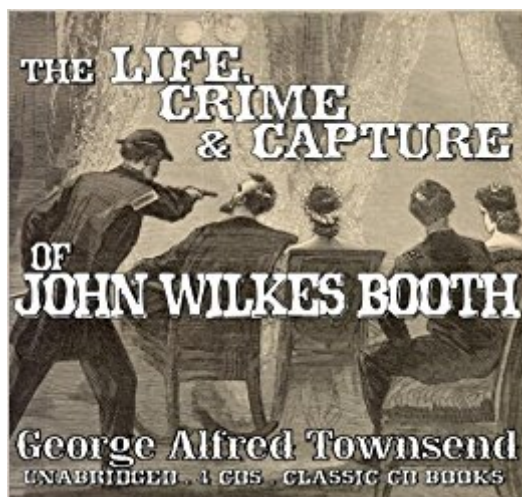


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# The Life, Crime And Capture Of John Wilkes Booth



## Synopsis

This fascinating account was written as the events of Lincoln's assassination unfolded, and contains insight into the chaos that surrounded it. Interesting details of Booth and his motives, the manhunt, as well as the speedy trial and execution of the conspirators. Now for the first time, this collection of letters that first appeared in the World is available on CD.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

George Alfred Townsend was one of the most widely-read reporters of his day. His position allowed him unrivaled access to the information available from the police at the time.

This, in its day, was a "media sensation." The assassination of Abraham Lincoln launched John Wilkes Booth into infamy--not the kind of "fame" he was hoping for. Townsend was a writer for the New York Herald and used the pen name "Gath". Being a student of the Lincoln assassination, I have always believed that Gath was responsible, whether rightly or wrongly, for the large degree of infamy that surrounds Booth. It was a time when Lincoln was being martyred, a Christlike figure, while his assassin was being demonized, a Judas figure. With the country still in mourning in 1866, Gath had no trouble rousing people to heights of fury over the crime. He does it in this book. I have been looking for it for many years and was only able to find it in a library, so when it appeared on under the heading "Abraham Lincoln", I knew I could finally acquire it. Even today it is difficult to look at John Wilkes Booth as anyone other than the assassin. We forget that he was a well-known and very popular actor, young and handsome, and making money. The depictions by authors both

then and today of John as a madman or insane or (and this is my favorite)"failed" actor are unjustified. I recommend this book for anyone interested in one view of the whole assassination story, from April 14, 1865, to April 26, 1865, when Booth was cornered in a burning barn in Virginia and shot by a Union soldier. The book is an easy read, and would be suitable for young people in high school as well as adults. It is a welcome addition to any library about Lincoln or Booth. This was an Verified Purchase.

Really this audiobook is for more than the casual student of the Lincoln murder. It's not an easy listen. Sometimes it's confusing even though it is a reading of accounts as written in the media at that time. I found myself getting lost at times. Another thing that disappointed me is that the reader of the text of the audiobook actually mispronounced words more than once. For instance, he calls Secretary of State Seward- "Steward." It's not one of the audiobooks that I look forward to hearing again.

Did you know J W Booth came from a long line of Jewish actors.

This book was very hard to follow. I have read a lot of lit about Lincoln's assassination and about Booth and have been entertained. But this book could not hold my interest. Even though it was hard to follow, it WAS factual.

I didn't listen to the other reviews because I wanted to see what I thought of it I highly recommend this book to you.

Of course Townsend's work has been around for over a hundred years. It is unfortunate that he subscribed to the official government story concerning the escape and capture of John Wilkes Booth, when there was evidence out there to disprove the contentions.

Don't read 'The Life, Crime, and Capture of John Wilkes Booth' by George Alfred Townsend if you want to learn about the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the 12-day manhunt that concluded in Garrett's Farm with the death of Booth and the capture of his accomplice. This book can be detrimental to learning about the affair because of its hit-and-miss facts, its awful spelling, and sometimes overcharged emotion. Watch [American Experience: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln](#), a video by PBS, or read a modern account of the story such as [Manhunt: The](#)

12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer" by James L. Swanson. Wikipedia has a good write-up on the 'Assassination of Abraham Lincoln' that liberally refers to the aforementioned book by Swanson. This particular book has a problem with being misused because it is the only book that you will find in Project Gutenberg if you enter 'John Wilkes Booth' as a search word. A reader could innocently believe that the Assassination of Lincoln was such a major event - and the crime was committed by a well-known actor - that the facts may have been well-understood in the aftermath of the crime. Such an assumption in this case is fatal. After learning about the assassination of Lincoln and about John Wilkes Booth from accurate sources, you may find some value in a piece such as this one. Reading this article requires the skills of the historian to separate the wheat from the chaff. These letters from George Alfred Townsend are source documents that have to be evaluated. Why Townsend didn't bother to edit his journal is a mystery. This book is available for free on Project Gutenberg and about the only thing you can say about it is the price is right.

I enjoyed listening to the abridged CD version of this book. Written by reporter George Townsend at the time of the Lincoln assassination, this collection of letters offers a vivid portrait of the events that surrounded the tragic moment at Ford's Theater when President Lincoln was mortally wounded. Eric Sellin does a good job as the narrator. I recommend this for any history buff or student of Abraham Lincoln.

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