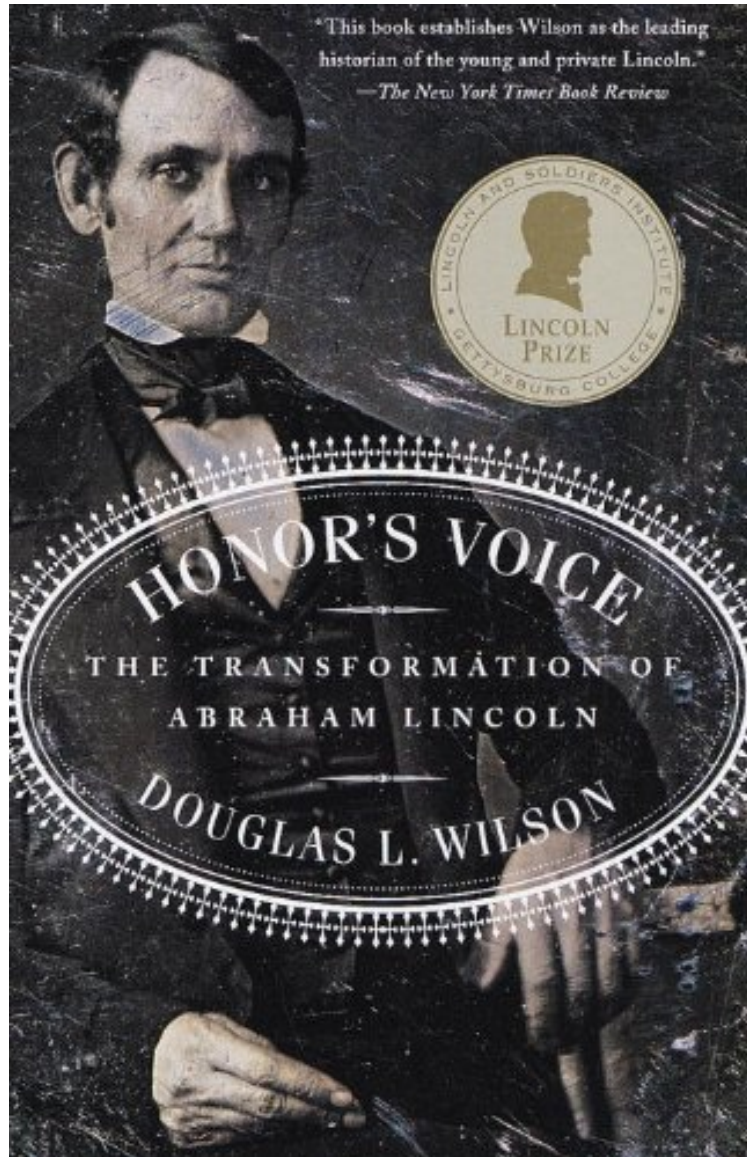


(Mobile pdf) Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln

Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln

Von Douglas L. Wilson

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #1785427 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2011-03-30Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-03-30File Name: B004S3IGZQ | File size: 75.Mb

Von Douglas L. Wilson : Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tough SleddingVon Richard RWilson opens "Honor's Voice" with an overly long introduction to his methodology, which, in

brief, is to sort through all the bits and tales and legends about Abraham Lincoln from age 22 to 33, and weighing the stories for credibility and accuracy, reach the truest picture of the young man. Because there is no shortage of material, Wilson has focused on ten themes, including how he educated himself, how he entered politics, his relations with women, and particularly with Mary Todd, etc. The problem is that it's not clear for whom Wilson is writing. Wilson himself declares that the book is not for academics, but who else would be interested in a work that is less about Lincoln than about stories about Lincoln? Few of the legion Lincoln fans, save scholars, would have the interest or the patience for a tedious historiography and word-by-word analysis of obscure letters and notes about the life of their subject. For example, the first chapter examines a wrestling match Lincoln had at age 22, and fully describes the match and its significance in three interesting pages. The problem is the chapter goes on for 33 pages, citing dozens of sources, including eyewitnesses as well as later biographers, analyzes differences in their accounts of the match, and weighs them against each other for credibility. This approach may be a useful "how to" for amateur historians, but most readers would likely prefer more history and less methodology. Fortunately, the first chapter is the toughest sledding. The subsequent ones follow the same pattern, but are far more readable, relying less on Wilson's interior dialogues on reliability and veracity. Lincoln's character slowly and arduously emerges, and Lincoln fans with the patience to wade through will find loads of interesting detail, such as on his surveying and early political careers. Wilson also excerpts snatches of Lincoln's favorite poems (Burns, Byron, etc.) to excellent effect in demonstrating both source and reflection of Lincoln's state of mind. The speculation on his melancholy and on his tragic romance with Ann Rutledge are well worthwhile, if a bit tedious. The book is a good one, but could be much better. Perhaps Wilson will follow up with a book of half the length giving a detailed and straightforward history of this fascinating period in Lincoln's life based on the conclusions from this work, but omitting the tedium and repetition.

von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. worth reading only if you are a big Lincoln fan

Von Ein Kunde I have read several books on Lincoln and admire him as the greatest American that ever lived. This book was worth my effort because I did learn much about Lincoln's young adulthood. I did not find the book pleasing to read, however, because of the author's excessive reliance on original quotes from primary sources. Though this makes the book scholarly, it does not make it entertaining. The author spends too much time on Lincoln's love life and practically nothing on the origins of his philosophy. Though I am left knowing more about Lincoln the man, I am still searching for the answer to the single question for which I bought the book: how did this man of humble origins, beset by more than the usual number of human frailties, evolve into the American Messiah, the savior of the nation and its most honorable principles for the benefit of all civilization? Other than feebly suggesting that Lincoln's opposition to cruelty to animals might have eventually caused him to sympathize with the plight of slaves, this book leaves this mystery of American history to future writers.

von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. everything you always wanted to know about young abe, but ..

Von Ein Kunde Honor's Voice is not the first biography one should read about our 16th president. Gone is the visionary and heroic patriot whose compassion and honesty draw Americans' love anew in each generation. In its place is a man who is flawed and troubled to the core, one who somehow stumbles his way (following deceit, delusion, and enormous self-doubt) to his marriage, his sense of political ethics and his appreciation of the basic decency and equality of all mankind. The author can be faulted for finding no source too unworthy to quote; no fact too unimportant to repeat once, twice, three times or more. The book's repetition is grating; so, too, is its strong preference for "sex, lies and 18th century videotape" over politics and policy. Yet it reads well overall and, undoubtedly, provides a deep and accurate insight into the psychology (and psychoses) of one of our greatest heroes. If one wants to see Lincoln, unvarnished, there is no place better to look.

Kurzbeschreibung Abraham Lincoln's remarkable emergence from the rural Midwest and his rise to the presidency have been the stuff of romance and legend. But as Douglas L. Wilson shows us in *Honor's Voice*, Lincoln's transformation was not one long triumphal march, but a process that was more than once seriously derailed. There were times, in his journey from storekeeper and mill operator to lawyer and member of the Illinois state legislature, when Lincoln lost his nerve and self-confidence - on at least two occasions he became so despondent as to appear suicidal - and when his acute emotional vulnerabilities were exposed. Focusing on the crucial years between 1831 and 1842, Wilson's skillful analysis of the testimonies and writings of Lincoln's contemporaries reveals the individual behind the legends. We see Lincoln as a boy: not the dutiful son studying by firelight, but the stubborn rebel determined to make something of himself. We see him as a young man: not the ascendant statesman, but the canny local politician who was renowned for his talents in wrestling and storytelling (as well as for his extensive store of off-color jokes). Wilson also reconstructs Lincoln's frequently anguished personal life: his religious skepticism, recurrent bouts of depression, and difficult relationships with women - from Ann Rutledge to Mary Owens to Mary Todd. Meticulously researched and well written, this is a fascinating book that makes us reexamine our ideas about one of the icons of American history.

From the Hardcover edition.

From Booklist Another Lincoln book? Don't rush to disregard it, for this one definitely has good points to make. Wilson poses an interesting question, which he then

answers deftly: What enabled Lincoln, born and raised in the backwoods, to come to town as a young man and acquire a certain sophistication in relatively short order? Lending support to the idea that although Lincoln's war years were fascinating, his prairie years may be even more so, Wilson, director of the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, focuses on Lincoln's life in the 1830s and 1840s, the time of his transformation from bumpkin to knowledgeable politician. In charting Lincoln's "rise from obscurity and his emergence as a man to be reckoned with," the author explores the subject within specific arenas: Lincoln's self-education, his search for a vocation, his relations with women, his entry into politics, and his marriage to Mary Todd. These separate thematic investigations coalesce into a deeply revealing picture of Lincoln's makeup that most previous biographies barely scratch the surface of. Brad Hooper

From Kirkus sIn a 1932 essay, James Thurber imagined a librarian of Congress, overwhelmed by pointless biographies of Civil Warera figures, imposing fines for new books about Lincoln. Wilson (director, International Center for Jefferson Studies), however, makes a highly original contribution to Lincoln studies with this thoughtful portrait of the war president's remarkable development during the 1830s and '40s from a frontier bumpkin into a rarely gifted leader. It is startling to encounter Wilson's portrait of the young Abe Lincoln as a small-time brawler and petty frontier politician who had troubled relations with women (ultimately resulting in a marriage of convenience to Mary Todd), suffered severe bouts of depression, and made vicious anonymous attacks on political opponents in newspapers. It is a truism that Lincoln's origins were humble. They were also, as Wilson reminds us, violent. On the frontier, one established one's manliness, and even one's political credibility, by fighting, wrestling, and even dueling, and Lincoln was a superior fighter. Indeed, a turning point of his life was his 1831 wrestling match with Jack Armstrong of the Clary's Grove Boys, which established Lincoln as a leader of the New Salem settlement. (In closely analyzing the many varied accounts of the match, Wilson conducts a fascinating exercise in historiography and the distortion of historical memory by the growth of legend and the passage of time.) And though ``honest Abe" was honest indeed by frontier standards, he could be slippery and dissembling in the battles of prairie politics. He proved to be a sharp, unsparing tactician in court and in the Illinois legislature. Nonetheless, Wilson shows, Lincoln constantly battled his shortcomings and, endowed with innate sensitivity to people and a real regard for honorable conduct, transcended his rough origins to achieve national prominence and, ultimately, greatness. An absorbing and first-rate contribution to Lincoln studies. (2 maps and 3 photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.