



Assassin

Anna Myers

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Would you betray your president to win the heart of America's most celebrated actor?

Bella isn't evil. But even people with good intentions can end up doing bad things. Especially when they meet people with the power to persuade them to do almost anything, like John Wilkes Booth—the most charismatic and famous actor of his time.

So when Booth sets his sights on Bella, an assistant seamstress to Mary Todd Lincoln, to help with his plot to kidnap President Lincoln, he is able to persuade her to betray her president and even turn her back on the boy she has loved her entire life. Bella believes Booth is only trying to force the North to release Southern war prisoners, and will not harm her dear friend Mr. Lincoln. But the kidnapping plot fails, and now Booth will stop at nothing—even if it means harming Bella in the process.

Anna Myers has crafted a provocative new look at the Lincoln assassination through the eyes of both a young White House insider and the assassin himself. An author's note provides the historical background to this tragic event.

Assassin Details

Date : Published September 3rd 2005 by Walker Childrens

ISBN : 9780802789891

Author : Anna Myers

Format : Hardcover 192 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Abandoned, Young Adult Historical Fiction, Military History, Civil War

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Mindi says

This book takes place in the south during the civil war. Arribella is the main character and she lives with her grandmother because her mother just recently died and her father told her that he needed some time alone. Arribella's mother and father both performed in theater and that has always wanted to perform on stage but her grandmother disagreed with her decision. Arribella works in the white house with the sewing lady for Mrs. Lincoln. Arribella goes to a small school hidden in an alley. At school she meets this guy named Steven and falls greatly for him. Steven is smart so he goes away for college just a few years after he meets Arribella. When Steven comes home for a while he takes Arribella to Ford's theater to watch a play but when they get there it is all sold out so he gives her the money to go to a play whenever she wants. When she ends up going to a play she meets the costume maker and talks to her about helping for no pay just tickets. The costume maker agrees and Arribella has to cut down on her time at the white house. One night while Arribella is at Ford's theater she meets a famous actor John Wilks Booth. He decides to ask her to go to dinner with him and ask her to help him with kidnapping the president. At dinner Arribella tells Booth that she would have to think about helping him with him. At the theater the next day Arribella tells Booth that she will help him. Booth as a director watches Arribella recite a part of a play and he gives her a standing ovation but he never asks her to help out with anything which makes Arribella upset. On Booth's first attempt to kidnap the president it does not work out as well as he thought it would. A few days later he finds out that the war has ended and now he needs to get revenge. The Lincoln family goes to Ford's theater to see a play and that is when Wilks makes his final move. Wilks kidnaps Arribella in fear that she would tell someone about his plan. He takes her to the basement of the theater and locks her in a small closet that has no air. He tells her to squat down so that he can drill her a small hole so that she is able to breathe. But he also told her that he didn't know if he would be able to come back and get her after he kills the president. So she might die while she is in the closet. Wilks drills a hole in the door of the part where the Lincolns are going to be sitting. So that the gun can be placed through the hole. Wilks kills the president and gets away for three days. Then he was found. Arribella was found and let free as long as she told everything that Wilks told her. Which she did. I think that the theme is that sometimes people tell you what you shouldn't do and even though you want to do it you should listen because of the things that could happen.

Jenna says

Wow... this was a really good book. I usually don't like historical fiction, but this was really good. It's about the civil war, an innocent girl, and a fanatic. I love the book:

Wilkes

Ah, fair Bella, I regret what happened to you. Truly I do, but I want the world to know that I could not have spared you. No, no, I couldn't. You were part of a plan, a plan much larger, a plan much more important than one girl, no matter how sweet.

Bella

He noticed me then. I could feel his eyes on my burning face, but I looked only at the hem of the coat I held in my lap. My heart pounded as I heard his steps on the floor... He moved closer to me. "You aren't afraid of me, are you--" He paused.

...I had to look slightly away from those eyes before I could speak.

"No sir," I said. "I am not afraid of you." It was a lie. I did fear him, feared the weak feeling I had when his eyes looked deep into mine.

Johannes says

Assassin, a historical fiction book, was written by Anna Myers. She has won the Oklahoma Book Award for Children's Books three times. One of those awards she received for Assassin. Other books Myers wrote books including Tulsa Burning, Wart, Confessions from the Principal's Chair, and many more.

In Assassin, Bella's mother dies, forcing her to move from Richmond to Washington D.C. to live with her grandmother. Her grandmother works as a seamstress for the president's wife. Adjusting to her new life was hard for Bella until she meets Steven, a boy who goes to her school. They play and talk together every day. Steven even had access to The White House where he was friends with Mr. Lincoln's sons. Everything was going alright until Steven moved away. They still wrote letters to each other, but things definitely got harder for both of them. Bella then met John Wilkes Booth. A famous actor who uses his charming looks and smooth voice, to persuade Bella to help him kidnap the president to hopefully turn the tide of the war to The South's side.

One lesson that could be taken from this book is that people should be careful about who they trust. Although someone may seem like a trustworthy person just by the way they look, it's the person's heart and motives that really matter. Another lesson is to be true to your friends. During an important part of the book, Bella is faced with a decision to either go spend time with her friend Steven or stay with Mr. Booth. She ends up making the wrong decision and stays with Mr. Booth and damages her relationship with Steven. She now has to find a way to make this right.

I personally loved this book. I'm not much of a reader myself, but this book is definitely an exception and I would most likely read it again. My favorite part of the book was towards the end when the story really starts to pick up the pace. For instance when Booth suggests the plan to capture the President to Bella. There was so much excitement, that I did not want to put the book down. One thing that I am on the fence about is the fact that the chapters alternate perspectives between Bella and Mr. Booth. I loved it because it often showed two different sides to one story but at the same time, the two different perspectives could be quite confusing if I was not paying attention. When there are two perspectives, like in this book, readers can often take a liking to one side more than the other, making some chapters tedious and not as enjoyable to read as the others. I would honestly not change anything about this book because it is so well written. Since it is historical fiction, it is hard to change facts about what really happened without taking away the true meaning or aesthetic. Anna Myers did a great job with the story by adding her own little details and filling in the big gaps of the original story.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves historical fiction, or anyone who needs a challenging but short read. I would also recommend it to anyone who likes thrilling and interesting stories.

Madison says

"Assassin" by Anna Myers is a great book with amazing stories. I really liked how the book went back and fourth between the two main characters, John Wilkes Booth and a little girl named Bella. "Assassin" is about the path crossings of little Bella and Wilkes after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. I think the coolest part in this book was when Bella and her friend Steven meet Abraham Lincoln. If you like history and or is interested in presidents I recommend this book for you.

Anna says

Assassin

A twisted mind, a heinous crime, and a smile that could charm the devil itself. We all know that one of history's most famous presidents Abraham Lincoln was our first president to be assassinated; but have you ever wondered what went through the seemingly crazy mind of his killer, what thought made him pull that deadly trigger? Assassin tells the thrilling and horrible story of Lincoln's assassination through the mind of a young girl who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and the murderer himself; John Wilkes Booth.

Arabella Getchel, commonly known as Bella, is an extremely beautiful girl who has to suffer the shock of moving next door to the White House after growing up in Richmond, Virginia; due to a dead mother and a drunk of a father. However it's not all bad, her grandmother is kind, she has a steady job, and she makes some new friends. For a few years she has a simple, yet peaceful life, but that all changes when she makes one too many "friends".

As you read Assassin you'll find out how the handsomest man in America, a well-loved actor (by fans and quite a few women) could so quickly become despised by all, including his beloved South. Yet before Wilkes Booth's name is scum he befriends the fair beauty Bella, and that unique and unfortunately fake friendship is what supplies us with a history and thought changing story.

Like a good author should, Anna Myers grabs your attention from the very first page. Splitting the role of narrator between the two main characters, Wilkes and Bella, she keeps your mind turning comparing the two extremely different points of view. Myers portrays Bella's character as one who is telling the story as a heart-felt confession, while Wilkes portrays the image of total and complete confidence.

One of the best things about Myers's writing style is the fact of how much it makes you really think. It makes you realize that the difference between good and evil isn't always black and white. It wasn't Booth's intention to become a hated criminal. He thought he was doing the world a favor by ridding it of the "tyrant" Lincoln. Young, sweet Bella didn't try to aide in murder; she was just suspect to the charms of someone so many had been smitten by before. And after all, doesn't everybody's' views on right and wrong differ? It's really how one perceives another's actions that bring about evil.

Besides good and evil Myers touches upon the timeless value of friendship. It's true friendship that makes everything right in the end, well not exactly right, nothing could do that; but friendship definitely makes it better. Through friendship the characters are developed, and through strengthening or weakening those bonds the story is unraveled. While something as seemingly elementary as a good friend might seem out of place in a story about a horrible murder, it finds its way in through the daily interaction of the character's lives.

Another reason why I so strongly suggest Assassin is for the history itself. While Bella may be a fictional character, Lincoln and Wilkes Booth are certainly not. The whole Lincoln family plays a part in the book, from one of the young children, Willie Lincoln, who befriends Bella, to the somewhat temperamental Mrs. Lincoln who Bella makes dresses for. The pain and the suffering of the time period play a major role in the story. And Myers keenly stresses that as she takes you back in time to experience the pain of a loved one's funeral or the unimaginable joy gained from the magical sounds of the bells declaring the wretched war to be over.

Learn the stories untold, the secrets not whispered, the undiscovered feelings of a crazily handsome and maybe flat out crazy killer. Assassin by Anna Meyers is a must read for everybody looking for a good book. It's full of thrills, romance, betrayals, lies, friendship, hardships, times that make you laugh, and times that make you cry. It will satisfy every reader, from those who want fast action adventure to those who like deep emotion stirring books. Based on a true story it's a key to a rich history about one of America's most tragic events. Open up Assassin and see if you too are charmed by a killer's smile.

Cassandra says

Spoiler alert!!

This book is set in the time that Abraham Lincoln was president. Bella lived with her father in the South until her mother died. Then he dropped her off at her Grandma's house in Washington City and said he would be back for her. He never came back. Her Grandmother sewed at the White House for Mrs. Lincoln. Bella would go to school and then go to the White House until her Grandmother was done working. Bella met a boy at school named Stephen and they became best friends. He worked at the White House and so he walked with Bella everyday. He played with Bella and the Lincoln kids everyday. One day Stephen told Bella that he was going away to an all boy school. Bella was really sad because he was her best friend. Soon after Stephen left she decided to see a play and met John Wilkes Booth. He was a charmer to all the women. Soon she was sewing there so her Grandma could retire. Booth took her out to dinner to tell her some important things. He told her that he was planning on assassinating the president and that he would need her help. She loved the president and didn't want to do anything like that, but she agreed for Booth. She found out the next day that her dad was a prisoner of war. She then knew that he wasn't coming back for her. She kept going places with Booth. Then one night Booth came to her house and told her that Lincoln was going to see a play and that they would assassinate him tonight. Bella felt like she was going to throw up, but still went with him. Booth led her to the basement of the theater. He opened a door to an old cabinet and told her to get in. She wouldn't so he forced her. He gagged her with an old cloth. Bella yelled and it was pointless because no one could hear her. She gave up on trying to get help and then noticed she might be able to break the lock with her shoulder. She slammed against it once...twice.....three times and it still wasn't broken. She smashed her shoulder into the lock one last time and it broke. She then heard people screaming and knew Lincoln was dead. She ran through the crowd and to her house. The next week Stephen suprised her with a visit. She had to tell Stephen. After she did she went to the government building and told them the story. They didn't believe her so Stephen and Bella didn't try to make them. EVeryone else who was involved in the murder was being tried in court and Booth was hanged. Telling Stephen and admitting to her crime made her feel a lot better and she forgave herself. This was a really good book. I would read it again if I got the chance. I would reccomend it to Middle School and High Schoolers.

Jillian says

I love this book! It's set during the civil war, while Lincoln is president. Bella is born in the south, but later becomes a northerner. This book really puts you into the moment. I love all the feeling and excitement! I'm not the biggest fan of historical fiction, but I really loved this book!

Jaden Desso says

Jaden Desso

11/30/17

701

The book I have read was titled, Assassin by Anna Myers, it is not part of a series.

assassins takes place in 1859 in Virginia. The book is about how a woman, named Bella, who had to struggle in life with people knowing she was related to John Wilkes Booth.

This book is one of the best books I have ever read because it is historical fiction about Abraham Lincoln and his killer John Wilkes Booth, I would rate this a 10 out of 10. If you like the Assassin, then you might like to try reading, Time of the Witches, also by Anna Myers.

Summer DeSoto says

Book 2

Book review with your 3 paragraphs,

Assassin, is about a girl named Bella, Arabella, and Wilkes. They all live in Virginia. At that time there president was Abraham Lincoln, and Wilkes was a actor at that time to but not that famous. Then at some point Bella is thinking to assassinate the president, so is Wilkes. Will they kill the president or don't?

Bella is the character that I picked for for kinda the main character. She is a 14 year old girl and a decent height for her age. She loves her president and a famous actor named Wilkes. Then later in the book she has to make up here mind about, assassinate the president with here favorite actor or keep her favorite president alive. She changes around the book when she makes a good decision and when she makes a bad decision, you will tell the difference.

Things that I did not like about the book is that when they tell their own stories they are all scattered out. They would tell their story then go to different one. And you would forget the last story because it changed and changed. I like the book because it is history kinda, and I really like history books. And was very specific about the one character.

Tomi says

Good young adult historical fiction. I must say, as a history teacher, that the author did an excellent job describing the many conflicting attitudes during the Civil War. I will be putting this book on the reading shelf in my classroom.

Aldo Avila says

**** SPOILER ALERT****

Would you risk your life to save someone else. The genre of the story is mystery fiction. I think the book is great personally. It is filled with action and romance in the story. The story is filled with kind characters and evil characters. There is many romance scenes that seem wonderful. There many action scenes that are great too. There is also some parts that will make you want to keep reading and not stop. You will find many great moments in this book you just got to keep reading.

The story takes place in the 1800's. There was still slavery in the south. The main characters are Arabella and John Wilkes Booth. Arabella is young girl who is from the south and and her dream is to act on stage.

Arabella is not bad she actually likes the president. She doesn't think he is evil at all. John Wilkes Booth on the other hand hates Mr. Lincoln. He is a very persuasive character he knows how to make girls fall in love with him. He also gets whatever he wants if means do anything. Some major events that happen in the story are that Arabella's dad is put in prison during the war between the north and the south. John Wilkes Booth had a plan to assassinate the president. The character's motivation is to free the south. The type of conflict in the story is person vs person because it is Arabella vs John Wilkes Booth who wants her to be part of his plan to assassinate the president and Arabella is not sure of helping him with his evil plan.

I was surprised when Arabella was tempted to go along with his plan. I understand why she was tempted because she was falling deeply in love with him. In the text she said "I am making a mistake but I couldn't stop myself". Sometimes I am reading and I'm telling myself "don't fall for that he doesn't mean it!". In the story John Wilkes Booth says he would be happy if Arabella was part of his evil plan. I also dislike John Wilkes Booth because he is sneaky and I don't like that. Sometimes I think that Arabella is very gullible sometimes and you could make her fall for anything. Like when she agrees to be part of his plan because she likes him. What is good about Arabella is that she chases her dreams even with people telling her not to.

I was surprised when John Wilkes Booth tied her up and put her in a trunk. The character changed the way she saw him. Instead of this nice young man he was this evil man who only cared for himself. He is just really clever and mean. Arabella is girl who cares for people besides herself. In the story she it shows that she really cares for the president and wouldn't want anything to happen to him. She really cares about Steven her bestfriend and wouldn't do anything to betray his trust. Sometimes I think she is in her own little world. In the story it says she felt like a princess as she put on the red dress waiting to meet her prince. She also loves to act too and always dreamed of working a theater. In the story it says that she rehearsed the poem over and over again until she memorized the entire poem.

In conclusion I personally give this book five stars because it is a great mixture of history and mystery. It also has a great story to it how this actor plans to assassinate the president Abraham Lincoln. The book switches off between the life of Arabella and John Wilkes Booth. It shows how someone could be tempted to do something or even be forced to do something. I would recommend this book to people who like mysteries because this book is filled with mystery and intense parts. Like when John gets chased by guards after he assassnates the president. How he traps Arabella and puts her in a trunk just to get her out of the way. This book is filled with action , mystery and a little romance in between. All combines to become a great book. I think people will really enjoy this great book.

Ethan says

Assassin is a historical fiction book about what if John Wilkes Booth got help from inside the White House from a little girl named Arabella. I have not read many historical fiction books, but this was one that I enjoyed. One thing that was noteworthy was the interactions between John Wilkes Booth and Arabella. I would recommend this book to people because I thought it was interesting and a good historical fiction book.

Hunter Alexander says

This book was quite good. It had all of the facts about Lincoln's death but with an entertainment point of view. That point of view came from Arabella, the main character, with a side story about her life. But what I

found fascinating was how Anna Meyers combined the story lines. I would certainly recommend this book to a person who finds regular history rather boring.

Judine Brey says

I appreciate that Bella is a flawed and conflicted heroine - it fits the Civil War era. While the book shows how Booth's charm and abilities could take people in, I felt the "facts" were occasionally blurry.

Kacey McMillan says

I really did not enjoy this book. I got about half way through, then I decided I didn't really like it.
