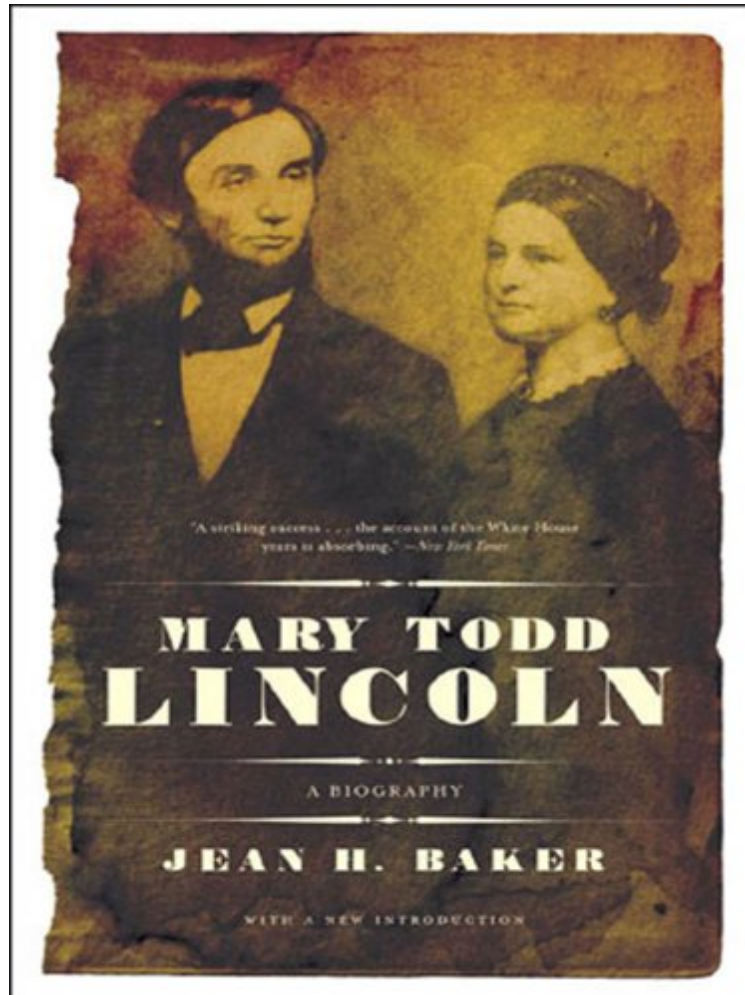


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## Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography: A Biography Reissue

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

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Our Most Tragic First LadyVon Heather K PeakeDr Baker is a fine researcher and historian, and she does a beautiful job of looking at the time in which Mary Todd Lincoln lived, and why she did and did not fit within the context of the times.Mary was, from the beginning, a woman who knew what she wanted from life. Her marriage to Abraham Lincoln was a leap of faith; she defied the wishes of her extended family on the personal certainty that he would one day rise to national prominence. While the personalities of both made the union a sometimes rocky one, it was also a deeply loving one.The trouble for Mary really began when they moved to the White House. After years of acting as his

closest advisor, like so many First Ladies, she found herself shoved into a secondary role. After years of near-poverty, she was offered her choice of goods by merchants wanting to trade on the Lincoln name, leading to a staggering, hidden accumulation of debt. And then came the crushing personal losses: the death of her beloved young son Willie in 1862 and, of course, the assassination of her husband in 1865. Baker unfortunately fails to present a balanced picture of the dark months leading up to Mrs. Lincoln's insanity trial in the 1870s. In Baker's thesis, Mary was perfectly sane, railroaded into the looney bin by her vindictive son, Robert. But no matter how you spin it, her behavior at that time was aberrant, and with the limited knowledge of the treatment of mental disorders available at that time, Robert had few choices to deal with his mother's obvious emotional difficulties. His move to have her committed was not an act of vindictiveness on his part, but an extension of his long-held sense of duty to care for her. It was an act that cost them both dearly, for the breach in their relationship never really healed, and these two lonely survivors of a once-happy family had to carry on alone. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating account. Von MelloCello While Jean H. Baker has done meticulous research and her work is liberally footnoted, reading between the lines one finds a sympathetic account of one woman by another. Mary Todd Lincoln was one of the most misunderstood and reviled women of her day, for behavior that today we might understand as acting out depression, grief, anxiety and fear. I couldn't help but also feel a connection to this woman trying to survive in a repressive, male-centered society. So much has been written that portrays her husband as a saint and her as a shrew, that it's refreshing to read a more balanced view that is probably much closer to the way it really was. Mary Todd Lincoln deserves another look, both as a brave first lady enduring unimaginable tragedy and as a woman who was perhaps better suited to a different time in history. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mary Mary Todd Lincoln was a woman out-of-place. Von Joanne M. Stanton While reading *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, I realized how distorted history can become when one listens and doesn't research. It appears that Mary Todd Lincoln was not insane at all. She was just a nasty, pushy woman with personality quirks who gave birth to a greedy, unfaithful son. This book will make you want to read more about the life of one of the most misunderstood women of history.

Kurzbeschreibung "A complex and moving character study of a woman tragically out of step with her time and place." Chicago Tribune 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. 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.