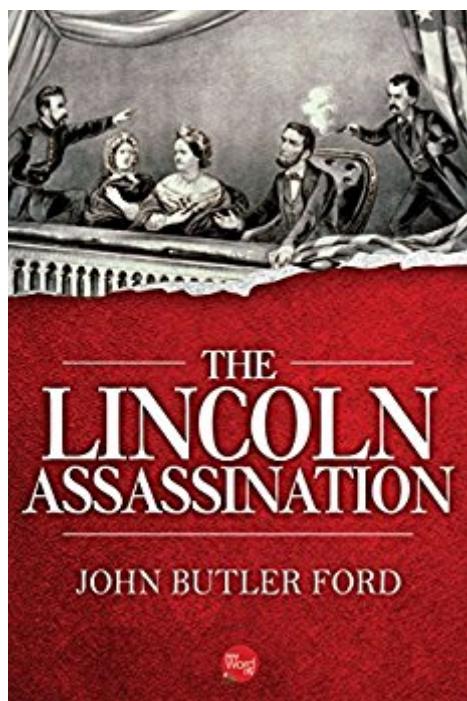


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The Lincoln Assassination



Synopsis

Every schoolchild knows about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln - how the actor John Wilkes Booth shot the president while he was watching a play, leaped to the stage from the presidential box, and made his escape. But there is far more to the story, including the bizarre scheme that Booth first concocted to kidnap Lincoln and trade him for Confederate soldiers held in Northern prisons. Here is the full story of the plot, the bumbling plotters that Booth recruited, Lincoln's lingering death, the manhunt for the assassin, and the trial of the conspirators. It is essential knowledge of a tragedy that shaped America for a century to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While the book contains a good high level overview of the assassination, it contains some old, discredited myths about the participation of Dr. Samuel Mudd, specifically that he was a country doctor who -- although he had met Booth on at least 3 or 4 documented occasions -- did not recognize him when Booth (and an accomplice) showed up at night at Mudd's rural Maryland home for treatment of his broken leg. Recent research has substantially discredited these stories; in fact

when I visited Ford's Theatre last year I saw a display of conspirators in the museum section which prominently includes Mudd. As the book correctly states, Booth had initially planned to kidnap President Lincoln and take him to Richmond to exchange for "the release of all the captive Confederate soldiers." To do this, he went to Montreal and met with Confederate agents who were "plotting to destroy the Union," and then -- with a list of Southern sympathizers in Maryland who might assist -- traveled to Maryland to assemble a group to assist him with the kidnapping. The book notes that "Booth's letter of introduction from the agents in Canada gave him access to several people in Charles County, **PERHAPS INCLUDING MUDD** (Capitalized by reviewer), whose role in the conspiracy still fuels debate." This is the basic premise of the book regarding Mudd's complicity, and is why I gave it two stars. There is no debate among knowledgeable historians; even the National Park Service -- which operates Ford's Theatre -- agrees that Mudd was a conspirator in the initial Booth plot. Recent research has disclosed a statement written shortly after the assassination by another conspirator, George Atzerodt, which reads in part that: "I am certain that Dr.

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