



Murder in the Lincoln White House

C.M. Gleason

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March 4, 1861: On the day of Abraham Lincoln's inauguration, the air is charged with hope and apprehension. The last thing anyone wants is any sort of hitch in the proceedings—let alone murder! Fortunately the president has young Adam Quinn by his side . . .

At the inaugural ball, Lincoln's trusted entourage is on their guard. Allan Pinkerton, head of the president's security team, is wary of potential assassins. And Lincoln's oldest friend, Joshua Speed, is by his side, along with Speed's nephew, Adam Quinn—called back from the Kansas frontier to serve as the president's assistant and jack-of-all-trades.

Despite the tight security, trouble comes nonetheless. A man is found stabbed to death in a nearby room, only yards from the president. Not wishing to cause alarm, Lincoln dispatches young Quinn—instead of the high-profile Pinkerton—to discreetly investigate.

Could the proximity of the murder possibly be a coincidence? Or is the crime directly related to Lincoln himself—possibly a political act? Quinn's observation skills as a frontier scout are invaluable as he examines the victim and begins a complex investigation. Though he is new to Washington, DC, he must navigate through high society, political personages, and a city preparing for war in order to solve the crime. He finds unexpected allies in a determined female journalist named Sophie Gates, and Dr. Hilton, a free man of color

Quinn—with assistance from Sophie and Dr. Hilton—must make haste to solve the murder if he is to protect the president he's pledged to serve. With the shadow of war looming on the horizon, there's no margin for error, as no less than the fate of the nation is at stake . . .

PRAISE FOR THE PREVIOUS WORKS OF C. M. GLEASON:

“Exhilarating . . . Sure to please.” —*The New York Times Sunday Book Review*

“Wonderfully witty . . . deliciously dark and delightfully entertaining.” —*The Chicago Tribune*

“Sophisticated, sexy, surprising . . . This book grabs you and holds you tight till the very last page!” —#1 *New York Times* bestselling author J. R. Ward

“Gleason's novel is a well-oiled machine . . . the authentic historical framework . . . the compelling personalities.” —*School Library Journal*

“Witty, intriguing, and addictive.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Phenomenal storytelling.” —*Romantic Times*

Murder in the Lincoln White House Details

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From Reader Review *Murder in the Lincoln White House* for online ebook

Jill Wittkopp says

Adam Quinn is our reluctant detective in this mystery series. A frontiersman that wants nothing to do with big cities or politics finds himself by Mr. Lincoln's side as he tries to hold the nation together.

This book starts with a murder at Lincoln's inaugural ball and sets off running from there. Instead of the high profile Pinkerton detectives set to investigate, Lincoln asks his family friend, Adam Quinn, to discreetly find out what happened. A choice representative of Lincoln's will to hold the nation together, come what may to his personal safety. Gleason has done her research. She paints a detailed picture of antebellum D.C. and leverages the threat of war looming over every move the characters make.

Gleason's attention to period detail gives a vibrant yet harsh reality to her story. And the main character Quinn is no different. While not in any way a detective, he's able to leverage the skills that he's learned on the Kansas frontier to help solve his case.

A character that I will continue to read. I'll look forward to what Adam has to face next and how pressure will continue to build as the nation heads to war.

Albert says

Murder in the Lincoln White House by C.M. Gleason is one of those books that you want to like more than you really do and then spend a ridiculous amount of time trying to talk yourself into wanting to praise what is simple, a good book and a good mystery with fairly typical characters for this time period.

"....I believe now will be the moment where our jack-of-all-trades will step forward and prove himself both versatile and indispensable."

With a jolt, Adam looked up at Mr. Lincoln, who'd spoken clearly and gravely. Very different from the relaxed, affectionate man with whom he'd sat at the dinner table and listened to story after story, or argued and joked with in the parlor for years back in Springfield. 'Mr. President,' he began.

Lincoln shook his head, holding up a hand. His eyes were calm yet troubled. 'The last thing I want is for anyone out there to know. Especially Mary. She's been waiting for this for...well, years. Decades, really.' His smile was both wry and sad.

Adam felt a twinge. He and his uncle had spoken long and intimately about the new president-and what a burden he would bear.

What a dangerous, heavy, important burden.

'Whatever I can do, of course, Mr. President,' he replied.

Joshua took Adam's arm. 'A man's been stabbed here, at the ball. Murdered...'

It is March 4, 1861, the day of the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. With the threat of war raging on, these are perilous times in Washington for not only its people but for its leader as well. Surrounded by his security team, which consists of Allan Pinkerton and Lincoln's oldest friend Joshua Speed, they are joined by Speed's own nephew, Adam Quinn. Recently of the Kansas frontier, Quinn is back in Washington to serve the President of the United States.

What Quinn thought would be a security detail changes quickly when a murdered man is found just outside of the inaugural ball. Now Quinn is charged with finding the killer and solving the crime. But can it just be a coincidence that the murder happened on this date and so close to the President? Or is this a harbinger of a greater danger to come. But when a second killing is done, it is far too close to home. It is in the sanctum of the President.

"...A murder in my great White House,' said Lincoln. Looking soberly at Adam. 'if it was to happen, I'd have thought it would have been me...."

Quinn enlists the help of a female journalist posing as a man, Sophie Gates and a free man of color, Dr. Hilton to help him solve these violent deaths. Together they must solve these murders and save the stain of blood on Lincoln's young presidency.

Okay, on the premise this sounds like a very good book and perhaps it could have been. But the characters are like extras in a film. Devoid of any actual depth. There is a southern belle who wants to escape a loveless marriage proposal and whose diva like actions place her in jeopardy constantly. A situation she needs help to escape, help from a man; Adam Quinn. In contrast, Sophie Gates; the feminist crusading journalist needs no mans help. In fact she pretends to be one to show how much she can do whatever a man can do. The book will pretend that she works alongside Quinn, when in fact she often works against him to serve her own ambitions. She conceals evidence and only reveals it and herself when it helps to further her cause. But the book is blatant in its characterization of the two women. North good. South bad.

Dr. Hilton however is a very intriguing character. A man of color, a medical man, who is trying to make a life in the North yet is finding himself facing many of the same prejudices that he faced in the South. He finds that his only clients are those too destitute to go elsewhere. When he is pulled into the crimes, he finds his findings called into question by the enlightened Northerners simply because he is a black man. He also is forced to take in the dead bodies even though by doing so, he is putting his own practice an livelihood in jeopardy. This is something that Quinn and his group seem to not be concerned with much at all.

But in the end, it is the motive for the killings which I found so disappointing. I won't give it away here but in a novel in such a setting, such a time and such a nation in turmoil, this was pedestrian.

Good but could have been so much better.

Stephanie Anze says

Its March 4, 1961, the night of the inagural ball for the newly elected president Abraham Lincoln. The room is packed with men & women, northerners & southerners and allies & enemies alike. President Lincoln is surrounded by a tight team of security led by the experienced Allan Pinkerton. When the body of Custer Billings is found stabbed in a room not too far away from the new president, its not Pinkerton who is summoned but Kansas frontiersman Adam Quinn. Quinn is asked to discreetly investigate the murder. Being a fresh arrival in Washington D.C., that may be a challenging task but Quinn is not one to back down.

This work is a perfect combination of a murder mystery and a historical novel. Its no secret that when Lincoln was elected, he was not widely poplular. The pro-slavery southerners threatened with secession, Lincoln received multiple personal threats and war was looming. Still, the inaguration moved forward. This is a fictional work of a murder happening on inagural night. Adam Quinn is a new face in Washington D.C.

and is part of Lincoln's security team. While the political scene is new to him, he is about to get a crash course. Gleason captures the heated political climate and scene of 1961 accurately. Dealing with slavery, women's roles and rights and the growing conflict with the south, not one detail went unnoticed. The mystery aspect had me guessing til the very end and was very much satisfying. Not be left aside is the characterization. While the plot centers around Lincoln, he is not the protagonist. Gleason provides a balanced narrative that I absolutely taken in with. This is a series and the next is due to be released this year. Looking forward for it.

An interesting piece of history, the "White House" was not called that name til 1901 when Teddy Roosevelt made it official. When Lincoln was in office it was called the "President's Palace" or simply the President's House. The reference to the color white comes from the fact that the president's house had to be repainted after the British attempted to burn it down druring the American Revolution.

Krista Taracuk says

Frontiersman Adam Quinn left the racial tension of the Kansas Territory hoping to escape the memories of the violent deaths of his friends and the loss of his arm. He arrives in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1861 to find the city mired in hatred, gossip, and corruption on the eve of the impending war.

As a long-time and trusted friend of the Lincolns, Quinn is hired to find a murderer and travels between the high society of the rich and powerful to the overlooked slums of the city. Volatile tempers, hostilities, racial tension, and assassination plots cloud his investigation but he finds assistance from such unlikely characters as a black doctor, a poor Irish boy, and a young woman posing as a male reporter.

Both YAs and adults will enjoy the well-researched details of the political and cultural swampland of DC in the spring of 1861 in this new series of historical fiction.

Linda says

The Times They Are A-Changin' (Bob Dylan)

History carries a heavy stick. It raps to a familiar beat heard since the beginning of time. The panoramic stage weaves variations and set changes, but the actors, oh the actors, are cloaked in hues of long-standing hate, greed, animosity, and belligerent behavior.

The curtain rises in the Inaugural Ballroom in March of 1861 ushering in the newly elected President Abraham Lincoln. The dance floor is lined with hoop-skirted ladies and men wearing a cockade on their waistcoats depicting their political leanings. Abolitionists and secessionists mingle in the same crowd.

But eyes sweep the clusters of people in an age when that is the highest level of security. Pinkerton's men move from one end of the hall to the other. They have broken through many plots to threaten Lincoln's life including a recent one in Baltimore in which Lincoln was swept away to board another train. Even congratulatory baskets of sweets may be tainted with arsenic. A most loved and a most hated President of the times.

The discovery of a dead body in a room near Lincoln sets the White House on alert. The man was stabbed to death. Lincoln calls in Adam Quinn to investigate the crime. Quinn becomes a most unusual protagonist. He lost his arm in the Bloody Kansas revolts and wears the heaviness of a prothesis. Quinn is more of an adventurer than an investigator. But his living-off-the-land experiences serve him well here. Washington, D.C. is filled with unsavory characters with hidden and not so hidden agendas.

C.M. Gleason presents a fictional storyline encased with scenarios of impending war, political stances, the role of females in society, the day upon day effects of slavery, and the impact of the Black Code on free black men and women of the time. Gleason even brings in a black doctor educated in Montreal to do an autopsy at the request of Quinn. Quinn is not the sole Robin Hood here. It is through a combined effort of various individuals that the crime will be solved. I especially enjoyed Gleason's introduction of early forensic procedures and the analytical deduction of clues.

Murder in the Lincoln White House is the first book in this series. I am looking forward to future adventures involving the sharp skills of this one-armed earthy character. Well done, C.M. Gleason.

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest review. My thanks to Kensington Books and to C.M. Gleason for the opportunity.

Alyssa Maxwell says

C.M. Gleason introduces us to the conflicted and incredibly complicated world of 1861, when our nation was about to be divided and every ideal it had been based on less than a century earlier put to the test. Gleason deftly introduces us to a Lincoln who is much in the same vein as Daniel Day Lewis's portrayal -- an outwardly simple and straightforward yet inwardly complex man who gains both the reader's and the sleuth's sympathies. Adam Quinn likes and respects Lincoln, and genuinely wants to protect him and his presidency. Quinn, a man driven by honor, is a frontiersman who's out of place in the middle of Washington politics, but it's this very quality of being an outsider that allows him to see circumstances and suspects from a fresh perspective, while at the same time his suffering at the hands of anti-abolitionists keeps him on his guard. Very well done!

Julie Failla Earhart says

I'm a historical fiction buff, especially for the Civil War era and doubly for anything about the Lincolns. It was with bated breath that I opened the cover of this first book in the Adam Quinn series.

The time is March 4, 1861, Lincoln's first inauguration. The day has gone rather smoothly...a bomb threat at Lincoln's podium was thwarted, but otherwise it's been a peaceful day. Now it's almost 11 p.m. and the Lincolns have...finally...made an appearance at the Inaugural Ball.

While Abe and his beloved Mary promenade around the room, a body is discovered in one of the side rooms. There isn't much blood, but Custer Billings is dead, apparently stabbed. When Abe learns of what has happened he asks his closest friend, Joshua Speed's, nephew, Adam, to handle the case.

Adam has no background in detective work. In fact he has just returned from the Kansas Territory. He

accepts the challenge and the search for the killer begins.

Author Colleen Gleason, writer of more than twenty books, does an excellent job in steeping the reader in the 1860s culture, politics and ambiance of Washington, D.C. The Ball is held in a thrown together building, erected especially for the occasion. Planks cover the mud outside. The half-finished Capitol Building looms in the background. I felt as if I was at the ball with the description of the dresses, the dances, the men's fashions. But often Gleason went on too long. She used the same description of the dresses several times, and repeated many images.

Given the tenseness of the times, there is no tension in *Murder in the Lincoln White House*. Most of the time we see Adam scurrying from place to place, trying to enlist the help of anyone he can to solve the murder, picking up a small clue here and there and berating the ones he does have to death. As the novel takes place over three-four days, that makes the plot seem to move even slower.

I want to give this disappointing novel 2 stars, but the author's research coerced me into giving it 3 out of 5 stars in Julie's world.

Linda says

This is the first installment in C. M. Gleason's *Lincoln White House Mysteries*. It's President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball and the room is filled with attendees, both supportive and non-supportive. This leaves a long list of possible suspects when a murder is committed on this night of celebration. Lincoln has had so many death threats that his staff can't be sure if he was really meant to be the intended victim. Lincoln puts all his trust into Adam Quinn, a young frontiersman, to find out who committed the murder. Adam has his work cut out for him as he continues to be concerned with the protection of the President and the motive for the killing(s), which have increased since he started his investigations. This one will keep you guessing right up to the end.

Bryleigh says

This was a lot of fun, and a real page-turner. I have a weakness for mysteries set in the past, and this one didn't disappoint. I'm not going to write much here because it would be hard not to spill the spoilers, but it was well researched, engaging, and the period well captured. Recommended not just for mystery fans, but readers who enjoy a Civil War setting or are Lincoln fans.

I received this book as a giveaway from the publisher at BEA 2017 in NYC.

Juli says

It's March 4, 1861. Tension is riding high between the northern and southern states. War will soon break out, but for now, it's just rumblings and quiet threats. Newly elected President Abraham Lincoln has been sworn in, and a crowd has gathered for the Inaugural Ball. Fears of assassination or other violence are high....so security around President Lincoln is tight. Allan Pinkerton, head of Lincoln's security team, and three other

guards watch the crowd for signs of trouble. Adam Quinn, recovering from a wound he suffered while in the Kansas Territory, has been hired for security and also to act as a Jack-of-all-Trades for Lincoln. Quinn sees a man in the crowd acting strangely, but he is waylaid by women wanting him to dance, reporters and others at the ball, never making it over to the man. By the time he returns to the raised dais to check in with Lincoln and his entourage, something grave has happened. A man has been stabbed to death. Custer Billings, a banker, is dead, two knife wounds in his chest. Quinn quickly starts investigating the killing. Was this a political killing? Related to Lincoln? Or a random act?

This book is a nice blend of mystery and historical fiction. The author obviously did quite a bit of research to capture the tensions, political climate and issues of 1861. I did have just a twinge of incredulity that Quinn would have paired up with a female reporter and a free black man to investigate this murder. I doubt there were many female reporters in Washington D.C. in 1861. For a moment, it felt like forced diversity for PC purposes....but I liked the characters and felt they meshed together as investigators. So, it was a momentary twinge only.

The story is an enjoyable, believable read. The mystery has plenty of action, twists and suspects. This is the first book in a series....great start! I can't wait to read more!

The second book in the series, *Murder in the Oval Library*, will be out in August 2018.

C.M. Gleason is a penname used by author Colleen Gleason. She writes action/adventure novels under C.M. Gleason, and paranormal and YA books under Colleen Gleason. To learn more about the author, check out her websites: <http://www.cmgleason.com/> and <http://www.colleengleason.com/>

I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Kensington via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Ashley says

I won this book on goodreads in return for a review.

I really enjoyed this book! Plot twists, good research, and relatable characters.

The only thing I had issues with were there were times when the main character would mention something, and I would get the feeling I should know what they're referring to. Almost like I hadn't read the first book in a series, but I checked and there aren't other books. It didn't take away from the novel at all though.

I also found a slight error on page 288. The author puts nineteen fifty eight, while the novel is actually set in the 1800's. Just a small misprint.

Overall, excellent book and I can't wait to read more by this author!

Leith Devine says

I really enjoyed this book. The attention to the historical detail was amazing, especially when discussing the differences between those slaves who were considered "free" and those who were not. The plot was well-written and kept my attention until the very end.

At the party after Lincoln's inauguration, a dead body is found. The President asks Adam Quinn, recently arrived in Washington from Kansas and the son of an old friend, to investigate. Adam is a fish out of water in D.C., but he dives right in and starts looking for suspects. His search takes him from the upper corridors of power to the slums of the city as he tries to find the murderer.

This is a great book and I highly recommend it. Thanks to Kensington Books and NetGalley for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Wit & Wonder Books says

ARC received in exchange for an honest review

In this historical-mystery-fiction novel, *Murder in the Lincoln White House* by C. M. Gleason, gives us the first installment of the *Lincoln's White House Mystery* series. As far as first in a series books goes, this is a whopper of one. The descriptive detail takes you back in time to 1861, the day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated, as if you are walking on the cobblestone back alley streets with them or dancing at the ball in your hoop skirt.

Adam Quinn is part of Abraham Lincoln's assistants. He is the jack-of-all-trades guy. Not knowing fully why he was brought on until President Lincoln's inauguration ball when a man is found stabbed to death and the President assigned Mr. Quinn to find out the who and why. Mr. Quinn proceeds his duty using the skills of animal hunting that he learned from the Kansas frontier to track down a murder during a time of uncertainty and a country in transition doesn't make his job easy.

What keeps you reading is not only the scenery portrayed in detail, but the storyline itself and how at that time, some slaves were considered "free", the north and south were fighting, and women still weren't allowed the freedom of today. The combination of all these things happening back in 1861 and a murder at the inauguration ball made one amazing thriller of a story.

One of the most fascinating parts of this story to me is that Adam Quinn saw people for people. That his training from back home leads him to trust people to help no matter what color or background. He saw that people are people and did what was needed to get things done.

Then on top of all that, you will keep guessing right to the end on who-did-it!!! the small twist and turns are so well written that you just have to keep reading to find out what happens.

Don't be fooled and think this is one of those mystery novels that are heavy in thought it is not. This is so well written and grabs your attention, that you will breeze right through it and before you know it it's over and your left with thought of "WOW, well played". Five thrilling stars.

Kathleen says

I want to give this a very solid 4.5 stars. This was especially well done historical fiction and an incredibly well done mystery! The author does an amazing job at putting you right into the heart of Washington DC during the very first days of Lincoln's presidency. The descriptions of the city and the White House and the clothing were so incredibly clear you could really easily picture yourself standing there observing it all yourself. The mystery was really a good one and the investigation was fascinating as it was providing a glimpse into early forensics. The author also did a great job in providing summaries of the clues as the story went along (which in so many mysteries is missing) although at times it felt a bit redundant. Many, many well planted red-herrings and twists along the way. If you like historical mysteries I think this will be right up your alley! *I would like to thank NetGalley and Kensington Books for providing me with an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.*

Linda says

3.5. An easy read that kept my attention, and it moved along swiftly. I liked the characters and am looking forward to Mystery #2.
