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Michael Drieborg and his team of marshals look into the various conspiracy theories which surrounded the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Their investigation takes place while the struggle between President Andrew Johnson and the congressional Radicals was raging for control of post-Civil War Reconstruction. Joined by their wives in the nation's capital, Drieborg and his marshals vigorously pursue the investigation despite the often violent opposition of influential Washingtonians who feared what might be discovered.

Experience the drama of Abraham Lincoln's assassination through this curated selection of eyewitness reports, medical records, and more—for fans of *Killing Lincoln* On April 14, 1865, Good Friday, the Civil War claimed its ultimate sacrifice. *President Lincoln Assassinated!!* recaptures the dramatic immediacy of Lincoln's assassination, the hunt for the conspirators and their military trial, and the nation's mourning for the martyred president. The fateful story is told in more than eighty original documents—eyewitness reports, medical records, trial transcripts, newspaper articles, speeches, letters, diary entries, and poems—by more than seventy-five participants and observers, including the assassin John Wilkes Booth and Boston Corbett, the soldier who shot him. Courtroom testimony exposes the intricacies of the plot to kill the president; eulogies by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendell Phillips, and Benjamin Disraeli and poetry by Walt Whitman, Herman Melville and Julia Ward Howe give eloquent voice to grief; two emotional speeches by Frederick Douglass—one of them never before published—reveal his evolving perspective on Lincoln's legacy. Together these voices combine to reveal the full panorama of one the most shocking and tragic events in our history.

In 1890, actor John Wilkes Booth - long presumed dead - emerged from twenty-five years of anonymity in his wilderness refuge to expose those truly responsible for the Lincoln assassination and its ensuing cover-up, to unite with the children he had never known and recover what he might of his sense of purpose and dignity. After shooting President Abraham Lincoln, Booth fled into the night, and government reports claimed he was killed twelve days later. But the man who was shot in the head and burned in a tobacco-shed fire before being covertly transported to Washington was never fully identified. Friends, as well as members of America's premier family of the theatre of which he was a member, were barred from even viewing the body, the only photograph taken of the corpse was never printed, and then lost, and a strangely ceremonious martial court presided over a secret burial. Rumour immediately began to circulate: Booth was still alive. In *Lincoln's Assassin*, Jeffrey Pennington presents Booth's own story of flight and return, detailing how another was shot in his place as he escaped to nominal freedom and obscurity, leaving behind all his personal belongings and the stage-life he once knew. The larger conspiracy in which he was embroiled is unpicked in stylish fashion, exploring the political landscape in which Lincoln lived and died. Written in a confessional style, it aims to offer an insight into the true motivations at the heart of the Lincoln assassination, an event that continues to be the subject of much theorising and interest.

" With commentary by Terry Alford, Burrus Carnahan, Joan L. Chaconis, Percy Martin, Betty Ownsbey, Edward Steers Jr., Thomas R. Turner, and Laurie Verge On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. By April 26, eight of the ten people eventually charged as accomplices in Lincoln's murder were in custody. Booth was killed resisting capture and John Surratt was in Canada, his whereabouts unknown to Federal authorities. In the days that followed, President Johnson issued an Executive Order directing that the persons charged with Lincoln's murder stand trial before a military tribunal. During the fifty-day trial, over three hundred and sixty witnesses gave testimony. Benn Pitman, a recognized expert in the art of phonography (an early form of shorthand), was awarded a government contract to produce a true and accurate transcription of the testimony. Working with four assistants, Pitman produced transcripts that served the general public through daily releases to select members of the press as well as to the prosecution and the defense. Pitman was given the right to publish the transcriptions for public sale, and he skillfully winnowed the 4,300 pages of transcription into a single 421-page volume. Copies of the original 1865 edition, as well as subsequent reprints, are exceedingly rare. Here for the first time, leading experts in the field lend their insight in a series of commentaries that complement Pitman's published transcript—included here in its entirety—exposing various perjuries, explaining testimony that has escaped scholarly attention, and clarifying the events surrounding the assassination as never before.

A detailed look at backstage life during the Civil War with an emphasis on the tragic events that took place at Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. This unique perspective on a

stage hands, actors, and theater workers on hand for the bewildering events in the theater that night, and what each of them witnessed in the chaos-streaked hours before John Wilkes Booth was discovered to be the culprit. In *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, historian Thomas A. Bogar delves into previously unpublished sources to tell the story of Lincoln's assassination from behind the curtain, and the tale is shocking. Police rounded up and arrested dozens of innocent people, wasting time that allowed the real culprit to get further away. Some closely connected to John Wilkes Booth were not even questioned, while innocent witnesses were relentlessly pursued. Booth was more connected with the production than you might have known—learn how he knew each member of the cast and crew, which was a hotbed of secessionist resentment. *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination* also tells the story of what happened to each of these witnesses to history, after the investigation was over—how each one lived their lives after seeing one of America's greatest presidents shot dead without warning. *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination* is an exquisitely detailed look at this famous event from an entirely new angle. It is must reading for anyone fascinated with the saga of Lincoln's life and the Civil War era.

The traditional story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination is littered with errors, some of which are accidental while others are willful. Too often, authors describe Lincoln's assassination rather than explain it. The current work is an attempt to explain the underlying causes of Lincoln's assassination and expose those who aided and abetted John Wilkes Booth in his plan to remove Lincoln from office and why.

Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, the bestselling authors of *The First Conspiracy*, which covers the secret plot against George Washington, now turn their attention to a little-known, but true story about a failed assassination attempt on the sixteenth president in *The Lincoln Conspiracy*. Everyone knows the story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination in 1865, but few are aware of the original conspiracy to kill him four years earlier in 1861, literally on his way to Washington, D.C., for his first inauguration. The conspirators were part of a white supremacist secret society that didn't want an abolitionist in the White House. They planned an elaborate scheme to assassinate the President-elect in Baltimore as Lincoln's inauguration train passed through, en route to the nation's capital. The plot was investigated by famed detective Allan Pinkerton, who infiltrated the group with undercover agents, including Kate Warne, one of the first female private detectives in America. Had the assassination succeeded, there would have been no Lincoln Presidency and the course of the Civil War and American history would have forever been altered.

??????Humorton Backstage at the Lincoln AssassinationThe Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's TheatreRegnery Publishing

This is a transcript of NARA M599 Reels 8-15. It contains the arguments and summaries as well as the full testimony of each witness. It also contains the testimony of the perjured witnesses. This along with "The Lincoln Assassination: The Evidence" and The Lincoln Assassination: The Reward Files" constitute a large majority of the primary evidence of the assassination.

"The eight people charged with conspiring to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln were tried by a military commission under military law. The author contends that this was illegal. The many ways in which the defendants' rights were violated are described, as are the ways in which the trial testimony was either not accurate or not legally obtained"--

John Harrison Surratt, Jr., was a courier for the Confederate Secret Service and the only one of John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators in the Lincoln assassination plot to escape hanging by the U.S. government. Fleeing vengeful authorities in the wake of the assassination, Surratt traveled through three continents and served in the Papal Zouaves before being arrested in Egypt. His 1867 trial was a sensation, ending in a hung jury. Upon his release, he sought a quiet life away from the spotlight but privately suffered the consequences of his acts. The most complete study of Surratt's life to date, this book addresses many unanswered questions and considers theories that have received little attention.

On May 1, 1865, two weeks after Abraham Lincoln's assassination, recently inaugurated president Andrew Johnson appointed John Frederick Hartranft to command the military prison at the Washington Arsenal, where the U.S. government had just incarcerated the seven men and one woman accused of complicity in the shooting. From that day through the execution of four of the accomplices, the Pennsylvania-born general held responsibility for the most notorious prisoners in American history. A strict adherent to protocol, Hartranft kept a meticulously detailed account of his experiences in the form of a letterbook. In *The Lincoln Assassination Conspirators*, noted Lincoln scholars Edward Steers, Jr., and Harold Holzer, in partnership with the National Archives, present this fascinating historical record for the first time with contextual materials and expert annotations, providing a remarkable glimpse behind the scenes of the assassination's aftermath. Hartranft oversaw every aspect of the prisoners' daily lives, from making sure they were fed and kept clean to ensuring that no one communicated with them except on the written orders of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. In his Letterbook, Hartranft scrupulously recounts the arrival of each prisoner and describes the prison routine -- which included three simple meals a day, a twice-daily cell inspection by Hartranft himself, and frequent physical examinations by an army physician. The prisoners wore wrist and leg shackles and, controversially, most of them wore special hoods designed to isolate them from their surroundings. When the conspirators' trial began, the nation waited eagerly for news, and many sought retribution against those they held responsible for the nation's grief. Hartranft resisted calls for both vengeance and mercy and continued to treat his notorious charges as humanely as possible, facilitating meetings with clergy and sending letters to and from family members. Yet, as his detached, detailed description of the execution of four of the conspirators shows, he did not allow emotion to impede the performance of his duty. The legal and moral issues surrounding the conspirators' trial -- the extraordinary use of military rather than civil justice, the treatment of the accused while incarcerated, the fine line between swift and precipitous justice -- remain volatile, unsettled issues today. Hartranft's keen observations, ably analyzed by historians Steers and Holzer, will add a riveting new chapter to the story of Lincoln's assassination.

When beginning to write the six novels covering the Abraham Lincoln Assassination Trial of the Century in 1865, I learned more about "history" than I could ever have imagined. In one of my novels written in 2014, *Sisters of Mercy - The Runaway Scrape*, a story about how brave Sam Houston was on the battlefield and how Texas won their independence is written in textbooks by the victors, the Texians. You might ask yourself, what history did my story come from...from the writings of Dilue Rose Harris and the *Runaway Scrape*, of course. The Texians won, so history was written by the victors. Can you read or speak Spanish? If so, pick up the history books written by historians from Mexico City. It tells a complete different story, but, of course, there is no truth to what they say, right? In the Lincoln Assassination, the history we have been taught is that which was written by the Northern newspapers...ones such as Harper's Weekly, The New York Tribune or the Washington Evening Star. Their narratives of events and how the North either won or lost different battles

have a complete different version from those written by Southern newspapers. Look in textbooks and you will find most of what the Northern journalists wrote got transitioned into these books of education. During World War II, Winston Churchill is quoted as saying, "History is written by the victors!" I have been told that the North's only real claim to victory is that, because the North won, might tell fewer lies about their adversaries, the South. The North has put its stake in the ground and claims to control the past as well as the future. Take a look at President Jimmy Carter and President Gerald Ford...they gave amnesty to General Robert E. Lee and President Jefferson Davis, but it was over 125 years after the War Between the States. Can you believe that? Now, take Book 2, The Pursuit and Capture of John Wilkes Booth and the Trial of David Herold. The Northern newspapers and the Northern generals and colonels decided the fate of eight individuals. You tell me this was a fair trial! You tell me David Herold with the mind of an eleven year old should have died on the gallows! This novel, as well as the next three in the series, will take the reader through the capture and killing of John Wilkes Booth. You will have front row seats to all of the witnesses and testimony, including circumstantial evidence and material evidence in the trial. You will be able to determine if the Northern officers of the military tribunal made the right choice when it came time to vote on the death penalty for the four conspirators being tried. In the writing of this novel, every effort has been presented by actual trial transcripts, just the way it happened in 1865. As the author, no decision are made on the truth or falsity of any statements, they are only presented word for word from the transcripts. You decide! I leave you from my era in history, the Vietnam War. Although this can be considered an example of history written by the losers and not the victors, its accounts in history books can be debatable whether the United States lost the war, but surely we did not win it? But, still the majority of historical documentation for the War comes from us right here in America. Following up on Book 2 will be the third in this series which will cover another conspirator, Lewis Thornton Payne, or some may call him Paine, Woods, or even Mosby? Its scheduled release is August 15, 2015. George Orwell said once while writing 1984..."We are all capable of believing things which we know to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right."

LINCOLN - The Lost Cause Book 1 in the Lincoln Assassination Series President Abraham Lincoln once said, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt!" President Jefferson Davis once said, "I worked night and day for twelve years to prevent the war, but I could not. The North was mad and blind, would not let us govern ourselves, and so the war came." More than 150 years later, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln remains one of the most significant events in United States history. It continues until this very day, attracting the interest of scholars, writers like myself, and armchair historians. This series is very special to my heart. It begins with the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861, and passes by the four war years and continues with his assassination by David Edgar Herold, a 23-year old pharmacist who was living in Washington City. Wait! Did you just say who? If you did, then follow this book from start to finish and you will find out that not only did John Wilkes Booth die for his involvement in the assassination, but so did four others. Many novels define John Wilkes Booth as a lone deranged actor and a madman who struck from a twisted lust for vengeance. This is not true. He was neither alone nor was he mad. According to the U. S. federal government, over 250 people were taken into custody and interrogated. Later books in the series will take you through the actual military trial of the other's conspirators, including the first woman ever executed by the United States Government. This novel will also cover that fateful night of Lincoln's assassination. It will follow the 12-day chase for John Wilkes Booth and David Herold. Then, it will follow the burial route and final resting place for Lincoln. The trial will not be covered in this novel, but the day of execution of the conspirators is included along with the burial of the other assassins. Then, the chase and capture of Jefferson Davis is told, along with his two year imprisonment by the federal government. Are you aware that it wasn't until 1977 during Jimmy Carter's term in office that Davis was posthumously forgiven for his role in the civil war and made a U. S. Citizen? The novel includes the inauguration, the assassination, the funeral, capture of John Wilkes Booth, the execution, the arrest and imprisonment of Jefferson Davis and later his funeral held in Metairie, Louisiana. Below are a few words his wife said while traveling down Poydras in downtown New Orleans. The funeral procession was over three miles long as mourners paid their respect to the South's President, Jefferson Davis. "Dear, I was thinking out loud how sad a day this has been. The United States War Department did not recognize your father. The United States flag did not fly at half-mast. It flew at half-mast throughout the south." Varina began to cry again. She raised her handkerchief up to blot the tears running down her cheek. "He is the only former Secretary of War not given the respect and honor due him by the United States Government." She sighed, clasping her slender hands together in her lap, and stared at them, lost with her emotions. "Mother, don't fret about it. Father's funeral service was, I am sure, attended by far more people than those who attended Abraham Lincoln's. The South loves him. We love the South."

The Lincoln Assassination LINCOLN - The Pursuit of John Wilkes Booth and Trial of Davy Herold Lincoln Assassination Series Book 2 A month before the firing at Fort Sumter, Robert E. Lee said, "There is a terrible war coming, and these young men who have never seen war cannot wait for it to happen, but I tell you, I wish that I owned every slave in the South, for I would free them all to avoid this war!" "History is written by the victors." – Winston Churchill Soldiers killed John Wilkes Booth at Garrett's farmhouse in Virginia twelve days after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln. The last entry in a red diary found on his person the night of his death was, "Our country owed all her troubles to Abraham Lincoln. God simply made me the instrument of his punishment. I have entirely too great a soul to die like a criminal... spare me that and let me die bravely." Lincoln had another nightmare three days before his assassination. In it, he awoke to the cries of men, women, and children all around. The president met face-to-face a shocking surprise after walking from his bedroom down the stairs of the Executive Mansion. In front of him was an open coffin wrapped all around in funeral vestments. Soldiers were lining the walls of the chambers, and numerous mourners were passing by his body. Lincoln walked over to one of the guards and asked, "Who is it that lies there dead?" The guard nearest the corpse said, "It's the President.

He was shot and killed by an assassin." This book will follow Booth, and the federal forces extensive manhunt to capture him. It will also bring to the attention of the reader reasons why there still remain questions unanswered. According to the memoirs of one of the soldiers, the man killed the night at Garrett's farmhouse, had a red mustache, and Booth's was black. Furthermore, according to Doctor Samuel Mudd, Booth shaved his mustache off when he was only twelve hours out of Washington City, having his broken leg set. Every memoir of the Civil War provides us with a different view of what happened during the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Asia Booth's memoirs of her famous brother never found their release to the public until 1938, after she was long gone. Some information locked up in the archives of the actual documents surrounding the assassination was not released until 1965. Comparing those documents to the reports printed in the newspapers will make anyone reading the information amazed at the truth surrounding the entire conspiracy in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. While researching information on the assassination of Lincoln, I discovered the FBI was still investigating John Wilkes Booth over a hundred plus years after his death. Soldiers present at his capture and death tried to assure the Colonel that who they killed was not John Wilkes Booth because they knew him personally. Years of documents and DNA tests are beginning to prove that the man discovered at Garrett's farmhouse was, in fact, someone else, not John Wilkes Booth.

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.

Think You Know Everything about the Lincoln Assassination? Think Again. After 150 years, many unsolved mysteries and enduring urban legends still surround the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by the popular stage actor John Wilkes Booth. In a new look at the case, award-winning history author Robert J. Hutchinson (The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible) explores what we know, and don't know, about what really happened at Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865. In addition, he argues that the deep-seated political hatreds that roiled Washington, D.C., in the final weeks of the Civil War are particularly relevant to our own polarized age. Among the tantalizing questions Hutchinson explores are: * Did the Confederacy have a hand in the assassination plot? * Who were Booth's secret accomplices, and why did he change the plan from kidnapping to assassination? * Why was it so easy for Booth to walk into the president's box to shoot him? Where were the guards? * How did Booth evade the largest manhunt in U.S. history for nearly two weeks despite being unable to walk? * Who gave the order to shoot Booth in the Garrett barn—and what happened to his body? Drawing upon both primary sources and the best recent historical research, What Really Happened: The Lincoln Assassination separates established facts from mere conjectures—and is the one book to own if you want to know "what really happened." Also look for the second book in the series: What Really Happened: The Death of Hitler, coming August 2020.

"In this novel, set in the closing weeks of the American Civil War, actor John Wilkes Booth is recruited by the Southern Confederacy to assemble a team and develop a plan to kidnap the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Not known to Booth is that his team are intended to be decoys, to attract suspicion upon themselves and away from similar plots by rebel soldiers and spies. Believing that the fate of the Confederacy rests upon himself and his cohorts, Booth makes his plans and watches for an opportunity. When it appears that the South is collapsing, and it is too late to save it, the frustrated Booth changes his plans from kidnapping to assassination. This historical novel is closer to actual events and characters than any other fictional work. Care has been taken to represent the people involved in this story as history presents them to us. Most of the events of the story are likewise based upon real events, from actual historical accounts. Here is all the drama of a modern murder mystery, the frustration and grief of those suddenly deprived of their leader, husband, father, friend and savior. Here, too, is the desperation of those who tried to reverse the course of events through desperate and dangerous all-or-nothing action. Likewise, we see the fear of those whose actions are suddenly found to cast suspicion upon them. This story is full of drama, and of irony, more so than in most mysteries or action stories. There are lessons to be learned, and little-known details to be found, as well as entertainment to be had from a story whose diverse pathways gradually run together toward the explosive impact of one of the major events of American history."-- Provided by publisher.

LINCOLN – The Lost Cause Book 1 in the Lincoln Assassination Series President Abraham Lincoln once said, "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt!" President Jefferson Davis once said, "I worked night and day for twelve years to prevent the war, but I could not. The North was mad and blind, would not let us govern ourselves, and so the war came." More than 150 years later, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln remains one of the most significant events in United States history. It continues until this very day, attracting the interest of scholars, writers like myself, and armchair historians. This series is very special to my heart. It begins with the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1861, and passes by the four war years and continues with his assassination by David Edgar Herold, a 23-year old pharmacist who was living in Washington City. Wait! Did you just say who? If you did, then follow this book from start to finish and you will find out that not only did John Wilkes Booth die for his involvement in the assassination, but so did four others. Many novels define John Wilkes Booth as a lone deranged actor and a madman who struck from a twisted lust for vengeance. This is not true. He was neither alone nor was he mad. According to the U. S. federal government, over 250 people were taken into custody and interrogated. Later books in the series will take you through the actual military trial of the other's conspirators, including the first woman ever executed by the United States Government. This novel will also cover that fateful night of Lincoln's assassination. It will

follow the 12-day chase for John Wilkes Booth and David Herold. Then, it will follow the burial route and final resting place for Lincoln. The trial will not be covered in this novel, but the day of execution of the conspirators is included along with the burial of the other assassins. Then, the chase and capture of Jefferson Davis is told, along with his two year imprisonment by the federal government. Are you aware that it wasn't until 1977 during Jimmy Carter's term in office that Davis was posthumously forgiven for his role in the civil war and made a U. S. Citizen? The novel includes the inauguration, the assassination, the funeral, capture of John Wilkes Booth, the execution, the arrest and imprisonment of Jefferson Davis and later his funeral held in Metairie, Louisiana. Below are a few words his wife said while traveling down Poydras in downtown New Orleans. The funeral procession was over three miles long as mourners paid their respect to the South's President, Jefferson Davis. "Dear, I was thinking out loud how sad a day this has been. The United States War Department did not recognize your father. The United States flag did not fly at half-mast. It flew at half-mast throughout the south." Varina began to cry again. She raised her handkerchief up to blot the tears running down her cheek. "He is the only former Secretary of War not given the respect and honor due him by the United States Government." She sighed, clasping her slender hands together in her lap, and stared at them, lost with her emotions. "Mother, don't fret about it. Father's funeral service was, I am sure, attended by far more people than those who attended Abraham Lincoln's. The South loves him. We love the South."

"In this encyclopedia of Lincoln's assassination, Edward Steers, Jr., the foremost scholar of the assassination, has assembled knowledge of the subject scattered in documents and writings over a period of nearly a century and a half, organized it authoritatively and comprehensively, and written about it clearly." —William Hanchett, author of *Out of the Wilderness: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* The definitive A-to-Z reference to the Abraham Lincoln assassination by Edward Steers, author of *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. With a foreword by Manhunt author James L. Swanson.

When John Wilkes Booth fired his derringer point-blank into President Abraham Lincoln's head, he set in motion a series of dramatic consequences that would upend the lives of ordinary Washingtonians and Americans alike. In a split second, the story of a nation was changed. During the hours that followed, America's future would hinge on what happened in a cramped back bedroom at Petersen's Boardinghouse, directly across the street from Ford's Theatre. There, a twenty-three-year-old surgeon -- fresh out of medical school -- struggled to keep the president alive while Mary Todd Lincoln moaned at her husband's bedside. In *Lincoln's Final Hours*, author Kathryn Canavan takes a magnifying glass to the last moments of the president's life and to the impact his assassination had on a country still reeling from a bloody civil war. With vivid, thoroughly researched prose and a reporter's eye for detail, this fast-paced account not only furnishes a glimpse into John Wilkes Booth's personal and political motivations but also illuminates the stories of ordinary people whose lives were changed forever by the assassination. While countless works on the Lincoln assassination exist, *Lincoln's Final Hours* moves beyond the well-known traditional accounts, offering readers a front-row seat to the drama and horror of Lincoln's death by putting them in the shoes of the audience in Ford's Theatre that dreadful evening. Through her careful narration of the twists of fate that placed the president in harm's way, of the plotting conversations Booth had with his accomplices, and of the immediate aftermath of the assassination, Canavan illustrates how the experiences of a single night changed the course of history.

The first book to explicitly name white supremacy as the motivation for Lincoln's assassination, *America's Original Sin* is an important and eloquent look at one of the most notorious episodes in American history.

On the night of April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in what he envisioned part of a scheme to plunge the federal government into chaos and gain a reprieve for the struggling Confederacy. The plan failed. By April 26, Booth was killed resisting capture and eight of the nine conspirators eventually charged in Lincoln's murder were in custody. Their trial would become one of the most famous and most controversial in U.S. history. New president Andrew Johnson's executive order on May 1 directed that persons charged with Lincoln's murder stand trial before a military tribunal. The trial lasted more than fifty days, and 366 witnesses gave testimony. Benn Pitman, a recognized expert in phonography, an early form of shorthand, was awarded the government contract to produce a transcription of each day's testimony. Pitman made these transcripts available to the prosecution and the defense, as well as to select members of the press. Although three versions of the trial testimony were published, Pitman's edited collection was the most accessible. He skillfully winnowed the 4,300 pages of transcription into one volume, collated the testimony by defendant, indexed the testimony by name and date, and added summaries of the testimony. In *The Trial*, assassination scholars guide readers through all 421 pages of testimony, illuminating Pitman's record. By drawing together the evidence that resulted in the conspirators' convictions, *The Trial* leaves no doubt as to the events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, making this book a fascinating account of the trial as well as an essential resource.

On April 22, 1865, Brevet Colonel H. L. Burnett was assigned to head the investigation into the murder of President Abraham Lincoln and the attempted murder of Secretary of State William H. Seward. Burnett orchestrated the collection of thousands of documents for the Military Commission's trial of the conspirators. This deep archive of documentary evidence--consisting of letters, depositions, eyewitness accounts, investigative reports, and other documents--provides invaluable insight into the historical, cultural, and judicial context of the investigation. Only a fraction of the information presented in these documents ever made its way into the trial, and most of it has never been readily accessible. By presenting an annotated and indexed transcription of these documents, this volume offers significant new access to information on the events surrounding the assassination and a vast new store of social and political history of the Civil War era. "With tears in my eyes I think it your duty to hang every rebel caught. I feel as bad as if was my own mother or father & will be one to volunteer to try & shoot every Southern man. May God have mercy on the man's soul that done

such a deed. With much Respect for our Country, I remain Weeping” --Anonymous letter, New York, April 15, 1865 “I know Booth. He was in the habit of coming to my place to shoot. . . . He shot well, and practiced to shoot with accuracy in every possible position. . . . He was a quick shot; always silent, reticent.” --Deposition of Benjamin Barker, Pistol Gallery proprietor

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