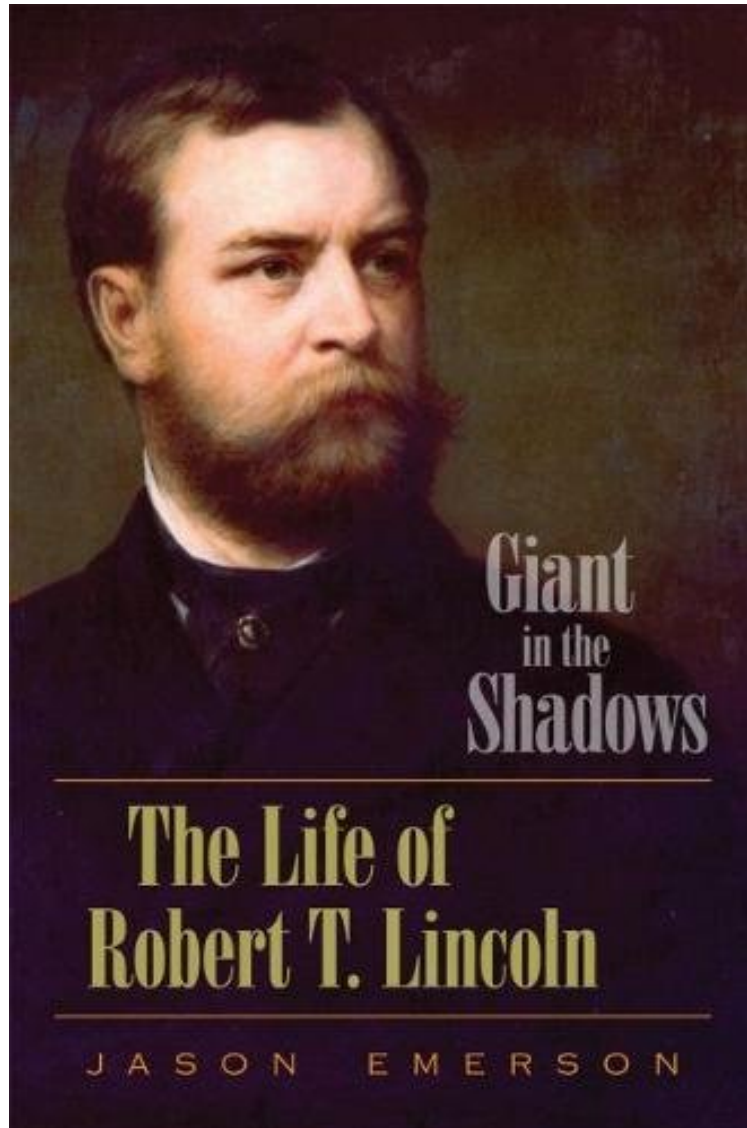


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Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln

Jason Emerson

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Jason Emerson : Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. America from the Civil War to the Roaring Twenties in one lifetimeBy James W. DurneyOnly one of Abraham Lincoln's sons live long enough to marry and have children. Christened Robert Todd Lincoln, he was Robert T. Lincoln in business and Bob to his friends.He was born in a boarding house in the 1840s and died in a mansion in the 1920s. Robert Todd Lincoln saw much of and made some of America's history in the late Nineteen Century.Jason Emerson gives us a scholarly and readable biography of a

remarkable person. The book concentrates on Lincoln's public life in business and politics. The author tells us about his private life but never descends into gossip or speculation. The only real exception is Lincoln's relationship with his mother. For very good reasons, Robert T. Lincoln committed Mary Todd Lincoln to a sanitarium (asylum). The press had a field day at his expense creating a very public embarrassment that still colors the public's views. The part of the book is very detailed. The events leading up to the hearing, the hearing, the press' reaction, the solution and Mary's feelings to Robert are treated fairly. Protecting his father's memory and managing the public record consumed large amount of Lincoln's time. He was very protective of his father's papers, working to control what is said and who said it was not an easy task. Part of this work was managing Lincoln's body. From the burial site, the structure of tomb and protecting the body from kidnappers is a constant effort. While doing this, Lincoln managed to become a well-respected Chicago lawyer, Secretary of War, Minister to England and chairman of the Pullman Car Company. An active Republican, he is mentioned as a possible candidate for President at multiple conventions. Through all of this, he refused to use his father's fame to advance himself. This is a look at our history that few can hope to duplicate. Robert T. Lincoln is in the room at Appomattox. He sees his father die, on the platform when Garfield is shot and sees McKinley hours after he is shot. In an odd twist of fate, you can see JFK's grave from Lincoln's grave. The book captures the complex character of Robert T. Lincoln. In his professional life, he is intensely formal and somewhat unforgiving. In his political persona, he gives a good speech but lacks his father's warmth. As "Bob", he is a warm caring close friend that tells excellent stories. The book contains a full set of illustrations, Bibliography, endnotes and index. It is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in Lincoln or America from the Civil War to the Roaring Twenties.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Witnessed Lee's surrender, close connection to the first three Presidential murders and his grave overlooks the forth. By Gary D. Burkholder Great read. I only wish I could give more stars. This book is full of ironies and it painted a picture of the people and the times. The 421 pages of actual text held my attention and were enjoyable. I have always been told what a young country this is and this book reminded me of that. Robert went to DC with his father when Abraham won his first congressional seat in 1847. A year later John Quincy Adams, born in 1767, died two days after he collapsed on the House floor. Robert died two years after George H.W. Bush was born. This man met and was associated with some of the most influential men in history. It is said that his name may have opened doors but his hard work, moral character, and common sense, kept the door open. The amount of tragedy in this mans life are over whelming, yet he over came it all. Truly a great man in his own right.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Man who quietly impacted America By Rick Mayo Robert Lincoln was a giant in American history who goes unrecognized by many today. He had the distinction of being Abraham Lincoln's son that would have crushed and destroyed almost any other man. To live the life he did, accomplish the work he did, impact America as he did and remain under the radar as he did is a testament to his dad and his mom. He was secure in his identity and never used it for personal gain or as an excuse, as so many of today's political families do. Robert leaves an example of how the prodigy of an historical icon should conduct themselves. You will come to understand the significance of Robert's life and the magnitude of his touch in America. You will finish this with a greater appreciation of just how much America owes to Abraham AND Robert Lincoln. Both men are to be admired and respected for their impact upon American life and values.

Although he was Abraham and Mary Lincolns oldest and last surviving son, the details of Robert T. Lincolns life are misunderstood by some and unknown to many others. Nearly half a century after the last biography about Abraham Lincolns son was published, historian and author Jason Emerson illuminates the life of this remarkable man and his achievements in *Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln*. Emerson, after nearly ten years of research, draws upon previously unavailable materials to offer the first truly definitive biography of the famous lawyer, businessman, and statesman who, much more than merely the son of Americas most famous president, made his own indelible mark on one of the most progressive and dynamic eras in United States history. Born in a boardinghouse but passing his last days at ease on a lavish country estate, Robert Lincoln played many roles during his lifetime. As a presidents son, a Union soldier, an ambassador to Great Britain, and a U.S. secretary of war, Lincoln was indisputably a titan of his age. Much like his father, he became one of the nations most respected and influential men, building a successful law practice in the city of Chicago, serving shrewdly as president of the Pullman Car Company, and at one time even being considered as a candidate for the U.S. presidency. Along the way he bore witness to some of the most dramatic moments in Americas history, including Robert E. Lees surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; the advent of the railroad, telephone, electrical, and automobile industries; the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of three presidents of the United States; and the momentous presidential election of 1912. *Giant in the Shadows* also reveals Robert T. Lincolns complex relationships with his famous parents and includes previously unpublished insights into their personalities. Emerson reveals new details about Roberts role as his fathers confidant during the brutal years of the Civil War and his reaction to his fathers murder; his prosecution of the thieves who attempted to steal his fathers body in 1876 and the extraordinary measures he took to ensure it would never happen again; as well as details about the painful decision to have his mother committed to a mental facility. In addition Emerson explores the relationship between Robert and his children, and exposes the actual story of his stewardship of the Lincoln legacy including what

he and his wife really destroyed and what was preserved. Emerson also delves into the true reason Robert is not buried in the Lincoln tomb in Springfield but instead was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Meticulously researched, full of never-before-seen photographs and new insight into historical events, *Giant in the Shadows* is the missing chapter of the Lincoln family story. Emerson's riveting work is more than simply a biography; it is a tale of American achievement in the Gilded Age and the endurance of the Lincoln legacy. University Press Books for Public and Secondary Schools 2013 edition Book of the Year by the Illinois State Historical Society, 2013

It has never been easy growing up or living in the public eye. To do so under the enormous shadow cast by our 16th president would test the resiliency of even the doughtiest character. As historian Jason Emerson details in in this richly informative biography, Robert Todd Lincoln, the only one of Abraham Lincoln's children to survive into adulthood, bore his peculiar burden with quiet grace and admirable dignity. Ron Reagan, political commentator and author of *My Father at 100*. Mr. Emerson's impressive research and eye for detail yield dozens of ...interesting though little-known historical tidbits. His writing is enjoyable and accessible... Wall Street Journal