



The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy

Jacopo della Quercia

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Based on real life conspiracy theories, The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy follows a globetrotting President William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln as they try to unravel a mystery circa the era of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy Details

Date :

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Author : Jacopo della Quercia

Format :

Genre : Fiction, Science Fiction, Steampunk, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery, Humor



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From Reader Review The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy for online ebook

Steph says

This book had been popping up in my news feed on Facebook, as well as on Twitter for the past few days; the Twitter part is explained by the fact that I follow the author and he'd retweet any time someone mentioned reading his book. Since most of the places it would pop up on Facebook was on more than one of the steampunk pages I follow, I decided to give this book a shot; picked it up at the bookstore yesterday (August 10, 2014) and finished it tonight.

I vastly enjoyed this book. For me, I found it to be well paced and well written. I will also admit I did like the fact that the author included footnotes when he referred to certain sources; a nice touch which helped ground the historical base of this book nicely. The touches of science-fiction felt almost plausible considering the time period and tech used.

Allen Adams says

<http://www.themaineedge.com/buzz/the-...>

Alternate history has long been a mainstay in the realm of speculative fiction. History is rich with tipping points, pivotal people and actions whose impacts resonate long after they've become memory. Writers have been using simple "what if" questions to imagine wholly different worlds – worlds similar to, but not exactly like our own – for generations.

But none of them has had quite as much fun as Jacopo della Quercia.

His debut novel is "The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy"; once you've read it, you'll never look at American history in quite the same way again. Part sci-fi, part action-adventure, part comedy – it is historical fiction like you've never seen it.

In the year 1910, President William Howard Taft isn't necessarily spending his time behaving in a Presidential manner. We first encounter him in an English pub, where he is the "one" in a four-on-one bareknuckle boxing match (a match he wins handily, by the way) His wife Nellie – the real power behind the throne – is in Washington...along with an automaton built by Thomas Edison to serve as the President's proxy when he's off on his high-tech zeppelin (designed by Nicola Tesla) or punching random Brits.

But when Taft's old friend Robert Todd Lincoln – eldest son of Abraham Lincoln – appears with a highly-advanced gold pocket watch that once belonged to the elder Lincoln, the President is thrust into the midst of a mystery. The watch is an entry point into a generations-long conspiracy – a conspiracy that involves figures at the highest level of global politics and business. From Alaska to the depths of the Congo, Taft and Lincoln – along with erstwhile Secret Service chief John Wilkie and a host of other familiar names from history's annals (including appearances by everybody's favorite Rough Rider, Teddy Roosevelt) – must get to the bottom of one of the most far-reaching and potentially deadly plots in all of human history.

“The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy” is an absolute delight. Any attempt to synopsise the book does it a disservice, simply because there’s a multilayered richness to the narrative that has to be experienced to be truly appreciated. Of course, if you’re the sort of person who can get past bareknuckle-boxing Taft and not immediately want to read this book, then I apologize and hope that someday, you can once again find some modicum of joy in life.

Seriously, this book is flat-out great. Not just because of the jumbled juxtaposition of real historical figures and outlandish situations – although that’s a big part of it. Nor is it just because of the well-crafted characterizations that offer truthful-feeling connections to those real-life figures – though that’s a part of it too.

No, the most striking reason for this book’s success is della Quercia’s meticulous and painstaking research. It’s remarkable, really; he has immersed himself in the history of the period, following the lives and careers of each and every one of his major players. From there, he has constructed a behind-the-scenes narrative, a secret history that aligns perfectly with the official story. His in-depth understanding of that actual history is the foundation on which he builds this fantastical tale.

And it should be noted, the book is legitimately laugh-out-loud funny. Humor is mined by way of both character and situation; Taft in particular is endearing and engaging – a brilliant buffoon. While della Quercia provides an exceptional tale, filled with dramatic tension and carrying a steampunk sensibility throughout, that humor is what transforms this book from a good read to a great one – not that we should expect anything less from one of the movers and shakers at Cracked.com.

“The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy” creates a combination of scholarship and slapstick that simply doesn’t come around all that often, so you’d do well to take advantage. For fans of humor, history or both, this book should immediately be placed at the top of any must-read list.

Evan says

Smart, funny, crazy, and fast paced. A mixture of fantasy and historical reality with a fantastic cast of characters, President Taft and all his heft at the center. I can’t even explain all the wonderful elements at work here because some things would be considered spoilers. Here’s a few early tidbits that should get you engaged enough to snag a copy of this book:

- Taft’s first appearance is in an underground boxing club.
- Taft and his entourage fly around in a zeppelin that’s supposed to be top secret but he flies it to a baseball game so he can throw out the first pitch.
- an automaton goes crazy in the White House
- Lots of insults tossed at Thomas Edison; Nikola Tesla is one of the presidents supporters and supplies him with a variety of gadgets that gives this novel its steam-punk-isn flair.
- Great time period offers up plenty of cool “I didn’t know that” facts (many footnoted). The stuff that’s fiction is, of course, most fun, but the reality of some of the politics of Taft’s presidency and the pre-WWI era are fun (JP Morgan, Russian relations, Roosevelt, and more).
- Robert Todd Lincoln as the brooding sidekick to Taft is a really interesting pairing.
- plenty of intrigue, and a few twists but nothing that will make you say “Oh, COME ON!”

I honestly found this book to be so much fun and so smart and funny that I want everyone to read it just so

we can talk about how it could be an amazing movie.

Michelle Spencer says

Well that was certainly a lot of fun. Alternate history with a very small smidgen of truth. Very small. I can hardly wait to read License to Quill.

Albert says

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy by Jacopo della Quercia is a gem. The novel is a historical/mystery/thriller/steampunk/fantasy adventure that not only encompasses all of these genres, but blends them effortlessly into a dish that you will both devour and savor. I first came upon Jacopo della Quercia's writing in the novel "License to Quill", a James Bond and Shakespeare blend (pick it up! pick it up!) and enjoyed that novel so much I went looking for his prior tales. This at times can be an iffy situation as early work often doesn't show the polish and plotting that is so strong in the more recent novels, but that was quickly dispelled in The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy. The novel begins with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and his preoccupation in the moments to his death with a misplaced pocket watch that never needs winding.

Years later, the lone surviving son of President Lincoln begins to unravel a mystery that may involve intelligence that may or may not be of this world, as he begins to obsess over his father's watch.

"...For two years, I have been going through my father's papers for his centennial. Every letter, every correspondence, everything John Hay and I packed before we moved out of the mansion.' Robert paused, his brown eyes staring deep into Taft's. 'Before the Fourth of July, I found a slip to a safe deposit box the government opened with the Safe Deposit Company of New York. The account was dated May first: the company's first day of business and two weeks after my father was murdered. I paid the bank a visit before I steamed over here. The account for the box was still open. I found this inside..."

What Robert Lincoln finds inside is a gold pocket watch with no discernible power source. There is no where to wind the watch, but it has been working non stop since his father's death. The providence of the watch seems to be as a gift from the Russian Ambassador at the time of Lincoln's presidency. At the time that of the purchase of Alaska from the Russians. What power can this be and what have the Russians, the billionaire magnate J.P. Morgan and possible extra-terrestrial life have to do with the watch and the unknown power behind it? Robert Lincoln enlists the aid of his friend and current President William Taft to investigate.

"...Now listen,' Nellie said, getting straight to business. 'You have less than ten days to solve this riddle up north. Mr. Lincoln is a man of science, just like his father was. If his concerns turn out to be unfounded, we can put this whole matter of Martians and pocket watches behind us. However, if he can gather scientific proof that there are or ever were 'visitors' to this planet, your administration could use it to squash the brewing scandal in Alaska once and for all. You would win reelection, Will. You could be remembered as one of the greatest presidents in history..."

What follows is one of the greatest adventures never written down in history. Taft and Lincoln must fight off terrorists, on and off American soil. As a mad plan hatched years before takes shape and threatens not only

the United States of America but the entire world. At their disposal is Airship one, a steam powered dirigible that secrets the President across the globe. Against them, a conspiracy of power that spans the world, a Taft look-a-like robot that turns into a Terminator, a mad dictator returned from the dead and the hubris of an ex-President who cannot stay out of the way. All of which climaxes aboard the greatest cruise liner ever launched; the Titanic.

What is above is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg for the scope and depth of the adventure that is The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy. Jacopo della Quercia takes moments in history and figures in history and has created an adventure that is on scale with an Indiana Jones movie. Seriously, William Taft as a MMA fighter, a Terminator robot, a wide scale attack on a major college campus and the wreck of the Titanic?

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy is a great book and a fun read. Hell if you're not careful, you might actually learn a little history while you are at it.

Molly says

I picked this book out at the library because my 2015 book challenge included reading a book based solely on the cover, and I thought this cover looked intriguing. In terms of genres, this book is on the border of steampunk and sci-fi (robots and zeppelins are involved), but I might still recommend it to my sister (who is not a sci-fi fan) because the story ensures the characters are more important than the technology. I think the author did some really clever things with this book in terms of weaving in true "news of the weird" type headlines from the time period this book was set (1910s) into a truly fantastical romp through history. I must admit, the Taft Administration is not one of the eras we spent a lot of time on in American History class, so I found myself thinking things like "That would never happen... or maybe it could?" Overall, I would say this was a good choice to read during a rainy, dreary week because the action was fast paced and the details were goofy amusing.

Adrian Bryant says

Like most others on this site, the author, Jacopo della Quercia, followed me on Twitter after I followed Cracked.com. I returned the favor and began to see numerous tweets about his upcoming book. I first thought of some dude writing his novel at Starbucks that would be crap and no one would wanna read. I'm not sure why, but I did. However, after I read some of the online chapters and was totally shocked and captivated, I bought it. And my gosh, this is the most purely fun book I've ever read. You have a solid political adventure in a 1910's background with some fantastic characters, (among those being William Taft, Robert Lincoln, John Wilkie, and others) and a seamless blend of fact and fiction. Every true, historical event that is mentioned has a newspaper reference as a footnote at the bottom of the page, and that gives you assurance in the fact that this guy knows what he's talking about. At the same time, he uses his brilliant imagination to create a story that, while fiction, fits in perfectly with the times and world he's set up. All of this blends into an insanely fun read that will entertain and, in some cases, inform you. The only negative I can think of is that at first you see a piece of technology that is so ahead of it's time that you don't really believe it, but you learn to accept it, as it's very prominent in the book. Outside of that, there's not any strong negatives to this book that I can tell. If you enjoy history, adventure, and fat people throwing guys around like rag dolls, you'll love this book. It's definitely worth a shot. Well done, Mr. Quercia!

Josiah John says

Couldn't put it down. Liked how the author included references to news articles of events happening during the time of his story to link it into history.

Daron Stoker says

I'm a Brit with only a passing understanding of who President Taft was, yet having completed this first novel by Mr Jacopo Della Quercia I find myself hoping that he was in some way like he's been written here. Steampunk is not a genre I'm overly familiar with either, yet I can guarantee that any reader can pick this up and immediately feel drawn into the twists and turns of the story. It has something for everyone. Some of the situations into which the writer drops his characters are nothing short of inspired. The biggest accolade I can give is that having completed it and with a number of books waiting to be read I'm reading it all over again.

Antonio Urias says

This review and others are available on my blog.

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy: A Novel is a globetrotting, historical, steampunk extravaganza that transverses continents and straddles two centuries. Jacopo della Quercia has constructed a good old-fashioned adventure story out of detailed historical research complete with footnotes and a giddy sense of fun.

President William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln find themselves embroiled in a conspiracy stretching back to the Lincoln Assassination. In the process they travel the world in an airship, dodge automaton assassins, encounter a number of historical figures, engage in several firefights, and storm a particularly famous vessel.

Della Quercia clearly loves these historical figures, some famous others more obscure, but all real. He builds a story that wouldn't be out of place in a pulp serial out the minutia and historical facts of their lives. President Taft's wife and Co-president, Nellie, in particular is a revelation.

The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy: A Novel is a secret history of the early 20th Century that manages to fit a possible alien invasion, a global conspiracy, airships, and a number of midnight raids into the cracks of recorded history. A highly enjoyable and often whimsical romp through history.

****Received copy from NetGalley for Review**

Amber says

If I were to pick one word to describe this it would be "careening". Because that's what the reader does throughout the story. It feels like a non-stop careen complete with disaster and ridiculousness. I loved every minute, obviously. The characters were engaging and just plain fun. I can't really put into words the how and why, but this was a joy to read. Recommend.

Sebastian H says

Three and a half, rounded up to four for the excellent final chapters which turned around a slow-burning steam punk adventure into a full blown action romp with a few twists to boot.

It seems no writer from Cracked can publish a book that I won't enjoy. First "John Dies at the End" by the incredible David Wong. Then, "Notes from the Internet Apocalypse" by the awesome Wayne Gladstone. And now Jacopo Della Quercia, another of my favorite columnists, publishes a novel so full of love for history that it really translates for the reader just how passionate about the subject Della Quercia really is.

The amount of investigation and cross references between real world events and those purely fictional is staggering. So much so that I feel like I'd need to delve into a library worth of history archives to come close to really appreciate just how much effort was put into this novel. His depictions bring these historic characters to life under a new, fantastic light. And that ending! Without going into spoiler territory, that has to be one of the best bitter sweet endings I've had the pleasure of encountering.

Recommended for history buffs, steam punk fans, adventurers and Cracked fans alike.

Jennifer Bradley says

Entertaining read!

Packed with fascinating history, TGA LPC chugs along at a brisk pace. I laughed out loud during several scenes and was introduced to a lot of history I'd like to read up on. That said, the action sequences were rough and I wasn't always clear on who was doing what, and I'll admit Archie/Wilkie/Lincoln sometimes blurred together for me. I definitely enjoyed this book, and would recommend to readers looking for sharp comedy in their history.

Brentin says

One problem that might plague the readers of Cracked.com is judging the novels from regular site contributors based on how they feel about the site. So far, I would describe the Cracked writers' novels that I've read as "Good, not great." This book, on the other hand, was great. Although Jacopo della Quercia, like his Cracked cohorts, cannot resist throwing in a couple of jokes from the site, they actually fit really well with the storyline.

Historical fiction can be quite difficult. Unlike alternative fiction, which picks a point and time and says

"What if it went *this* way instead", historical fiction gives another explanation for events that DID happen. In this case, the Taft presidency is presented in a more steam-punk style narrative, with airships and automatons. JDQ does a superb job of making sure the reader who isn't a history buff is caught up to speed, and he includes references in the back for some of the real events. The pace of the book moves very quickly, right up to the nail-biting end. An epilogue at the end is also helpful to those unfamiliar with history as he recaps what happens after Taft leaves office, and a little "teaser" hints at a possible sequel

If there was any criticism, I would say that some of the character development is a little lacking. Several real life figure are reduced to archetypes (Secret Service Chief John Wilkie is a hothead with a perpetual cigar hanging out of his mouth), and the perspective of the story seems to change on a whim.

I have a feeling that most of the readers of this book are going to be devotees of Cracked.com, and that's a damn shame, because this book deserves a wide audience.

Kelly Vergara says

I'm not entirely sure I would've even heard about this book had the author not followed me on twitter and told me about it. That lead to the single greatest read of the current decade, in my braggadocious opinion. This world is full of people who confuse opinion for fact. I am one of those people. If you don't read this book you are wrong. If you read it and don't like it then go drink some scotch until you have the courage to confront your parents for failing you.

The opening chapter, while containing very little dialogue, makes you appreciate Abraham Lincoln more than any history teacher ever did. And the rest of the book give the only explanation I've ever heard for why I was told so little of President Taft in school (he was busy kicking opponents square in the sternum). Granted, this is a work of fiction, but I'd rather believe the fiction I'm told in this book than the ones we read in history class.

Steam punk zeppelins.

Nicola Tesla killing assassins.

Taft not understanding how brakes work while screaming down the streets of D.C. Secret organizations. Conspiracies.

Some of the many things that will entertain you for hours. Jacopo Della Quercia has done the best work of his life, so far.
