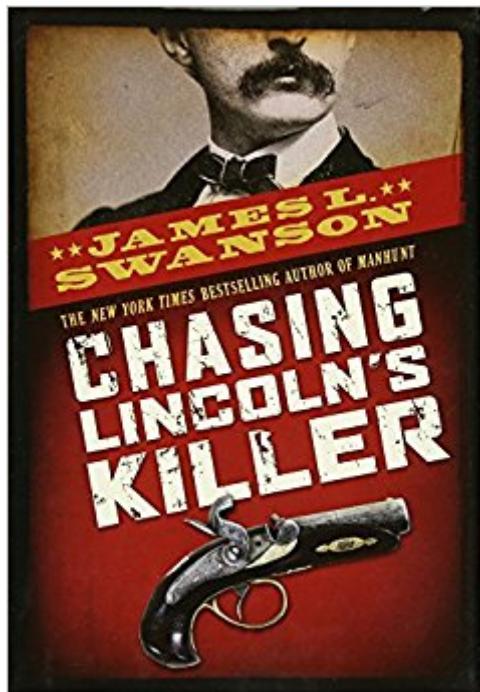


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# Chasing Lincoln's Killer



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author James Swanson delivers a riveting account of the chase for Abraham Lincoln's assassin. Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 254 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The YA version of Swanson's bestselling Manhunt, this account of Lincoln's assassination and the 12-day search for his killer reads like a historical thriller, no matter that the narrative jumps among its locations and characters. As President Lincoln delivers victory speeches in April 1865, an enraged John Wilkes Booth vows death: "Now, by God, I'll put him through." Every bit of dialogue is said to come from original sources, adding a chill to the already disturbing conspiracy that Swanson unfolds in detail as Booth persuades friends and sympathizers to join his plot and later, to give him shelter. The author gives even the well-known murder scene at Ford's

Theatre enough dramatic flourish to make the subject seem fresh. While Lincoln lays dying, Booth's accomplices clumsily attempt to kill Secretary of State William H. Seward, and Booth talks his way past a guard meant to bar him from crossing a bridge into Maryland. In focusing on Booth, the author reveals the depth of divisions in the nation just after the war, the disorder within the government and the challenges ahead. Abundant period photographs and documents enhance the book's immediacy. Ages 12-14. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**Starred Review. Grade 5 Up** •This volume is an adaptation of Swanson's *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* (HarperCollins, 2006). Divided into 14 chapters and an epilogue, the sentences are shorter and chapters are condensed from the original but the rich details and suspense are ever present. Lacking are a bibliography and a notes section. Excellent black-and-white illustrations complement the text. Devoted to the South, John Wilkes Booth had planned to kidnap Lincoln and hold him hostage, but when that plan did not materialize, he hatched his assassination plot. Co-conspirators in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia helped him escape and evade capture for 12 days before being surrounded in a barn and killed. Readers will be engrossed by the almost hour-by-hour search and by the many people who encountered the killer as he tried to escape. It is a tale of intrigue and an engrossing mystery. With the approaching bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, this is a most welcome addition to all libraries. •Patricia Ann Owens, Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* is a fast-paced thriller describing the search for John Wilkes Booth. You will find yourself on a chase that takes you from the streets of Washington, D.C. through the swamps of Maryland and on to the forests of Virginia. You will see history in a new light as you enjoy the manhunt. I started reading it and stopped when the book ended. I took it to my classroom and offered it to one boy who was interested in history. I did not get the book back until the end of the year as it was passed from student to student, each of them enjoying the book in his own way. It was fun to watch them enjoying a book like this one. I highly recommend *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*!

This is by far the best account of what transpired throughout the country during and after John Wilkes Booth killed our president. Swanson gives a very detailed experience of this event in United States history. For example, he gives us details of every place Booth traveled to. This gives us the

best visualization of Booth's travels and experiences. This book also gives a fast paced setting and reading. This book gives you a very interesting novel-like storyline. Swanson takes this book and makes it seem as if it was dreamed up overnight. This is a very interesting piece of artwork. For example, Swanson makes this about as entertaining as Billy the Kid stories, which I find very entertaining. Just the story of a manhunt entertains me very much. In conclusion, this book is very riveting and deserves five stars.

One of the most tragic moment's from our nation's history, it's a must-read for middle grade readers who will be drawn to thrilling scenes of assassins stalking their prey, and later as the tables are turned the assassins becoming the stalked. Most will also appreciate that Swanson doesn't hold back on the graphic details of the crimes themselves... or at least my sixth grader appreciate them, year after year. It's a fairly high reading level... the content and reading level probably make it inadvisable for most elementary grade readers. Most middle grade readers will eat it up though. It serves as a great entry point for study of the Civil War and/or Reconstruction, or just as great read.

I ordered the audiobook version and it was a great price. Good book. Required reading and was a nice compliment to having the paper version. Got the audio version because we are always on go, and kids get car sick reading in car.

My son currently is in the eighth grade. He enjoyed reading this book for a presentation at school. Easy read and provide great background information.

Fantastic account by a great writer. As a U.S. History teacher, I look for books to recommend to my students. This book does not disappoint.

Awesome book! Required reading for my 7th grader.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer details the story of the plots to murder the all notable Northern officials after the Civil War. It follows John Wilkes Booth mostly and follows his accomplices on that fateful night. It doesn't go in to great gory detail about the killing but focuses on the escape and end with the death of Booth.

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