

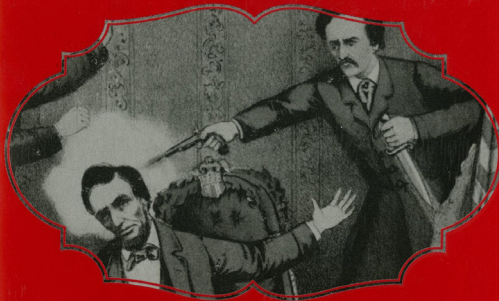
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

MANHUNT



THE 12-DAY CHASE FOR
LINCOLN'S KILLER

JAMES L. SWANSON

"Swanson's moment-by-moment account of the
12-day chase is compulsively readable."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

P.S.
INSIGHTS,
INTERVIEWS
& MORE...

Discussion Guide

James L. Swanson Author Biography

James L. Swanson has devoted his life to honoring the memory and beliefs of Lincoln. Born on Lincoln's birth date, Swanson and his family collected Lincoln memorabilia from around the nation, and this interest continues to foster his fascination with Lincoln's life.

With graduate degrees from both the University of Chicago and the UCLA School of Law, Swanson went on to build an impressive resume. Swanson's law career includes holding titles such as Clerk for the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, Assistant to the Chairman at the U.S. International Trade Commission, and Special Assistant in the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice.

Swanson has devoted years to protecting the rights that Lincoln helped to preserve during his presidency. He was a senior fellow in constitutional studies and founded the First Amendment Law Handbook, which reports recent developments in Constitutional Law. He has also written articles for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *American Heritage* on subjects ranging from the Constitution to intellectual rights. Swanson has lectured at the Library of Congress and the Newberry Library.

Currently, he is serving on the Advisory Committee for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He continues to add to his collection of Lincoln artifacts in an effort to keep Lincoln's memory alive for future generations.

Works Cited

"James L. Swanson." *Amazon.com*. n.d. Web. 06 Jan. 2015.

"James L. Swanson." *Fairfax Network*. 24 June 2014. Web. 06 Jan. 2015.

Cover Photograph:

Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Discussion Questions

1. What observations can you make about personal security for the President during the Civil War?
2. What do you think would have happened if Booth's shot had missed? Would he have attempted to stab the President, or would he have run away?
3. What is the significance of Booth's declaration "*sic semper tyrannis*" (the South is avenged)?
4. Why did only one person in the audience at Ford's Theater, Joseph B. Stewart, chase after Booth?
5. Did Booth's personal fame help or hurt his escape efforts?
6. There are multiple Shakespearean references throughout *Manhunt*. For example, Mr. Swanson refers to Powell as Macbeth, and he makes a reference to Richard III as Booth is escaping the theater. How is the assassination of Lincoln reminiscent of a Shakespearean tragedy?
7. Booth named his co-conspirators in a letter without telling them. Was he trying to give them credit or put the blame on others as well as himself?
8. What circumstances prompted Sergeant Boston Corbett to fatally shoot Booth, instead of waiting for him to flee the burning barn at Garrett's farm on April 26, 1865?
9. Why was Mary Surratt one of the few who was convicted for her role in the assassination plot?
10. What similarities do you see between John Wilkes Booth and other assassins from United State's history?
11. Do you think the country has forgiven John Wilkes Booth for his actions?
12. What role did technology play in planning the assassination and in tracking the perpetrators?

Discussion Guide

Prepared by the National English Honor Society

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Quiz: What Do You Know about Abraham Lincoln?

(ANSWERS BELOW)

1. What is the date of Lincoln's death?
2. What religious observance took place on the day Lincoln was assassinated?
3. What two government officials were also targets of Booth's assassination plot?
4. What play was Lincoln watching when he was shot?
5. Which Civil War general declined an invitation to watch the play with the President?
6. Which one of Lincoln's children died shortly before the President?
7. John Wilkes Booth and his companion, David Herold, "disappeared" for five days and four nights. Where were they?
8. Who was the owner of the boarding house in which Lincoln died?
9. What piece of legislation did Lincoln sign just hours before his assassination?
10. Who was the first woman to be executed in the United States for conspiracy?
11. Who saved Lincoln's son, Robert, when he fell off a platform in front of a moving train a few months before the assassination?
12. What route did the funeral train follow on its way to Lincoln's final resting place in Springfield, Illinois?



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Meet Author James L. Swanson

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

7 P.M. Batavia Fine Arts Centre

www.OneBookOneBatavia.org

Answers to Quiz

1. April 15, 1865, 2. Good Friday, 3. Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William H. Seward, 4. *Our American Cousin*, a popular comedy of the day, 5. Ulysses S. Grant, 6. William Lincoln, 7. A pine thicket in Maryland, 8. William Petersen, 9. A bill that created the U.S. Secret Service, 10. Mary Surratt, 11. Edwin Booth, brother of John Wilkes Booth, 12. The train route that Lincoln took when he traveled to Washington, D.C., for his first inauguration