



Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters

By Mary Todd Lincoln, Justin G. Turner, Linda Levitt Turner

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It is our belief that the most balanced view of Mary Lincoln - one that offers neither condemnation nor apology - can be obtained from reading her letters. More than 600 of them survive, nearly all revealing and, in their cumulative effect, shattering. To us, the chief interest of Mary Lincoln's letters lies in their self-portrait of a woman who had the intelligence, energy, and compassion to have been ranked among the outstanding first ladies of the land, an anomaly in her era, but who came to the White House at the most tragic hour in a nation's history and was destroyed by the experience. (from edditor's note)

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Turners draw on about half of the 610 extant letters written by Mary Todd Lincoln and present a comprehensive portrait of Lincoln's bitterly unhappy wife. PW stated that "a unique self-portrait emerges, fleshed out and illuminated by the well-written narrative supplied by the editors."

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