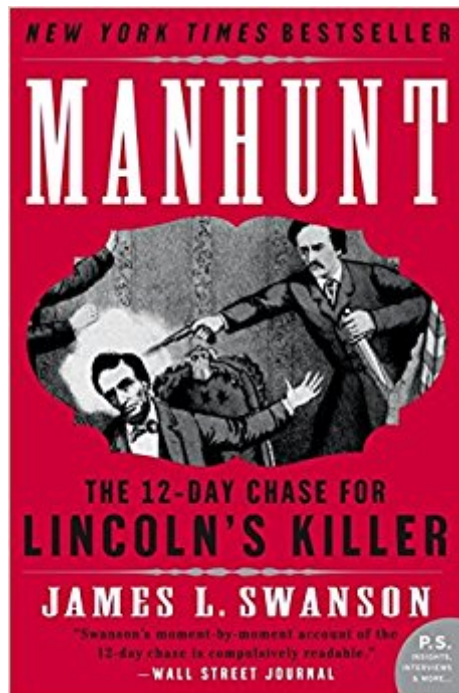




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# Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase For Lincoln's Killer (P.S.)



## Synopsis

The murder of Abraham Lincoln set off the greatest manhunt in American history. From April 14 to April 26, 1865, the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, led Union cavalry and detectives on a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia, while the nation, still reeling from the just-ended Civil War, watched in horror and sadness. James L. Swanson's *Manhunt* is a fascinating tale of murder, intrigue, and betrayal. A gripping hour-by-hour account told through the eyes of the hunted and the hunters, this is history as you've never read it before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Greatest Manhunt in American History For 12 days after his brazen assassination of Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth was at large, and in *Manhunt*, historian James L. Swanson tells the vivid, fully documented tale of his escape and the wild, massive pursuit. Get a taste of the daily drama from this timeline of the desperate search.

April 14, 1865 Around noon, Booth learns that Lincoln is coming to Ford's Theatre that night. He has eight hours to prepare his plan. 10:15 pm: Booth shoots the president, leaps to the stage, and escapes on a waiting horse. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton orders the manhunt to begin.

April 15 About 4:00 am: Booth seeks treatment for a broken leg at Dr. Samuel Mudd's farm near Beantown, Maryland. Cavalry patrol heads south toward Mudd farm. Confederate operative Thomas Jones hides Booth in a remote pine thicket for five days,

frustrating the manhunters. April 19 Tens of thousands watch the procession to the U.S. Capitol, where President Lincoln lies in state. Wild rumors and stories of false sightings of Booth spread.

April 20 Stanton offers a \$100,000 reward for the assassins, and threatens death to any citizen who helps them. After hiding Booth in Maryland, Jones puts him in a rowboat on the Potomac River, bound for Virginia. More than a thousand manhunters are still searching in Maryland. In the dark, Booth rows the wrong way and first ends up back in Maryland. April 20-24 Booth lands in the northern neck of Virginia, and Confederate agents and sympathizers guide him to Port Conway, Virginia. April 24 Booth befriends three Confederate soldiers who help him cross the Rappahannock River to Port Royal and then guide him further southwest to the Garrett farm. Union troops in Washington receive a report of a Booth sighting. They board a U.S. Navy tug and steam south, right past Booth's hideout at the Garrett farm. April 25 The 16th New York Cavalry, realizing their error, turns around and surrounds the Garrett farm after midnight that night. April 26 When Booth refuses to surrender, troops set the barn on fire, and Boston Corbett shoots the assassin. Booth dies a few hours later, at sunrise. April 26-27 Booth's body is brought back to Washington, where it is autopsied, photographed, and buried in a secret grave. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. In the early days of April 1865, with the bloody war to preserve the union finished, Swanson tells us, Abraham Lincoln was "jubilant." Elsewhere in Washington, the other player in the coming drama of the president's assassination was miserable. Hearing Lincoln's April 10 victory speech, famed actor and Confederate die-hard John Wilkes Booth turned to a friend and remarked with seething hatred, "That means nigger citizenship. Now, by God, I'll put him through." On April 14, Booth did just that. With great power, passion and at a thrilling, breakneck pace, Swanson (Lincoln's Assassins: Their Trial and Execution) conjures up an exhausted yet jubilant nation ruptured by grief, stunned by tragedy and hell-bent on revenge. For 12 days, assisted by family and some women smitten by his legendary physical beauty, Booth relied on smarts, stealth and luck to elude the best detectives, military officers and local police the federal government could muster. Taking the reader into the action, the story is shot through with breathless, vivid, even gory detail. With a deft, probing style and no small amount of swagger, Swanson, a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, has crafted pure narrative pleasure, sure to satisfy the casual reader and Civil War aficionado alike. 11 b&w photos not seen by PW. (Feb. 7) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Swanson gives a very vivid and detailed account of the 12 days JWB was on the run. It truly felt as if the manhunt was happening right before my eyes. The prose made the book feel like a NYT bestselling crime thriller. Swanson fully captures the reader's attention immediately and never lets it loose from his grasp. Swanson does not write a mini biography on Lincoln or Booth, but instead focuses almost entirely on the manhunt, which is what separates this book from others. Its narrow and complete focus makes captivating details easy to remember, and unleashes an insatiable desire for more information. One thing that I wished there was more of would be accounts of the failed raids and deaths of those involved in searching for Lincoln. Dozens of volunteers and soldiers met their demise while searching for the killers through swamps and in other inhospitable terrain. Also, the death of Lafayette C Baker is unfortunately inadequately covered. I'm not a fan of the conspiracy theory involving Baker and Stanton and consider it hogwash but it would have been a felicitous excerpt.

Book Review: "Manhunt; The 12 Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer" by James L. Swanson. For anyone interested in the Lincoln Assassination, this book is a must read. It is as comprehensive a book on the overall assassination and, more specifically, the hunt for Booth as I have ever read. It flows smoothly and seamlessly. It doesn't wander off on a bunch of tangents and really holds the reader's attention. I could re-write a quarter of the book with all the new interesting tidbits I learned so here are just a few of my favorites: 1.) Booth chose as his primary weapon a .44-caliber, single-shot, muzzle-loading percussion cap pistol manufactured by Henry Deringer of Philadelphia. It was a small, short-barreled, pocket-size handgun designed for stealth and concealment, not combat, and favored by gamblers and other unsavory types. Unlike military pistols such as the .44-caliber Colt or Remington Army revolvers, or the lighter-weight .36-caliber Colt Navy revolver, all of which could fire up to six rounds before reloading, the Deringer could be fired just once. 2.) During the war Lincoln insisted that the flag retain its full complement of stars, refusing to acknowledge that the seceded states had actually left the Union. 3.) Booth's original plan was to merely kidnap President, not kill him. The change to murder was only shared with a few members of his conspirators and at the last minute. 4.) John Wilkes Booth and Davey Herold spent more than one-third of the entire manhunt lying down in a Maryland pine thicket. 5.) Booth had a prominent tattoo... the initials "JWB" inked boldly between the thumb and forefinger of his left hand. Conspirator Davey Herold also had a tattoo...two of them. A heart and anchor on his right arm and his initials, "DEH," on his left. 6.) Andrew Johnson was not present when Lincoln died, so the

cabinet sent him an official, written notification of the president's death and of his succession to the presidency. They urged that the new president be sworn in immediately, and Johnson sent back word that he would be pleased to take the oath of office. In the late morning of April 15, Chief Justice Chase and the officials in attendance found a changed man. Six weeks ago, an intoxicated Johnson had embarrassed himself by giving a foolish, rambling speech on Inauguration Day. Lincoln forgave him and said no more about it. The morning of Lincoln's death found Johnson sober, grave, dignified, and deeply moved. Given the tragic and unprecedented circumstances of his elevation to the presidency, it was decided collectively that it would not be appropriate for him to deliver a formal, public inaugural address. He was one of only five US presidents to not give an inaugural address.

This is a very thorough, well-researched description of the events surrounding the assassination of Lincoln and the brief period that John Wilkes Booth was on the run. Great detail of the 12 days of suspense. If you live in the area relatively close to DC, this book comes to life with the recent exhibits about the 150th anniversary of the Civil War events. My husband and I visited the Ford's Theater, Peterson House, and found listings for tours of the Mudd House and Surratt Tavern out in Maryland. History really comes to life with these events and locations. The exhibit in Ford's is amazing. You can see the gun used by Booth, the clothing Lincoln wore as he lay dying, the bed he lay in, the hoods worn by the conspirators as they were hanged, etc. even tassels from the catafalque that carried Lincoln's coffin to Springfield. Awesome history come to life with this book as a perfect guidebook.

I bought one as a gift for a history buff (who is very critical if details are not accurate). He liked it so much he bought one for someone else. The consensus was it was a little slow until (spoiler alert) Lincoln gets shot but then it gets "really interesting".

I really enjoyed this book. I typically read non-fiction but was reluctant to buy the book due to the subject matter. After all, I knew how the story ended and what else could be told long enough to keep my attention for an entire book? I was wrong! The book seems well researched and well written. A very good read and would recommend.

When I was a student I often found history to be dry, so I really enjoy books like this which are written in such a way that history is enjoyable. Anyone who is interested in the story of Lincoln's

assassination and the subsequent hunt for his killer and those other involved should read this book. Looking at how Lincoln's injury was treated from a 21st century perspective is interesting, but what I found more fascinating was the pre-CSI efforts to identify and track down his killer and those associated with him. No cars, no telephones, no internet and they still managed to find him - amazing when you think about it.

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