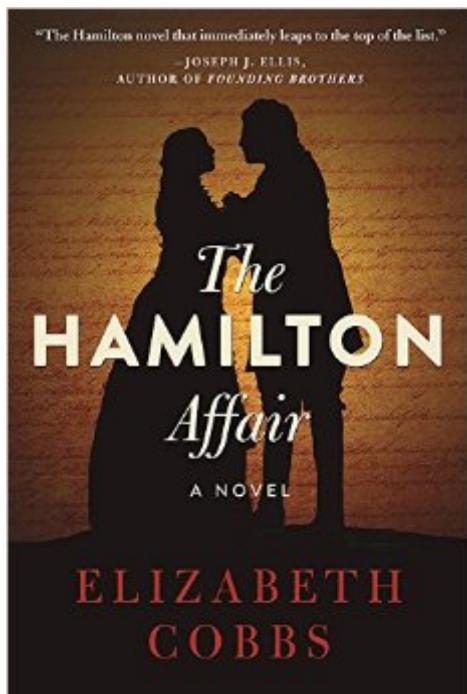


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The Hamilton Affair: A Novel



Synopsis

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the American Revolution, and featuring a cast of legendary characters, *The Hamilton Affair* tells the sweeping, tumultuous, true story of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, from passionate and tender beginnings to his fateful duel on the banks of the Hudson River. Hamilton was a bastard and orphan, raised in the Caribbean and desperate for legitimacy, who became one of the American Revolution's most dashing and improbable heroes. Admired by George Washington, scorned by Thomas Jefferson, Hamilton was a lightning rod: the most controversial leader of the new nation. Elizabeth was the wealthy, beautiful, adventurous daughter of the respectable Schuyler clan and a pioneering advocate for women. Together, the unlikely couple braved the dangers of war, the perils of seduction, the anguish of infidelity, and the scourge of partisanship that menaced their family and the country itself. With brilliantly drawn characters and an epic scope, *The Hamilton Affair* tells a story of love forged in revolution and tested by the bitter strife of young America. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade, Yucca, and Good Books imprints, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in fiction; novels, novellas, political and medical thrillers, comedy, satire, historical fiction, romance, erotic and love stories, mystery, classic literature, folklore and mythology, literary classics including Shakespeare, Dumas, Wilde, Cather, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a *New York Times* bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

Although I'm not a fan of historical fiction, I took a chance on *The Hamilton Affair* by Elizabeth Cobbs through Vine as Alexander Hamilton is one of my favorite Founding Fathers. I was pleasantly surprised that this novel was so well-researched and well-written. One observation, however, is that I thought *The Hamilton Affair* was going to be primarily about Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds, which brought such tragic consequences. But the Reynolds' affair doesn't come into play until over halfway through the novel. With the Hamilton craze happening right now because of the hit musical by the same name, *The Hamilton Affair* covers well-known territory. The viewpoints alter between Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, who he will marry in 1780. The *Hamilton Affair* follows the timeline of Hamilton's life fairly faithfully from the time of his early childhood in the Caribbean to his death at the hands of Aaron Burr in a duel in 1804. Cobbs uses letters, newspaper accounts, and journal entries to flesh out the story. She also adds some fictional characters, including Ajax Manley, a black Revolutionary War soldier who will become great friends with Hamilton and his family. Cobbs doesn't go into great detail about many aspects of Hamilton's life, but she does try to show you what she felt both Hamiltons were thinking and feeling throughout their lives and especially, in their marriage. Maybe the author comes close to what actually happened, and maybe not. But she certainly helps us visualize what might have been. One thing that was especially disturbing is how toxic the political situation was during Hamilton's life. We may think that 2016 is pretty bad, but we have nothing on the infighting between Hamilton, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison and Burr. The very sad part about Alexander Hamilton's life is that because he was killed so young, those who outlived him have written their version of history, negating the genius of Hamilton and his wonderful contributions to our country. It has taken 212 years after Hamilton's death, but he's finally getting his due.

Alexander Hamilton is the nation's first Treasury Secretary and a man so reviled that there is a movement to have him removed from the \$10 bill. A man that had become more of a footnote in history other than his notorious death by Aaron Burr until a Broadway musical became a smash hit and revived interest in this soldier, thinker, statesman. In *The Hamilton Affair*, Elizabeth Cobbs has created a novel as fascinating as Hamilton was, and one that sheds light on his unique place in history. I confess I was initially attracted to this book because of all the brouhaha about the musical. I was curious about the man that inspired such a massive hit, and knew little about him from my high school history classes. I

prepared myself for a boring affair that I hoped might enlighten me a bit. What I got was a well-done and extremely interesting book about both Hamilton and his wife Eliza. Both viewpoints are covered in this book, and Cobbs takes great care to try and do justice to both. While the book portrays Hamilton in a positive light, and attempts to demonstrate just how unjust the characterization of him has often been, it also does not shy away from the damage he caused his wife and his family. Regardless of one's feeling about the man as a whole, it is undeniable that both he and his wife accomplished some amazing things in their lifetimes. Creating the Treasury department from the ground up, ensuring veterans were able to get back pay after the war that created our nation, and even the creation of the first private orphanage in New York. These things and many more can be attributed to these amazing individuals. Sadly, Hamilton never got a chance to tell his own story, and it appears that he truly gave his life in service of his country. For it was in that service that he made so many enemies, one of whom eventually killed him. Overall, I really think this is an excellent book. It's a great place for Hamilton newbies (like myself) to begin, and might even have a unique perspective on the man for those more familiar with him than myself. I highly recommend this book, and as my highest praise it has given me the desire to research its subject even more thoroughly than before.

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