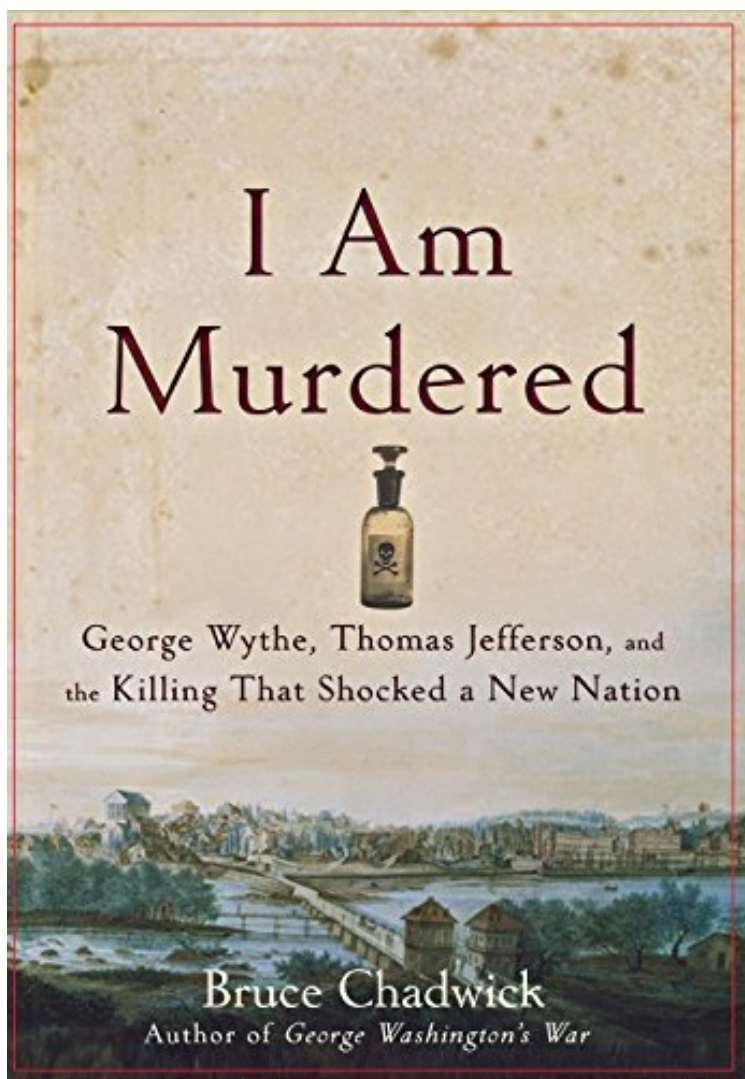


[Library ebook] I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation

I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation

Bruce Chadwick

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Bruce Chadwick : I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Am Murdered: George Wythe, Thomas Jefferson, and the Killing That Shocked a New Nation:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Intriguing Historical MysteryBy Alice S. MagraneI adore mysteries--always have. Lately I have combined this love with an interest in the early history of our country, and I Am Murdered

gave me an insight into the early legal system of the US, the practice (or malpractice) of autopsies by doctors for the purpose of giving evidence, and an interwoven tapestry of the society that made up early Virginia. Learning about George Wythe, in and of itself, was fascinating. He is not a well-known historical figure, yet he was a mentor to Thomas Jefferson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a leader in establishing the system of jurisprudence in Virginia. How he came to be murdered by a member of his own family, and the laws governing criminal trials in that day, kept me up way past my bedtime! It was also very interesting to learn about the difficulties these early Virginians encountered in dealing with the issue of slavery and of freed African Americans. In hindsight, it is easy to see how the moral dilemmas in which they placed themselves were going to lead to the Civil War. The wealth of historical information presented in this book, in addition to the details of the murder itself, made it a really satisfying and enlightening read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GreatBy crazy cat ladyThis is my 3rd Bruce Chadwick book, I am a huge fan of his American history books!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a Pulitzer Prize winner BUT---By tom d gummIf you have ever been to Williamsburg Va. and heard and read about his brilliant career there and elsewhere and found out what brilliant men of his times thought of him such as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams and Henry Clay to name a few you will enjoy this book as and ending to a storied career. Many (one was me) who never knew his life was ended this way will enjoy the story. Not a Pulitzer Prize winner but an enjoyable read.

""A good story, well told, of a sliver of life in Richmond, a small, elite-driven capital city in the young nation's most influential state.""—Publishers WeeklyGeorge Wythe clung to the mahogany banister as he inched down the staircase of his comfortable Richmond, Virginia, home. Doubled over in agony, he stumbled to the kitchen in search of help. There he found his maid, Lydia Broadnax, and his young protégé, Michael Brown, who were also writhing in distress. Hours later, when help arrived, Wythe was quick to tell anyone who would listen, ""I am murdered."" Over the next two weeks, as Wythe suffered a long and painful death, insults would be added to his mortal injury. I Am Murdered tells the bizarre true story of Wythe's death and the subsequent trial of his grandnephew and namesake, George Wythe Sweeney, for the crime—unquestionably the most sensational and talked-about court case of the era. Hinging on hit-and-miss forensics, the unreliability of medical autopsies, the prevalence of poisoning, race relations, slavery, and the law, Sweeney's trial serves as a window into early nineteenth-century America. Its particular focus is on Richmond, part elegant state capital and part chaotic boomtown riddled with vice, opportunism, and crime. As Wythe lay dying, his doctors insisted that he had not been poisoned, and Sweeney had the nerve to beg him for bail money. In I Am Murdered, this signer of the Declaration of Independence, mentor to Thomas Jefferson, and ""Father of American Jurisprudence"" finally gets the justice he deserved.

From Publishers WeeklyThis historical whodunit relates the tale of the 1806 murder of one of the early nation's most celebrated jurists and public figures. Virginia's George Wythe was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution. He was also teacher and friend to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall and Henry Clay. Few were as beloved and admired; the advice of no other was so sought after. But one day in 1806, he and two of his servants were poisoned. Historian Chadwick (George Washington's War) takes readers through the circumstances of Wythe's murder and gradually reveals—no surprise to the attentive reader—the murder suspect. It's a good story, well told, of a sliver of life in Richmond, a small, elite-driven capital city in the young nation's most influential state. The walk-on figures include a good proportion of the early republic's leading men. If Chadwick pads the book with too much on, say, arsenic poisoning, as well as the contemporary practices of autopsies, it's all pertinent to the tale's outcome: the acquittal of the likely murderer. Illus. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. * This historical whodunit relates the tale of the 1806 murder of one of the early nation's most celebrated jurists and public figures. Virginia's George Wythe was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution. He was also teacher and friend to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall and Henry Clay. Few were as beloved and admired; the advice of no other was so sought after. But one day in 1806, he and two of his servants were poisoned. Historian Chadwick (George Washington's War) takes readers through the circumstances of Wythe's murder and gradually reveals—no surprise to the attentive reader—the murder suspect. It's a good story, well told, of a sliver of life in Richmond, a small, elite-driven capital city in the young nation's most influential state. The walk-on figures include a good proportion of the early republic's leading men. If Chadwick pads the book with too much on, say, arsenic poisoning, as well as the contemporary practices of autopsies, it's all pertinent to the tale's outcome: the acquittal of the likely murderer. Illus. (Jan.) (Publishers Weekly, October 13th, 2008)