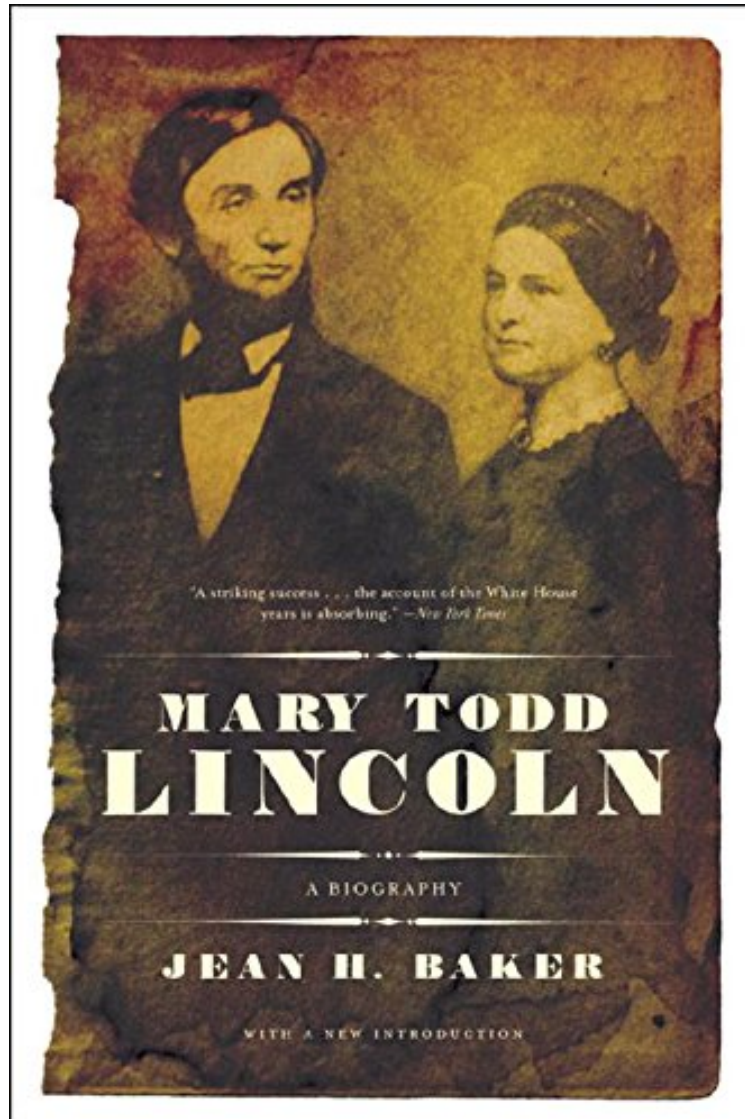


[FREE] Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography

Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography

Jean Harvey Baker

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#141253 in Books Baker, Jean H. 2008-10-17 2008-10-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x 1.40 x 5.60l, .85 #File Name: 0393333035464 pages | File size: 36.Mb

Jean Harvey Baker : Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This goes into a great deal of detail By Deidre D. Miazga I always wondered about the rumors I heard re Mrs. Lincoln. This goes into a great deal of detail, including the time when her son, Robert, got her committed and how she got out. I'm sure most people don't realize how many years after the President's death that Mary lived overseas. Mrs. Lincoln liked spending money (which got her into trouble) and she

really hitched her star to Abe's. She felt really entitled, especially after his death and she made a lot of enemies. A really well written and interesting book. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The other side of the story
By Ellen Jones Morell I appreciate the fact that the author stated her bias in the beginning. She did not think Mary Todd was crazy, more than a little strange perhaps but not crazy. I was shocked to learn of the way the civil war tore the Todd family apart, with some of the sons fighting in the Union army and some fighting in the confederate army. Also I was shocked to find out how easy it was for a male relative to have a female committed to an asylum. The book is filled with little known details of the life of Mary Todd and I came away with a clear sense of the suffering she endured. I am now reading *The House of Abraham* which goes into more detail about how the civil war split this family in particular and the country in general. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Gift for Reader of Biographies
By D. K. Pritchett Bought as a gift. My mother LOVED it. It was a little dry for me, but biographies are not really to my taste. I give it a good review because the gift recipient was very enthusiastic (and she is quite honest about these things).

"A striking success the account of the White House years is absorbing, the account of Mary Lincoln's life as a widow utterly compelling." *New York Times*
This definitive biography of Mary Todd Lincoln beautifully conveys her tumultuous life and times. A privileged daughter of the proud clan that founded Lexington, Kentucky, Mary fell into a stormy romance with the raw Illinois attorney Abraham Lincoln. For twenty-five years the Lincolns forged opposing temperaments into a tolerant, loving marriage. Even as the nation suffered secession and civil war, Mary experienced the tragedies of losing three of her four children and then her husband. An insanity trial orchestrated by her surviving son led to her confinement in an asylum. Mary Todd Lincoln is still often portrayed in one dimension, as the stereotype of the best-hated faults of all women. Here her life is restored for us whole. 9 pages of illustrations

From *Publishers Weekly*
A revisionist's view of the maligned Mary Todd Lincoln, usually portrayed as a shrew of doubtful sanity, is offered by Goucher College history professor Baker (*Affairs of Party*, etc.) in this richly documented and sympathetic study. Mary, an orphaned, well-educated, but socially unpopular, Lexington, Ky., aristocrat, was vulnerable to the suit of the outwardly uncouth Lincoln. During their Springfield years she bore him four sons and, despite their opposite natures, appears to have provided a comfortable home life and support for his political ambitions. As first lady, she was much criticized for her alleged extravagances on clothes, entertaining and redecoration of the shabby White House. A dedicated spiritualist, Mary made mourning for her dead husband and two sons a permanent condition, causing some to conclude that excessive grief had deranged her mind. Several months of her last tormented years were spent in an asylum to which her son Robert had her committed, unjustly, according to the author, followed by four years of voluntary exile abroad, from which she returned shortly before her death in 1882 in Springfield. Photos not seen by PW. BOMC, History Book Club and QPBC alternates. (August 17 ditto? Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*
In the thriving cottage industry of Lincoln studies Baker's readable and sympathetic biography is easily the definitive account of the troubled former First Lady. Baker's principal contribution is in recognizing Mary Todd Lincoln on her own terms. Although we can never separate her from Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln's importance derives less from her marriage than from her personal suffering as a woman. Politics, tragedy, and poverty denied her the family comfort and identity she craved. Baker's chapters on her last years of alleged insanity and real loneliness reveal a jealous and proud 19th-century American woman trapped by the conventions of Victorian domesticity. Recommended for major libraries and universities. Randall M. Miller, History Dept., St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. Beautifully crafted, entertaining as only the best biographies can be, and rich with superb insights and wonderful anecdotes about nineteenth-century family and domestic life, [this] is a complex and moving character study of a woman tragically out of step with her time and place. - *Chicago Tribune*
This exciting and important book is a major contribution to Lincolniana. Absorbing and convincing, this is one of the few books that deserve to be called definitive. - David Herbert Donald, author of *Lincoln*
A richly documented and sympathetic study. - *Publishers Weekly*
In the thriving cottage industry of Lincoln studies Baker's readable and sympathetic biography is easily the definitive account of the troubled former First Lady. Baker's principal contribution is in recognizing Mary Todd Lincoln on her own terms. - *Library Journal*