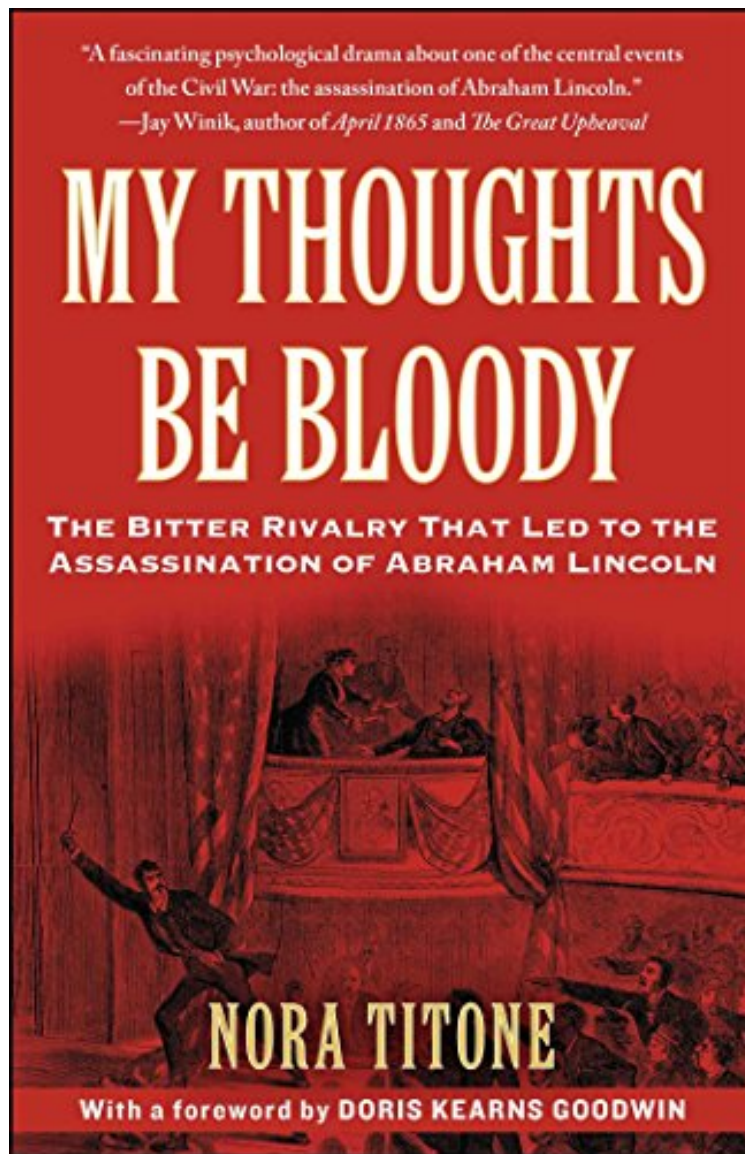


(Free read ebook) My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Bitter Rivalry That Led to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

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Nora Titone

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#251669 in Books 2011-05-31 2011-05-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.40 x 5.501, 1.00 #File Name: 1416586067496 pages | File size: 75.Mb

Nora Titone : My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Bitter Rivalry That Led to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Bitter Rivalry That Led to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln:

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful. An American Tragedy By Thomas Fink I've read a lot of books about the Booths, and I have to say, this is one of the best. I love this book. Hats off to Nora Titone; she has really done her work. Nora has masterfully researched and unearthed clues about the complex inner workings and circumstances that led two brothers along opposite paths during the time of America's greatest upheaval. One brother, whose allegiance was with the north, a supporter of President Abraham Lincoln and became the foremost actor of his time; the other whose allegiance was with the south to the point of obsession, struggled as an actor and assassinated the President, branding the Booth name forever in infamy. In *My Thoughts Be Bloody*, the fascinating cast of characters who helped shape Edwin and John Wilkes' drives and ambitions are thoughtfully explored, beginning with their turbulent tragedian father, Junius Brutus Booth. This is the story of a family in turmoil, and it reads like a novel. Why did the two brothers compete with each other to the point of becoming bitter rivals leading to disaster? I believe this book persuasively answers that question and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the Booths, the Civil War, American history, or just a great story. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Dysfunctional Family Fare! By Jane F. Pedler Of course, every family, no matter how loving, how unified, is dysfunctional--it is just a matter of to what degree, for people themselves are imperfect. The Booth family was no exception. This book also reinforces the phrase "mad genius," as is so evident by the behavior of the amazingly gifted family patriarch Junius Brutus Booth, whose "madness" was fueled by a combination of perfectionism and alcoholism. The story of how Edwin, at age 12, was delegated to become his traveling-actor-father's shadow, holding him together, keeping him from drinking too much and missing shows, reminded me vividly of the comic movie "My Favorite Year." (Another good selection to consider purchasing on !) Edwin's early life, though, was no comedy; in his recollection, "my childhood ended at twelve." This boy possessed the same vast talent as his troubled father, unlike the handsomer, charming John Wilkes, one of Edwin's younger brothers--John Wilkes, who had no talent but who possessed dreams of great deeds and heroic feats of armored knights--John Wilkes, who came to harbor a great jealousy and resentment towards his older brother. Other fascinating characters and facts are included in this book. Before I read it, I had always wondered about how it was for John Wilkes' family in light of what he did...and who were his family, anyway? His mother, his sister, especially; such interesting personalities, all brought to new life in this wonderful book...but you are going to have to read it yourself to find out more about them, and about the cottage deep in the woods where for years Junius Booth had to keep them hidden...wow! For anyone interested in human nature, family functioning, Civil War, history, great writing...buy this book! You will certainly not be disappointed! Highly recommended! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Extraordinary View into the Civil War Era By Lavender *My Thoughts Be Bloody* presents an intelligent overview of the abolitionists' movement, the Booth family and their legacy, and the events which preceded the death of Lincoln. Much information was provided that is not general knowledge. The writing was clear and expressive. The parallels between the opposing political viewpoints of this era and the present are clearly established. The individuals who participated in the events were drawn with a balanced approach. The acceptance and understanding afforded to Edwin Booth was indicative of an aspect of America's sense of justice in embracing Booth as an artist and performer and not continuing to attach the guilt of his brother to him. This volume expanded my knowledge of and interest in history and art. The connection of Shakespeare to the events extends beyond the title to connections within the saga that could be drawn from the drama.

The scene of John Wilkes Booth shooting Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theatre is among the most vivid and indelible images in American history. The literal story of what happened on April 14, 1865, is familiar: Lincoln was killed by John Wilkes Booth, a lunatic enraged by the Union victory and the prospect of black citizenship. Yet who Booth really was besides a killer is less well known. The magnitude of his crime has obscured for generations a startling personal story that was integral to his motivation. *My Thoughts Be Bloody*, a sweeping family saga, revives an extraordinary figure whose name has been missing, until now, from the story of President Lincoln's death. Edwin Booth, John Wilkes' older brother by four years, was in his day the biggest star of the American stage. He won his celebrity at the precocious age of nineteen, before the Civil War began, when John Wilkes was a schoolboy. Without an account of Edwin Booth, author Nora Titone argues, the real story of Lincoln's assassin has never been told. Using an array of private letters, diaries, and reminiscences of the Booth family, Titone has uncovered a hidden history that reveals the reasons why John Wilkes Booth became this country's most notorious assassin. These ambitious brothers, born to theatrical parents, enacted a tale of mutual jealousy and resentment worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy. From childhood, the stage-struck brothers were rivals for the approval of their father, legendary British actor Junius Brutus Booth. After his death, Edwin and John Wilkes were locked in a fierce contest to claim his legacy of fame. This strange family history and powerful sibling rivalry were the crucibles of John Wilkes' character, exacerbating his political passions and driving him into a life of conspiracy. To re-create the lost world of Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, this book takes readers on a panoramic tour of nineteenth-century America, from the streets of 1840s Baltimore to the gold fields of California, from the jungles of the Isthmus of Panama to the glittering mansions of Gilded Age New York. Edwin, ruthlessly competitive and gifted, did everything he could to lock his younger brother out of the theatrical game. As he came of age, John Wilkes found his plans for stardom thwarted by his older sibling's meteoric

rise. Their divergent pathsEdwins an upward race to riches and social prominence, and Johns a downward spiral into failure and obscuritykept pace with the hardening of their opposite political views and their mutual dislike. The details of the conspiracy to kill Lincoln have been well documented elsewhere. My Thoughts Be Bloody tells a new story, one that explains for the first time why Lincolns assassin decided to conspire against the president in the first place, and sets that decision in the context of a bitterly divided familyand nation. By the end of this riveting journey, readers will see Abraham Lincolns death less as the result of the war between the North and South and more as the climax of a dark struggle between two brothers who never wore the uniform of soldiers, except on stage.

From Publishers WeeklyFamily dysfunction brings down a president in this lively if feckless historical melodrama. In her debut, Titone, a historical researcher, says almost nothing about John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill Abraham Lincoln, focusing instead on his backstory and (speculative) psychological motivation. The tale has vibrant leads, including Booth's father, Junius Brutus Booth, a famous tragedian and raging alcoholic, and his domineering brother Edwin, the biggest stage star of the Civil War era. Then there's John Wilkes himself, a narcissist and hilariously bad actor--Titone regales readers with scathing reviews--whose good looks and hammy onstage swordplay drew crowds. The author's sketchy theory of Lincoln's assassination puts it at the confluence of John's self-dramatizing vanity, romantic identification with the underdog South, and sibling rivalry; she presents the murder as a coup de thtre that finally lets John upstage Edwin. Although overstuffed with digressions, Titone's account paints a colorful panorama of 19th-century theatrical life, with its endless drunken touring through frontier backwaters and showbiz pratfalls. Neither deep nor tragic, her John Wilkes is oddly convincing: the first of the grandiose hollow men in America's cast of assassins. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistIf one chooses to do so, one could probably discover a complex of personal demons that supposedly motivated every lone political assassin. So Oswald was acting out his frustration over his failures as a husband and political activist. Sirhan Sirhan was seeking relief from loneliness rather than striking a blow for Palestine. And so on and so on to the point of absurd psychobabble. Yet, given the limitations inherent in such efforts, this is actually a very well-done examination of the trials and tribulations of a remarkable family. The family patriarch, Junius, was a heralded Shakespearean actor, an alcoholic, and an often emotionally abusive parent. His favored son, Edwin, was generally regarded as the greatest American actor of the nineteenth century. Then there was poor Johndesperate for his fathers approval, intensely jealous of his brother, and frustrated by his reputation as a mediocre performer. Titone does a fine job of contrasting the personalities and even the acting styles of the brothers. Her portrait of Edwin as a decent man haunted by his brothers act is often moving. --Jay Freeman The Booth family, like most involved with creative endeavors, produced brilliant eccentrics. What began as sibling rivalry transformed into something darker and deadly as national divisions became mirrored in family squabbles. How ironic that the greatest family of the American theatre produced the assassin of the greatest President who supported American theatre. For anyone wanting to know how this could happen, " ""My Thoughts Be Bloody" is the book to read. --Tom Schwartz, Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum"Premonition looms in every chapter, even in each epigraph, as the course of the war turns in favor of the North and the mind of John Wilkes Booth grows more warped. The narrative "races" ahead to the fraternal clash because Ms. Titones control is wire-tight; and the end, which we know anyway, is crushing." -- James Cornelius, Curator of the Lincoln Papers at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library"This is narrative history at its most engaging and edifying: the forgotten story of a sibling rivalry, shot through with Shakespearean overtones, that played itself out tragically on the national stage. With the authority of a historian, and the dramatic talents of a novelist, Nora Titone has written a book full of surprises that will fundamentally change the way Americans think about John Wilkes Booth." --Toby Lester, author of "The Fourth Part of the World".."a very well done examination of the trials and tribulations of a remarkable family." --"Booklist""The new light [Titone] shines on the Booth family provides some compelling context for the Lincoln assassination."-- "The Dallas Morning News""Nora Titone's energetic narrative persuades a reader that history must add to its indictment of Booth the crime of fratricide." -- Thomas Mallon, author of "Henry and Clara"Provocative and revealing, Titone's first book provides another dimension to an iconic national calamity by alleging that John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln in part to establish his own importance within a family of theatrical rivals... Titone's theory adds to the narrative without dismissing the political and cultural reasons for Wilkes Booth's plot--his Confederate and proslavery sympathies have often been noted. She is most impressive in her use of primary sources and in her literary style."--"Library Journal""The Booth family, like most involved with creative endeavors, produced brilliant eccentrics. What began as sibling rivalry transformed into something darker and deadly as national divisions became mirrored in family squabbles. How ironic that the greatest family of the American theatre produced the assassin of the greatest President who supported American theatre. For anyone wanting to know how this could happen, " ""My Thoughts Be Bloody" is the book to read." --Tom Schwartz, Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and MuseumWhy did John Wilkes Booth do it? In "My Thoughts Be Bloody" young historian Nora Titone is one of the few to have genuinely explored this question. In doing so, she has crafted a fascinating psychological drama about one of the central events of the Civil War: the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. This book promises to stimulate lively historical debate, and

will be a treat for every Civil War buff who always pondered that haunting question, "what made him pull that trigger?" Bravo on a marvelous achievement. -- Jay Winik, author of "April 1865" and "The Great Upheaval" "Filled with ambition, rivalry, betrayal, and tragedy, this story of the celebrated Shakespearean actor Junius Brutus Booth and the two sons, Edwin and John Wilkes, who competed to wear his crown, is as gripping as a fine work of fiction. Yet, given the role that the younger son played in murdering President Abraham Lincoln, "My Thoughts Be Bloody "is simultaneously an important work of history--the best account I have ever read of the complex forces that led John Wilkes Booth to carry a gun into Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865." --Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of "Team of Rivals"