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The Life, Crime and Capture of John Wilkes Booth George Alfred Townsend (1882 - 1941)

Read by: Delmar H. Dolbier Language: English
 Length: 4 hours and 34 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre: Non-Fiction, History

Product Formats and Options				
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“The Life, Crime and Capture of John Wilkes Booth,” written by George Alfred Townsend in 1865, is a comprehensive account of the notorious assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. This book provides a detailed narrative of Booth’s life, his radical views, and his role in the assassination plot. Townsend delves into Booth’s background as a well-known actor and his descent into conspiracy and violence.

The book chronicles Booth’s meticulously planned assassination of Lincoln, which he executed on April 14, 1865, at Ford’s Theatre. Townsend covers Booth’s subsequent escape from Washington, D.C., his interactions with co-conspirators, and his flight through the Southern states. The narrative details the manhunt that followed, highlighting the efforts of Union soldiers and detectives to capture Booth.

In the final chapters, Townsend describes Booth’s dramatic capture at Garrett’s farm in Virginia and his subsequent death on April 26, 1865. The book offers

insights into Booth’s motivations, the impact of his actions on the nation, and the broader implications for American society. Townsend’s work stands as a crucial historical document, providing a vivid portrayal of one of the most infamous figures in American history.

George Alfred Townsend (1841-1914) was an American journalist, writer, and war correspondent renowned for his vivid accounts of the American Civil War and his dynamic storytelling. Born in Georgetown, Delaware, Townsend’s early career was marked by his work as a newspaper reporter. His keen observational skills and narrative flair soon led him to become a prominent war correspondent during the Civil War, where he covered major battles and interviewed key figures, earning acclaim for his engaging and insightful reports.

Townsend’s most famous work is “A Confederate Girl’s Diary,” a semi-autobiographical novel that captures the experiences of a Southern woman during the war. His writing, characterized by its attention to detail and emotive prose, provided readers with a unique perspective on the era’s social and political climate. Townsend also wrote extensively for various periodicals, contributing articles and essays that reflected his keen political insights and literary prowess.

In 1865, Townsend was Washington correspondent for the New York World, covering the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its aftermath. His daily reports filed between April 17 – May 17 were published later in 1865 as a book, *The Life, Crime, and Capture of John Wilkes Booth*, reprinted in 1977, and published in audio version in 2009.

In addition to his journalistic and literary achievements, Townsend was a passionate advocate for social reform and a vocal critic of corruption and injustice. His diverse body of work and his contributions to American literature and journalism have left a lasting legacy, highlighting his role as a key observer and commentator of his time.