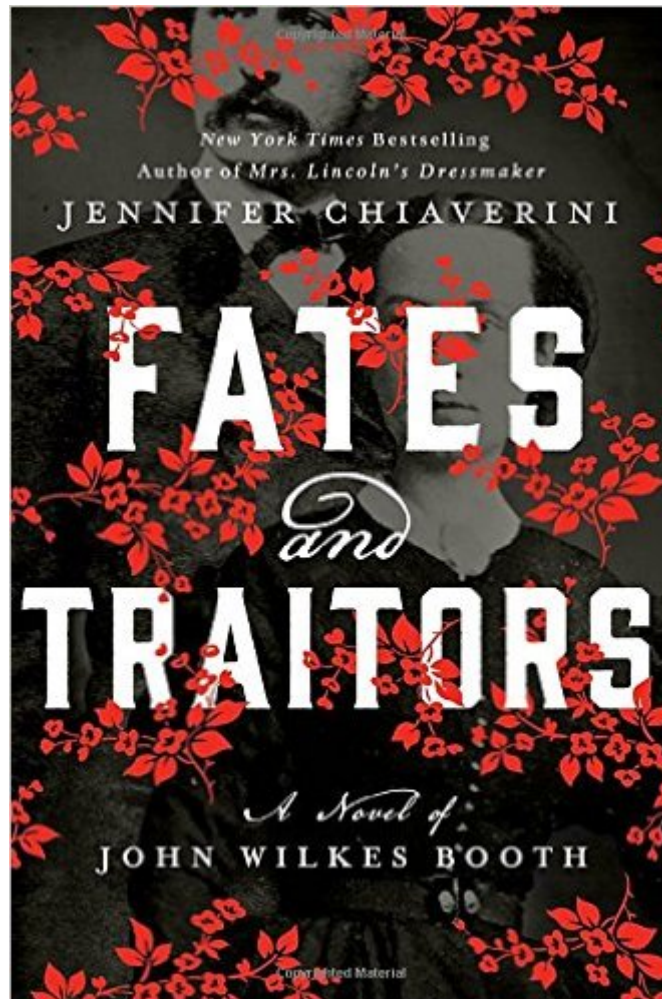


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Fates And Traitors: A Novel Of John Wilkes Booth



Synopsis

• Fates and Traitors is a novel about mothers and sons, brothers and sisters, the line between patriot and traitor, and the lengths we go to for love. A fascinating look at a slice of our country's history, an incisive portrait of obsession, and overall impossible to put down. • --Sara Gruen, New York Times bestselling author of At the Water's Edge and Water for Elephants The New York Times bestselling author of Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker returns with a riveting work of historical fiction following the notorious John Wilkes Booth and the four women who kept his perilous confidence. John Wilkes Booth, the mercurial son of an acclaimed British stage actor and a Covent Garden flower girl, committed one of the most notorious acts in American history—the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The subject of more than a century of scholarship, speculation, and even obsession, Booth is often portrayed as a shadowy figure, a violent loner whose single murderous act made him the most hated man in America. Lost to history until now is the story of the four women whom he loved and who loved him in return: Mary Ann, the steadfast matriarch of the Booth family; Asia, his loyal sister and confidante; Lucy Lambert Hale, the senator's daughter who adored Booth yet tragically misunderstood the intensity of his wrath; and Mary Surratt, the Confederate widow entrusted with the secrets of his vengeful plot. Fates and Traitors brings to life pivotal actors—some willing, others unwitting—who made an indelible mark on the history of our nation. Chiaverini portrays not just a soul in turmoil but a country at the precipice of immense change.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One can't really call this historical fiction because every fact and detail, from names, dates and events, is dead-on accurate. But Jennifer Chiaverini teaches history by capturing emotions and attitudes; she describes a tortured nation and the shock that Booth felt when he learned that in fact he was NOT seen as an American Hero, though his dying words were, "I did it for my country." "Fates and Traitors" is an exciting and captivating book for which I will now call a novel since that's how it's advertised. People who love exciting novels, beach books, bed reading, subway reading, reading for escape and joy, will be mesmerized by the end of the prologue-which is the last several hours of Booth's life- and will propell them page after page into one of America's most amazing stories. Historians will be floored by the accuracy and detail, though in their research style minds may be tempted to skip descriptive passages regarding household and emotion. They too will keep reading because aTo an historian the facts have already been humanized: something at which Chiaverini excels. Every novel must up the stakes with every page, aiming for that critical moment to satisfy the reader. The denouement. With "Fates and Traders" a large part of those stakes is just what will the denouement be? We already know that the President was shot at Ford's theatre during his second choice play, "Our American Cousin." we know that a plot was in place to kill the Vice President, Secretary of War and Secretary of State at the same time. We know that Booth jumped to the stage (Sic Semper atyanis) but broke his leg when caught in the bunting affixed to the President's box. So what will Chiaverini use to keep the stakes rising and pull us to the final page?

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