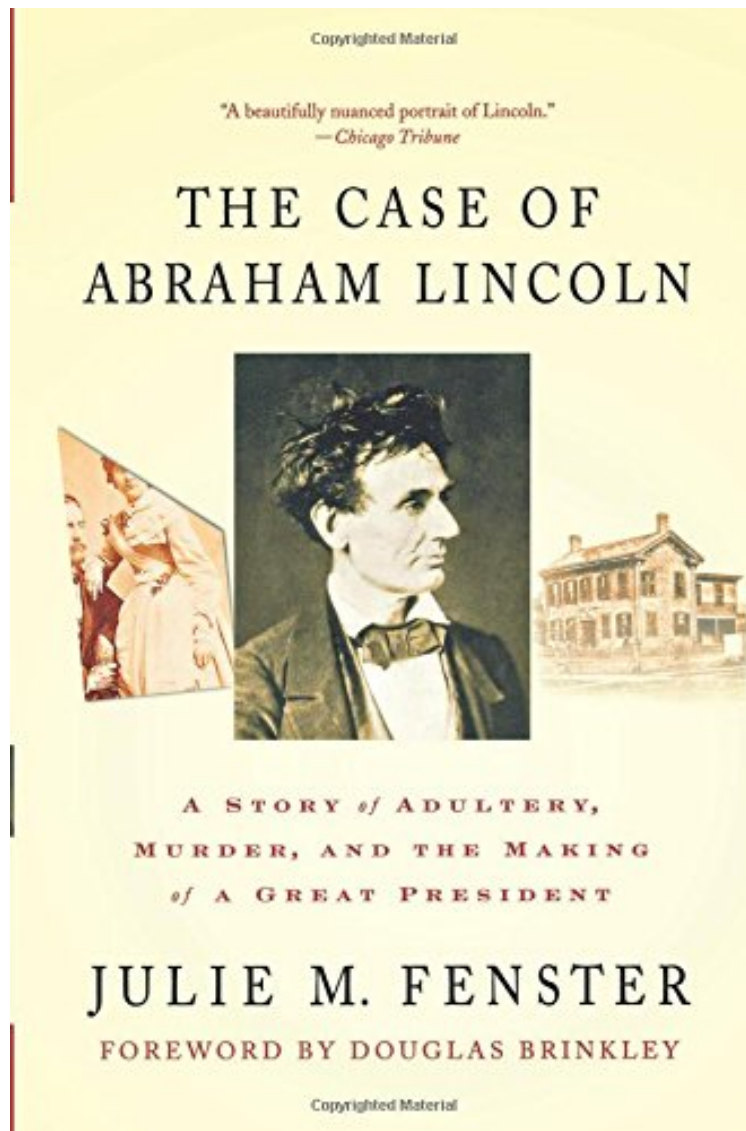


[Download free pdf] The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder, and the Making of a Great President

## The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder, and the Making of a Great President

*Julie M. Fenster*

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1221944 in Books 2008-12-23 2008-12-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 228.60 x 14.71 x 6.001, .55  
#File Name: 0230608094256 pages Cream colored paperback with portrait picture of Lincoln. 256 pages |  
File size: 62.Mb

**Julie M. Fenster : The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder, and the Making of a Great President** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder, and the Making of a Great President:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A better title would be "The Making of a Great President" By Missouri Reader The book does discuss the legal wrangling associated with the death/murder of George Anderson, but (as other reviewers have noted) Lincoln's involvement in that case was discussed late in the book and occupied only a few pages. It was a good mystery: By the conclusion of the book, I had an urge to dig up George Anderson's body and have analysts discover whether he had actually been poisoned by strychnine, or if some other explanation existed for his illness. Both in the Anderson trial and in other legal work chronicled by Fenster, Lincoln proves himself thoughtful rather than impulsive, unbiased, compassionate, fair-minded and practical. Those were precisely the skills needed by the American president in 1860-1865. So although the book isn't really "about" the Anderson case, an examination of Lincoln's legal career creates a context for understanding the later actions of the man who successfully guided the nation through its Civil War. Far more interesting (to me) were those passages in the book devoted to Lincoln's efforts to create the Republican party in 1856. While others (Democrats, Whigs, Know-Nothings) were more passionate about the central issues of the day (slavery, disunion), Lincoln played the role of political philosopher and helped navigate the group between perils on all sides. Events surrounding his "Lost Speech" to delegates at the Illinois Republican Convention provides (for me) the most compelling and exciting portion of the book (chapter 8). Whereas Gary Wills's "Lincoln at Gettysburg" emphasizes how Lincoln's famous address (1863) rededicated America to the principles animating the Declaration of Independence four score and seven years earlier, Fenster shows Lincoln already dedicated to the Declaration's principles in 1856. The restoration of those principles was, for him and his followers, the central mission of the new Republican Party. The year 1856 was when Lincoln began his ascendancy from local celebrity to playing on the national stage. Fenster's very interesting, very readable book describes Lincoln's methods, instincts and passions at that critical moment. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. In Re Lincoln By Christian Schlect A view back on the trial attorney, Mr. Lincoln, during a critical year (1856), as the just emerging Republican Party takes hold in Illinois. Will be greatly enjoyed by all those interested in the pre-presidential Lincoln and the state court system within which he operated while living in Springfield. In her compelling story, Ms. Fenster gracefully, and with nice touches of humor, interweaves and captures the day-by-day life of Mr. Lincoln and other lawyers riding circuit; the mystery of a major local murder case; and Mr. Lincoln's concurrent political spade work related to building a party to block the expansion of slavery. One better understands from reading this book the talents, drive, and personal character of Abraham Lincoln: they ultimately served to lead him to the White House and greatness. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Lincoln, She Wrote By Matt Callaway I heard Julie Fenster on the radio during her tour of Indiana, and something about her clever, no-nonsense way of speaking sparked my interest in her book - the first "political" book I've bought since I don't know when. The book didn't disappoint. It's highly readable, in the style of Walter Lord or Barbara Tuchman. And it's not overwhelming. It follows Lincoln through the course of five or six months, simultaneously recording the events of a murder case which culminates his year. I got what I wanted...a taste of Lincoln's moods and his reactions to unusual situations. I highly recommend the book, and not just to Lincoln-o-philes. It's a treat for anyone who likes history served up with a distinctive literary voice.

In 1856, Abraham Lincoln was at a personal crossroads. Often despondent, he had grown bored with his work as a lawyer. He was beginning to see himself as just a former Congressman, without much of a future in politics. Later that year, the gruesome murder of a Springfield blacksmith provided the case that defined Lincoln's legal career. The string of lurid revelations that followed the crime became front page news across the country, putting Lincoln back in the national spotlight. The Anderson case reflected the spirit of the times: an inescapable, dark world, hidden within the optimism and innocence of the young city of Springfield. With the Anderson murder, Lincoln's legal skills as a defender were challenged as never before and he was finally able to prove himself as a man with a great destiny.

From Publishers Weekly In excruciating detail, author Fenster chronicles the 1856 case of murdered blacksmith George Anderson, and the role of young Illinois attorney and former congressman Abraham Lincoln. As the early days of the murder investigation unfold, a parallel narrative documents Lincoln's stalled career; at the time, he "described himself as a flat failure," watching other politicians "moving effortlessly into a life of luxury" while Lincoln "came home from his speaking tours... and went right back to buying groceries and mucking out the stall of his horse." When Lincoln decides to take on the defense of George's wife, the main suspect (for less than \$100), it proves a brilliant and pivotal career move. The case became a phenomenon: "For infamy, Springfield had never seen anything like it...for complexity, it was far more interesting than the average property case." Cannily, Lincoln figured it would become "a lawyer's showcase," and rose to the opportunity. Serving as "the backdrop for a year of sweeping transition for Abraham Lincoln," the case is also entangled with the establishment of the Republican party that Lincoln would champion. Unfortunately, the changing winds of politics and the specifics of the murder case don't make a perfect union; the story moves in fits and starts, making this meticulous and intimate look at the legendary Lincoln a worthwhile but labored read. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist By 1856, Abraham Lincoln was one of the most successful attorneys in Illinois. He had served

a term in the U.S. Congress, but it appeared that he had abandoned a political career. However, as was observed, Lincoln's ambition was an engine that would not quit. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 had intensified the national debate over slavery, and it drew Lincoln back into political activism. At the same time, Lincoln accepted the task of defending a young man accused of murdering the husband of his lover. Fenster's absorbing chronicle follows two tracks: Lincoln's reentry into the tumultuous political wars in Illinois, as Democrats, Know-Nothings, and the newly formed Republican Party vied for power; and how the death of a Springfield blacksmith evolved into a sensational murder trial. When the two tracks merge, Fenster illustrates Lincoln's emergence as a cagey politician and eloquent antislavery voice with an enhanced national reputation. This is a worthy addition to our ever-expanding knowledge concerning America's secular saint. Freeman, Jay The microview Fenster offers of both Lincoln's life and the daily experience in mid-19th century Springfield is fascinating...Fenster does an excellent job of allowing us to watch [Lincoln] grow, almost as if by time-lapse photography...a gem indeed. Marjorie Kehe, Christian Science Monitor

Through the lens of a sensational 1856 Springfield, Ill., murder case, a historian focuses on Abraham Lincoln the lawyer and politician, four years before his election to the presidency An unexpected, odd-angle approach to Lincoln that proves marvelously insightful. Kirkus (Starred review)In [The Case of Abraham Lincoln] we learn how Abraham Lincoln averted one looming if by comparison rather small injustice, and also how he began the business of ending a much vaster and more terrible one. Fredeic Smoler, AmericanHeritage.com[The Case of Abraham Lincoln is a beautifully nuanced portrait of Lincoln in the turning-point year of 1856 when the former Whig joined the new Republican party, gave what many considered to be his greatest speech and suddenly found himself a national figure. Patrick T. Reardon, Chicago Tribunewhat The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder and the Making of a Great President achieves is something few college history courses -- and certainly accompanying textbooks -- are able to: great storytelling. Chicago Sun-Times