



## Consider The Elephant: The Life and Death of John Wilkes Booth As Told By His Brother Edwin

Aram Schefrin

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The common wisdom is that John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, was a madman and a failure as an actor.

But the truth is that Wilkes was a matinee idol, the Brad Pitt of his time – and the attack on Lincoln was not the act of a maniac, but a part of a plan developed at the highest levels of the Confederacy which Wilkes willingly joined because of his love for the South..

The Booth family was central to theater history, and this extensively researched story is soaked in the ambiance of life in the American theater in the mid nineteenth century. Told in the voice of Edwin Booth, Wilkes' brother and eminent Shakespearean, It lays out in detail the path Wilkes took to the top of the celebrity heap and (as established in recent research) the development in Richmond of the plot to kidnap – later assassinate – the Union President, into which Booth was drawn by Confederate agents. The book conclusively answers two great assassination questions: was Dr. Mudd innocent? Was Mary Surratt? And goes deep into the fierce rivalry among Wilkes, Edwin and Junius Booth to inherit their father's title as the greatest Shakespearean actor of his day. No other fictional work has its depth of information, its understanding of the characters and the fullness of the remarkable story of the Booths.

#### A reader's comment:

"This is a novel about John Wilkes Booth and the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. It is based on extensive research, using actual letters to and from Booth that reveal a great deal of detail about events and his state of mind. It is very well written. The characters are vividly portrayed, and the story is riveting, even if you know how it turns out. Your American History class would have been a whole lot more interesting if portions of this book had been made available."

Aram Schefrin, Montaigne Medal finalist for "Marwan: The Autobiography of a 9/11 Terrorist," is the author of four novels. A graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School., he practices law in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Florida. He was a founding member and the lyricist of the rock group Ten Wheel Drive, and produced a number of early disco hits. He lives in Wellington, Florida



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