- [Marietta Daily Journal — Press Feature, February 2026](#)
"New Historical Epic One Ordinary Man Brings FDR's 'Indispensable Deputy' to Life; Receives High Praise from Historians and Critics"
- [Savannah Morning News — Event Listing, February 2026](#)
"One Ordinary Man and the Era That Shaped Modern America: Book Discussion"
- [Pagosa Daily Post — Library Feature Mention, February 2026](#)
Featured in New & Notable Fiction, Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, Pagosa Springs CO
- [Pagosa Daily Post — Library Feature Mention, March 2026](#)
Featured in New & Notable Fiction, Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, Pagosa Springs CO (second mention)
- [The Pagosa Springs Sun — Library Feature Mention, March 2026](#)
Featured in New Fiction, The Pagosa Springs Sun

Podcasts

- [History of WWII Podcast — Episode 630, June 2026](#)
"Harry Hopkins: One Ordinary Man" — hosted by Ray Harris Jr.
- [Southern Reads — Episode Feature, June 2026](#)
"One Ordinary Man (feat. Steve Vesce)" — hosted by Noah May
- [Book 101 Review — Season 6 Feature, May 2026](#)
Steve Vesce guest appearance, Book 101 Review / Universal Podcast Network

- [Moments with Marianne — KMET Radio, February 2026 \(Audio\)](#)
"Harry Hopkins, One Ordinary Man with Steve Vesce" — KMET 1490AM & 98.1 FM (SoundCloud)
- [LA Talk Radio — Startup Show, March 2026](#)
Steve Vesce interview, LA Talk Radio Startup show

Videos & Broadcast

- [Moments with Marianne — YouTube Interview, February 2026](#)
"Harry Hopkins, One Ordinary Man with Steve Vesce" — full video interview
- [History of WWII Podcast — YouTube, June 2026](#)
Episode 630: Harry Hopkins interview — also available as video on YouTube
- [Village Library — YouTube Interview, May 2026](#)
"Robert Sherwood and One Ordinary Man — Village Library Interview with Steve Vesce"
- [Book 101 Review — YouTube, May 2026](#)
Book 101 Review Season 6 interview, Universal Podcast Network — available on YouTube
- [KMET Radio — Social Media Broadcast Clip, February 2026](#)
Marianne Pestana shares Steve Vesce interview clip on X/Twitter — KMET 1490AM & 98.1 FM

STORY SYNOPSIS (<100 Words)

One Ordinary Man is the remarkable true story of Harry Hopkins—a man with extraordinary talent and grit, who journeyed from obscurity to a place behind the wizard’s curtain to pull the levers that helped America overcome the Great Depression, defeat fascism, and win World War II. Through Vesce’s richly detailed prose, readers live the times, private struggles and moral choices of the man who shaped a generation — and defined what it meant to serve. One Ordinary Man. One extraordinary destiny.

STORY SYNOPSIS (< 800 Words)

When Harry Hopkins, first arrived in Washington D.C. in March 1933 during the depths of the Great Depression, little did he—or anyone—know that he would be destined to play

a pivotal role in the seismic events that would shape the future of America and the entire world.

True to his profession at that time, Hopkins created and ran many of President Franklin Roosevelt's (FDR's) innovative *New Deal* programs that focused on helping millions of Americans overcome the devastating hardships of the Great Depression.

Though disliked by some in Congress and the Press, Hopkins' programs and straight-talking style endeared him to most. So popular was Hopkins and his programs, that after FDR was re-elected in 1936 in a landslide, FDR himself identified Hopkins as his heir apparent, and the best Presidential candidate to replace him in 1940.

Destiny, however, had different plans for both men.

Three months after Barbara Duncan, his wife, died from cancer, Hopkins himself was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Doctors at the Mayo Clinic surgically removed three quarters of his stomach and afterward he would suffer with malnutrition and debilitating illness for the rest of his short life.

With the time he had left, Hopkins worked to ensure the total defense of the United, though his own body fought against him the entire time he worked with Roosevelt and an array of world leaders. Despite his debilitating illness, as the world suffered from the devastating effects of fascism, Hopkins relentlessly battled to ensure the survival of America and its democracy.

Over the 12 years between 1933 and 1945, Hopkins grew from subordinate to advisor to colleague of FDR and his relationship with Franklin *and* Eleanor Roosevelt became one of mutual respect, loyalty, and trust.

On May 10, 1940, the day Winston Churchill was made Prime Minister of England and Nazi Germany invaded Belgium and France, the President asked Hopkins to come to the White House to discuss the issues confronting America and the world. Harry and his daughter Diana, stayed in the White House that night, and for the next three and half years.

Hopkins' proximity to FDR enhanced the special bond between the two physically challenged men. Having been viewed by Roosevelt as his capable successor, Hopkins maintained enormous credibility with FDR, and he was intimately involved in virtually every important U.S. decision leading up to and during World War II. Hopkins was in Roosevelt's White House office sharing lunch on Sunday, December 7, 1941 when they learned of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In January 1941, FDR sent Hopkins to England as his personal envoy to meet with Winston Churchill and determine if Great Britain would be able to survive the Nazi onslaught. Hopkins' fateful first meeting with Churchill sparked a deep friendship between the two men and an alliance between the two countries that would become the "special relationship" that defeated Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, and inspired the development of democracy and the rule of law throughout the world for generations.

From the early days of World War II, Hopkins served as a member of FDR's War Cabinet, the head of Lend Lease, the Chairman of the Pacific War Council, and FDR's de facto Secretary of State at every major Allied Conference during World War II. From 1941 until the end of the war in Europe, Hopkins was FDR's eyes, ears—and *legs*—in meetings with virtually all of the world's Allied leaders, including Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Chiang Kai-Shek, Mackenzie King, and Charles De Gaulle, among many others.

When FDR died in April 1945, just weeks before Germany's surrender and two months after the Yalta Conference, Harry Hopkins was viewed by many as the most powerful man in the United States and the world.

Hopkins' final official act for the United States occurred when shortly after Roosevelt's death, President Harry Truman asked him to visit Joseph Stalin and convince the Soviets to join the newly formed United Nations and to allow Poland to form a new free government. Despite his ill-health, in June 1945, Hopkins traveled to Moscow with his third wife, Louise Macy and returned with Stalin's agreement to join the United Nations and to allow Poland the right of self-determination. President Harry Truman gave Hopkins the Distinguished Service Medal after he resigned from the government and before he returned to New York City.

The last letter Hopkins wrote was to his friends, Winston and Clementine Churchill, and the last words he uttered were to his wife. He said, "*You can't beat destiny.*"

Harry Hopkins died in a New York City hospital on January 29, 1946, just nine months after FDR. He was 55 years old.

QUOTES ABOUT HOPKINS FROM THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

“Hopkins has rendered a service to this country which will never even be vaguely appreciated.”

- General George C. Marshall

“...Everyone who came in contact with Harry Hopkins in the long struggle will confirm what I have set down about his remarkable personality... Harry Hopkins always went to the root of the matter. I have been present at several great conferences, where twenty or more of the most executive personages were gathered together. When the discussion flagged and all seemed baffled it was on these occasions, he would wrap out the deadly question, ‘Surely, Mr. President, here is the point we have got to settle. Are we going to face it or not?’ Faced it always was, and being faced was always conquered. He was a true leader of men, and alike in ardor and in wisdom in times of crisis he has rarely been excelled. His love of the causes of the weak, and poor was matched by his passion against tyranny, especially when tyranny was, for the time, triumphant.”

- Winston Churchill

“His was a life spent too fast, and yet it was well spent. Few people have left a greater record of accomplishment to spur their children and future generations of mankind to achievement.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

“He [Hopkins] speaks according to his soul.”

- Joseph Stalin

“You are, it seems, Lord Root of the Matter.”

- Winston Churchill

“... he [Hopkins] was invaluable to me... whenever I hit a tough knot I couldn’t handle and seemingly couldn’t get anywhere, I would call him up and he would either arrange the meeting with the President for me, or he and I together would see the President. He was always a strong advocate, it seemed to me, of almost everything I proposed.... He was quite invaluable to me and he was very courageous.”

- General George C. Marshall

“He has the purity of St. Francis of Assisi and the shrewdness of a race track tout.”

- Former Ambassador to The Soviet Union, Joe Davies

“He has a mind like a razor; a tongue like a skinning knife, a temper like a Tartar and a sufficient vocabulary of parlor profanity – words kosher enough to get by the censor but acid enough to make a mule skinner jealous.”

- General Hugh Johnson

“His was a soul that flamed out of a frail and failing body—a crumbling lighthouse from which there shone the beams that led great fleets to harbor.”

- Winston Churchill

“It is a godsend Harry Hopkins is in the White House”

- Secretary of War, Henry Stimson

“[Hopkins first trip to Moscow in 1941] was one of the most extraordinarily important and valuable missions of the whole war.”

- Pulitzer Prize Winning Playwright and FDR Speechwriter Robert Sherwood

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

< 60 Words

Steve Vesce is a successful entrepreneur with a lifelong passion for Modern U.S. and European History. He was the Founder and CEO of three pioneering companies, and has given more than a dozen seminars on the people, events, and issues that impacted America leading up to and including World War II. *One Ordinary Man* is his first novel.

< 150 Words

A successful entrepreneur with a lifelong passion for Modern U.S. and European History, Steve Vesce has given more than a dozen talks to a number of audiences on the people, events, and issues that impacted America leading up to and including World War II. He was the Founder and CEO of three pioneering business service and software companies, and has served as advisor and director for a number of companies and not-for-profit institutions.

One Ordinary Man is Steve's first novel and it is the result of his research into Harry Hopkins while preparing to give a talk to a Florida audience several years ago. Though Steve had read about FDR's presidency and Harry Hopkins many times over the years, his research for that presentation gave him a much deeper appreciation of the heroic journey and remarkable story of this largely forgotten American hero.

< 325 Words

Steve Vesce's career has been characterized by two distinct passions: Business and Modern U.S. and European History.

A native New Yorker, Steve has served as the Founder and CEO of three pioneering companies, an Executive Partner of New York Private Equity Firm, and as an advisor and on the Board of Directors of a number of companies and not-for-profit institutions. During his career he consulted to companies such as Morgan Stanley, Exxon, IBM, Prentice Hall, and Merrill Lynch among many others, as well as a number of non-profit organizations including Goodwill Industries and PBS. He has given more than 40 seminars to an array of businesses and organizations on strategy, technology, human capital management, and value enhancement.

Later in his career, as Managing Director of Endgame Advisors, LLC, Steve provided mid-market companies with strategic, tactical, and M&A Advisory Services. He constructed strategic plans for a number of institutions, taught Entrepreneurship at Brooklyn College

of the City University of New York and served as the Vice Chair of the Naples Council on World Affairs' Model United Nations.

In addition to his business career, Steve's passion for Modern U.S. and European History resulted in him giving more than a dozen talks to a number of audiences on the people, events, and issues that impacted America leading up to and including World War II—including talks on Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, 1942, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and others.

One Ordinary Man is Steve's first novel and it is the result of his research into Harry Hopkins while preparing to give a talk on this remarkable person several years ago. Though Steve had read about FDR's presidency and Harry Hopkins many times over the years, his research for that presentation gave him a much deeper appreciation of the heroic journey and inspiring story of this largely forgotten American hero.

Steve and his wife, Carol, currently live in Savannah, GA. They have four children.

AUTHOR'S PICS





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

[Verlibri Media LLC](https://www.verlibri.com)

info@verlibri.com

(631) 806-8184

***One Ordinary Man* — A Riveting Novel Based on the True Story of Harry Lloyd Hopkins — Receives Critical Acclaim**

Savannah, GA — Wednesday October 15, 2025 — Today, Verlibri Media LLC is proud to announce the release of *One Ordinary Man - A Novel Based on the True Story of Harry Hopkins*, an evocative work of fiction rooted in the extraordinary life of one of the most influential Americans in history. From critics across the literary and historical spectrum, the novel is already earning glowing praise for its gripping narrative, emotional depth, and meticulous grounding in the era of the Great Depression and World War II.

Written by Steve Vesce, *One Ordinary Man* is the historically accurate novel about the inspiring, surprising, and remarkable true story of Harry L. Hopkins (1890–1946)—one ordinary man who grew from obscurity to play a leading and pivotal role in helping America overcome the Great Depression, defeat Fascism, and win World War II.

It is a vibrant, witty, and captivating story that is at once, both human and larger than life. A story that captures the times, adversity, and incredible accomplishments of an inspiring American hero whose abiding faith in American democracy drove him to overcome incredible challenges and lift his country up from the darkest depths of the Great Depression to victory in World War II.

There is no surprise ending in *One Ordinary Man*. The story itself is the surprise—delivering a steady stream of new discoveries and insights about America, Hopkins’s achievements, and America’s current challenges.

In an era when questions of public service, economic recovery, and leadership in times of crisis dominate global conversation, *One Ordinary Man* sheds vital light on the enduring legacy of the hope, action, and sacrifice of America’s “Greatest Generation.” The parallels between America today and during the twelve years from 1933 to 1945 are apparent and Hopkins’s true story and deep belief in American democracy provides today’s readers with a renewed sense of hope regarding today’s challenges and America’s resilience.

Harry Hopkins. One ordinary man. One extraordinary destiny.

What Reviewers Are Saying

"Beginning with page one of the novel, One Ordinary Man, I recognized the importance of this book... It is not only historically accurate, but it also reveals the author's knowledge of the major players on the world stage, especially Harry Hopkins. I could hear the echoes of my grandfather's voice in the words Steve Vesce put in his mouth and I recognized the familiar tone of the conversations he creates. His descriptions of my grandfather's interactions with world figures as well as family members all ring true... my grandfather came to life for me...a fascinating read from cover to cover."

*Dr. June Hopkins
Harry Hopkins's Granddaughter
Professor of History, Emerita*

"Vesce...manages to pique reader interest through his passionate dedication to historical detail.... he knows how to spin a good historical yarn. Vesce's larger-than-life portrait of Hopkins reminds that there really is some truth to the whole "Greatest Generation..."

Kirkus Reviews

"Fleet, revealing novel of FDR's indispensable deputy fighting the Depression and the Nazis. This brisk, lively novel imagines the world-changing life of Harry L. Hopkins.... crafting fictionalized incidents that honor the historical record. Vesce favors a reportorial approach...with... plenty of canny dialogue... many crisply told moments that breathe life into the historical facts. Vesce's fleet scenecraft captures sharp exchanges... the material... abounds with achievements and surprises."

Booklife Reviews

About the Author

Steve Vesce is a successful entrepreneur with a lifelong passion for Modern U.S. and European History. He was the Founder and CEO of three pioneering companies, and has given more than a dozen seminars on the people, events, and issues that impacted America leading up to and including World War II. *One Ordinary Man* is his first novel.

Book Details

- **Title:** *One Ordinary Man – A novel based on the true story of Harry Hopkins*
- **Publisher:** Verlibri Media LLC
- **Release Date:** October 15, 2025
- **Format:** Paperback / eBook / Audiobook
- **Pages:** 620
- **ISBN:** 979-8999645302
- **Availability:** [Amazon](#)

Awards (as of Jan 2, 2026 in chronological order)

The American Writing Awards - Finalist in Historical Fiction

Amazon Bestseller

Runner-Up – The New England Book Festival

Runner-Up – The London Book Festival

The Literary Titan Gold Book Award

Media / Interview Opportunities

The author is available for interviews, book-signings, and speaking engagements. Advance review copies are available upon request. See suggested interview topics and sample questions below.

Learn More

Visit [Steve Vesce](#) for additional information including the complete Press Kit, and information on upcoming events.

About Verlibri Media LLC

Verlibri Media was founded in 2025 to publish stories that are based on real people and true events to entertain, inspire, and inform our audiences.

Press Contact

Phone: +1 (631) 806-8184

Email: oneordinaryman1015@gmail.com

Publisher's Website: [Verlibri Media LLC](#)

Author's Website: [Steve Vesce](#)



Suggested Interview Topics and Sample Questions

- Was Hopkins FDR's Rasputin?

- How challenging is it to remain true to historical facts while constructing imagined elements?
- Does the “Special Relationship” between the U.S. and Great Britain still exist?
- What lessons should we learn from the life of leaders like Harry Hopkins, FDR, George Marshall and other who lived during the twelve most challenging years ever faced by America?
- What was the personal cost to dedicated public servants like Hopkins, FDR, Marshall, Ickes, Stimson, Hull, and others?
- How did you first discover Harry Hopkins, and what drew you to tell his story?
- What surprised you most in your research about Hopkins’ relationship with FDR?
- How do you balance historical accuracy with compelling storytelling?
- How do you see Hopkins’ example resonating with today’s political climate?