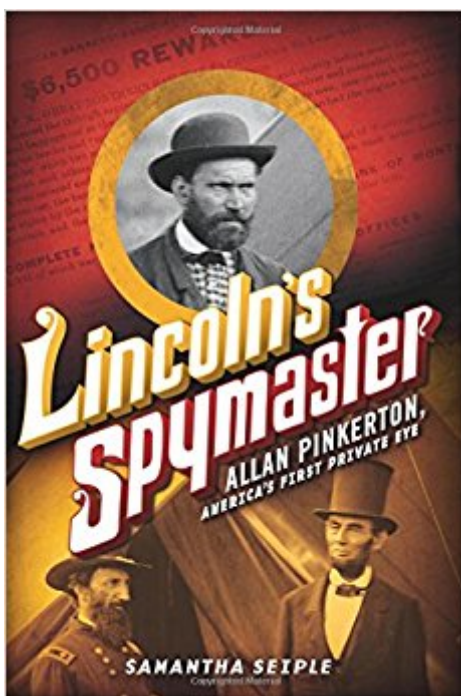


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Lincoln's Spymaster: Allan Pinkerton, America's First Private Eye



Synopsis

From Samantha Seiple, the award winning author of *Ghosts in the Fog*, comes the first book for young adults to tell the story of Allan Pinkerton, America's first private eye. *Lincoln's Spymaster* tells the dangerous and action-packed adventures of Allan Pinkerton, America's first private eye and Lincoln's most trusted spymaster. Pinkerton was just a poor immigrant barrel-maker in Illinois when he stumbled across his first case just miles from his home. His reputation grew and people began approaching Pinkerton with their cases, leading him to open the first-of-its-kind private detective agency. Pinkerton assembled a team of undercover agents, and together they caught train robbers, counterfeiters, and other outlaws. Soon these outlaws, including Jesse James, became their nemeses. Danger didn't stop the agency! The team even uncovered and stopped an assassination plot against president-elect Abraham Lincoln! Seeing firsthand the value of Pinkerton's service, Lincoln funded Pinkerton's spy network, a precursor to the Secret Service. Allan Pinkerton is known as the father of modern day espionage, and this is the first book for young adults to tell his story!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • This serviceable biography sheds light on Allan Pinkerton, America's most famous detective. Readers learn how Pinkerton, a wanted man, fled a life of poverty as a labor dissenter in Scotland for America, where he became a cooper in Illinois. He used his keen observation skills to uncover several counterfeiters and was promptly deputized. This small start in law enforcement grew into employment with the fledgling (and very corrupt) Chicago Police

Department. Unable to stomach the corruption, the principled man left after a few years to open Pinkerton's National Detective Agency. The agency's motto: "We never sleep." The agency pioneered many techniques commonly used today, such as working undercover and shadowing suspects. Pinkerton also employed male and female detectives, a practice that was highly unusual at the time. He and his detectives served their country during the Civil War as spies for the Union, occasionally corresponding with Abraham Lincoln himself. After a personal disagreement regarding Union leadership, Pinkerton returned to private detective work. The detailed descriptions of his pursuit of famous outlaws, including Jesse James and Frank Younger, are quite interesting. The overall writing is effective, though not riveting. The photographs and documents are clear, and the bibliography is highly detailed. VERDICT A welcome but not essential addition. —Lisa Crandall, formerly at the Capital Area District Library, Holt, MI

A Junior Library Guild Selection "Riveting...thrilling adventures...plenty of hair-raising plots and escapades...Lincoln's Spymaster is a fantastic title to introduce fans of mystery and adventure to some true-life action." - School Library Journal
"The detailed stories of thwarted plots, gambits behind enemy lines, and efforts to bring outlaws to justice will appeal to readers...absorbing." - Kirkus
"Engrossing...Plenty of interesting tidbits should resonate with today's readers...This appealing book reads like a novel." - Booklist
"Seiple has made factual history as arresting as any fictionalized detective story." - The Mercury News
Praise for GHOSTS IN THE FOG: THE UNTOLD STORY OF ALASKA'S WWII INVASION: "An enlightening account full of compelling stories of survival and perseverance." - KIRKUS REVIEW
SA YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Nominee

I ordered this for my 15-year-old nephew, but read it before he did. I found this book well written and very informative.

Great book!!

This teen and tween biography of Allan Pinkerton, by Samantha Seiple, is just the ticket to get students interested in reading non-fiction. Lincoln's Spymaster is an easy, engaging read. Seiple's writing moves along crisply, telling us what we need to know and making the work of the spy, Allan Pinkerton, sound exciting and dangerous (which it surely was). The book is broken down to two parts, the first following Pinkerton and some of his associates, as spies during the Civil War era.

What turned out to be a case of protecting the president (Abraham Lincoln) started out when the president of the railroad was concerned that there were plots to blow up train tracks. The details of Pinkerton's involvement are fascinating, and his use of disguise to infiltrate the plot has all the makings of a modern-day thriller. The second half of the book follows a slight change in Pinkerton's work as he moves from being a spy to what today we might refer to as a bounty hunter, chasing down criminals. In this portion of the book we learn that Pinkerton crossed paths with some of the most notorious outlaws of the wild west, and the very name of the Pinkerton Agency became synonymous with successfully "getting their man." The Pinkertons suffered a few set-backs, including not being able to protect criminals they had captured, from being killed by lynch-mobs, including criminals that were turned over in an extradition from Canada (which created some bad relations with our northern neighbors for the government). The book is well-furnished with photographs. My ARC didn't have the pictures identified, though many of the pictures I recognized from other history books, and more were fairly easy to determine what they were representing. For an adult reader, this book is very easy reading. I read through the entire book in a bit over an hour. It will be similarly easy for teens to get caught up in this book. It moves along well and is very exciting, with lots of great history. This is a case where people will learn something, without realizing that they are learning! I wish I'd had more history books like this when I was a student! Looking for a good book? Lincoln's Spymaster: Allan Pinkerton, by Samantha Seiple, is a wonderful biography for teen and tween readers and is sure to capture and hold their interest. I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Edelweiss, in exchange for an honest review.

It is difficult to find quality books for kids with a taste for history. Ms. Seiple has written one of them. My son loved it and commented it with great enthusiasm. I was so taken by his praise that I decided to read it myself. It was a good decision, for it allowed me to fully appreciate how much research and care was taken to create an account that is accurate and, at the same time, truly enticing. Highly recommended!

The greatest book I've EVER read. It seems you are part of the book.

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