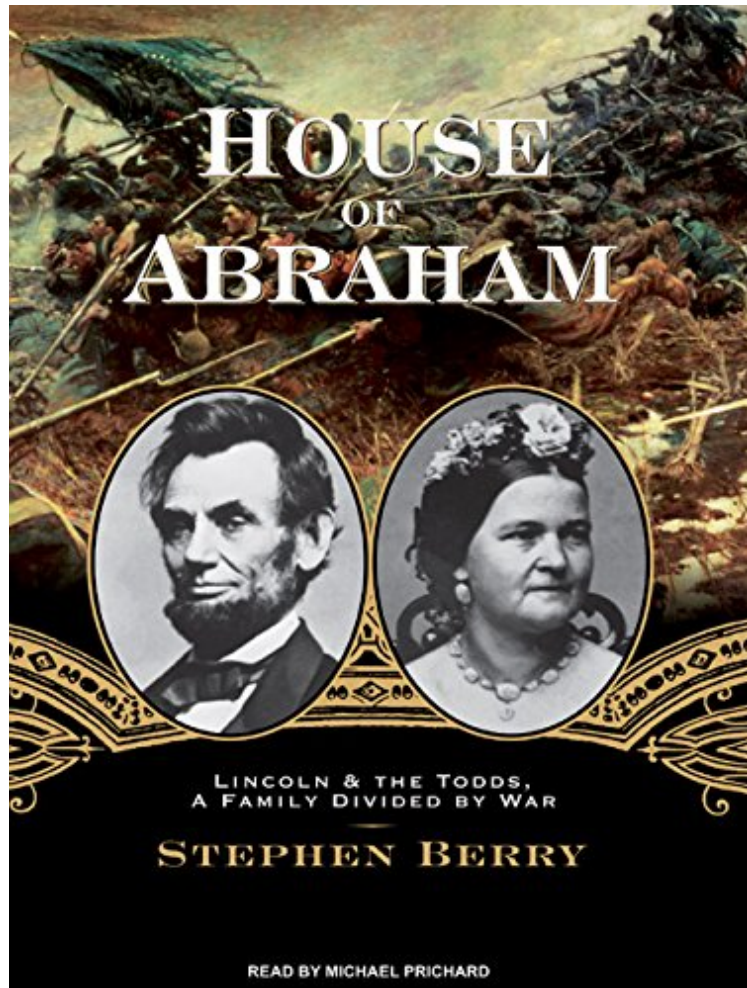


(Free and download) House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War

House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War

Stephen Berry

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



#3950380 in Books Tantor Media 2007-12-03 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 8 5.30 x 1.10 x 6.40l, .51 Running time: 37800 seconds Binding: Audio CD | File size: 54.Mb

Stephen Berry : House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lincoln Was A Saint By southern lady Who knew. The Todd family siblings had more dysfunctional history than most families during the civil war. I understand more of why and where Mary Todd Lincoln got her personality and character. Lincoln was a saint. History will never truly know why Lincoln tolerated so much horrible history from his in laws (The Todd Family) during the civil war. Lincoln had more

perseverance than most to balance a civil war, a presidency, death of a child, an intelligent but very emotional wife from the south with horrible siblings during a four year span. Mary Todd Lincoln was from the south living in the capital of the north with family fighting for the rebel south. This book fills in some of the Todd history that is not common knowledge. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Biography of a Family By James D. Miller Behind every name printed in a history book there is an underlying story that is only very rarely ever told. For even kings and queens, presidents and generals, politicians and other noted historical figures who shaped the times during which they lived, all have fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters and of course whose family would not be complete without an in-law or two. In short, we all know the stories of the historical figures we like to read about, but what we may not know is the stories of the members of their families. History is not made by one person alone. For every general who goes off to war, there is a father, a mother, brothers and sisters, a wife and children who are left behind, to fret, to worry, to love, to pray and to mourn. Often times I have found myself reading a biography and come across a glancing reference to this family member or that, only to be frustrated to learn nothing more of said family member. I stop my reading for a moment and wonder to myself "I wonder what their story is?" Stephen Berry's "House of Abraham: Lincoln The Todds, A Family Divided By War," is book that answers that question. There most certainly is no shortage of books written about Abraham and Mary (Todd) Lincoln. The Lincoln's were very complex persons whose biographies rightly take up many thousands of linear feet of shelf space in libraries all around the world. But even the best biographies of Abraham and Mary only give fleeting glimpses of the lives or their family members or the Lincoln's relationships with them. Happily this is not a problem that plagues Mr. Berry's book. Mary Lincoln's father, Robert Smith Todd was married twice, and had fourteen children who survived into adulthood. Abraham, not close to his own family, in many ways was closer with the Todd family than his own. In large part, Lincoln's life was shaped by his relationship with the Todd's. Upon Lincoln's election as President of the United States the country found itself ripping into two halves, as did the Todd family. Of Robert Todd's children six sided with the Union and eight sided with the Confederacy. Berry states "of necessity and by design" his book "focuses on the fates and movements of the handful of Todds about whom the most is known and with whom Lincoln had the closest association." Representing the Northern wing of the family are Elizabeth Todd husband Ninian W. Edwards, and of course Abraham Mary (Todd) Lincoln. The Southern wing of the family, states Berry, has never been studied, and is represented by sisters Emilie and Elodie Todd and one brother, David Todd. Though the remaining siblings do appear in the book they are often cast as secondary characters in Berry's narrative. Todd family narrative is nearly panoramic, as members of the family seem to have been everywhere during the war. Berry places them at the very beginnings of the Civil War at the inaugurations of both Abraham Lincoln and Confederate president, Jefferson Davis; follows them to battlefields Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chickamauga; to the prisons and hospitals of the Confederacy, and finally ends with George Todd catching up with the fleeing Confederate government after the fall of Richmond. Berry's the narrative of the Todd family deftly draws parallels to that of the larger "American Family." As the Todd family was torn apart by the war, so was the nation. As the Todd family suffered wounds and casualties so did the nation. After the war, the Northern and Southern wings of the family struggled with issues of reunion as they tried to put their past behind them as did the nation. The narrative of the Todd family, during and after the war, is in fact, the narrative of the United States. My only complaint with the book is its lack of scope as far as the members of the Todd family are concerned. Berry notes "This book is not a complete biography of the Todds." He goes on to say that "following fourteen principal characters - and their spouses, and their children - over the course of a lifetime would be unwieldy." For a book whose text is a brief 192 pages, that is a weak argument, but still, the book adequately fills a void that has been too long overlooked. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Informative and entertaining By Paul F. Brooks There is no shortage of books about Abraham Lincoln. My own modest history library has seven titles. I am attracted to his life story because he was the most unlikely individual to become President and his achievements and wisdom confounded both his detractors and admirers. One aspect of his story that has always interested me was his marriage to Mary Todd. The biographies I have read mention the usual highlights - ambitious wife - hints of madness - compulsive shopper - and most intriguing several close family member with intimate connections to the Confederacy. While living in Springfield Illinois Lincoln developed a strong family bonding with the Todd's. The fact that Lincoln had no brothers and sisters was all the more reason to "adopt" his wife's siblings as his own family. Stephen Berry has written a masterful work brimming with insights into the Todd clan. The author has a great talent for crafting apt descriptions that contributed to the pleasure of reading. He details the curious relationships Lincoln he had with all of Mary's many brothers and sisters both before and during the war. In addition the author's colorful descriptions of family life and society in Kentucky and Illinois helped this reader understand the powerful emotions that pulled this family asunder during the Civil War.

For all the talk of the Civil War "pitting brother against brother," until now there has never been a single book that traces the story of one family ravaged by that conflict. And no family could better illustrate the personal toll the war took than Lincoln's own. Mary Todd Lincoln was one of fourteen siblings who were split between the Confederacy and the Union. Three of her brothers fought, and two died, for the South. Several Todds-including Mary herself-

bedeviled Lincoln's administration with their scandalous behavior. Award-winning historian Stephen Berry tells their family saga with the narrative intricacy and emotional intensity of a novelist. The Todds' struggles haunted the president and moved him to avoid tactics or rhetoric that would dehumanize or scapegoat the Confederates. Drawing on his own familial experience, Lincoln was inspired to articulate a humanistic, even charitable view of the enemy that seems surpassingly wise in our time, let alone his. With brio and rigor, Berry fills a gap in Civil War history, showing how the war changed one family and how that family changed the course of the war. As they debate each other about the issues of the day and comfort each other in the wake of shared tragedy, the Todds become a singular microcosm and a metaphor for the country as a whole.

From Publishers Weekly Historian Berry takes Abraham Lincoln's "house divided" to heart, detailing the president's own family fissions. The Todds, his wife's family, were longtime slaveholders, and their sympathies were split between the Union and the Confederacy during the war. The well-regarded Prichard reads Berry's tale of the Todds with long, significant pauses and a stentorian rigor. A taste of the old South's molasses creeps into Prichard's voice and into the respites he takes in the middle of a sentence, which often linger one beat longer than might be expected. Having recorded more than 450 audiobooks, Prichard knows that little tricks like these keep listeners on their toes, happily waiting for the next word or the next sentence. By stretching time out like taffy, Prichard manages to make it flow faster than it otherwise would. Simultaneous release with the Houghton Mifflin hardcover (s, Sept. 3). Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Compelling.... Brings to vibrant life Lexington aristocrats never before studied in depth by Lincoln biographers...remarkable.... A riveting account." --- Kirkus About the Author Stephen Berry is Gregory Professor of the Civil War Era at the University of Georgia and the author of *All That Makes a Man: Love and Ambition in the Civil War South*. He has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, among other honors. Michael Prichard has played several thousand characters during his career. While he has been seen performing over one hundred of them in theater and film, Michael is primarily heard, having recorded well over five hundred full-length books. During his career as a one-man repertory company, he has recorded many series with running characters-including the complete Travis McGee adventures by John D. MacDonald and the complete Nero Wolfe mysteries by Rex Stout-as well as series by such masters as Mark Twain, John Cheever, and John Updike. His numerous awards and accolades include an Audie Award for *Tears in the Darkness* by Michael Norman and Elizabeth M. Norman and several AudioFile Earphones Awards, including for *At All Costs* by Sam Moses and *In Nixon's Web* by L. Patrick Gray III. Named a Top Ten Golden Voice by SmartMoney magazine, he holds an M.F.A. in theater from the University of Southern California. Michael appears regularly on the professional stage, including as a member of Ray Bradbury's Pandemonium Theatre Company, performing such great roles as Captain Beatty in *Fahrenheit 451*, which became the second-longest-running production in the Los Angeles area. Bradbury himself dubbed Michael "the finest Beatty in history."