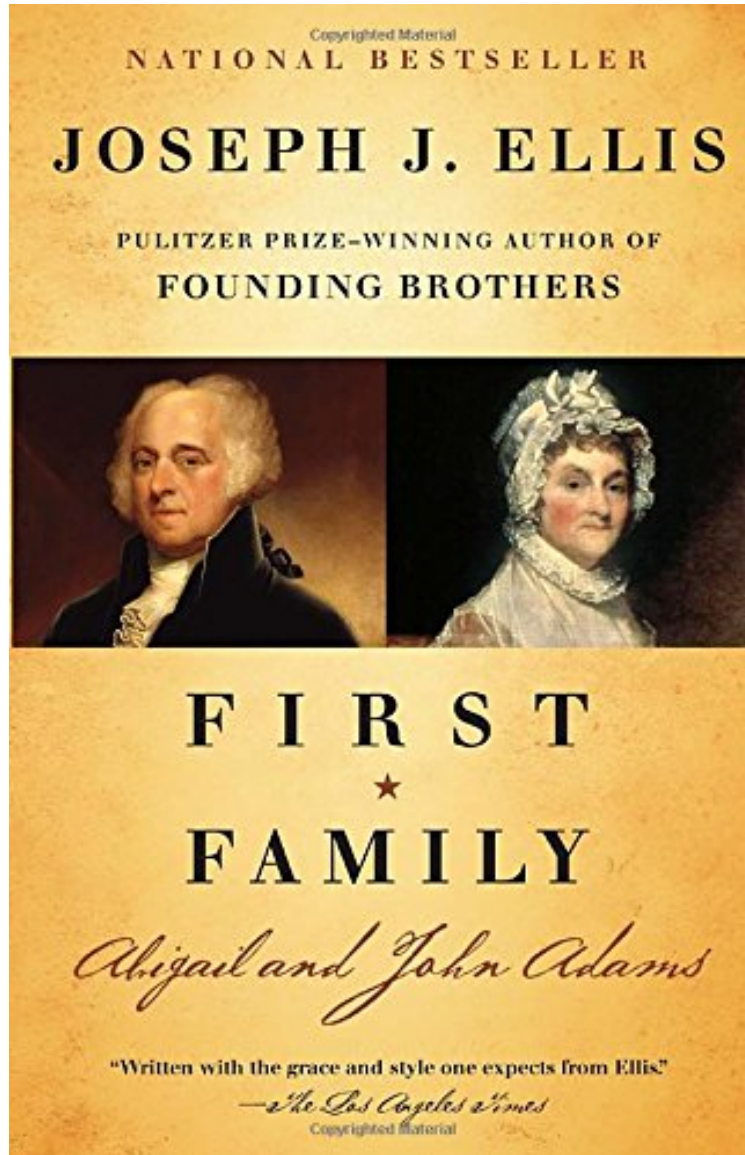


(Ebook pdf) First Family: Abigail and John Adams

First Family: Abigail and John Adams

Joseph J. Ellis

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Joseph J. Ellis : First Family: Abigail and John Adams before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Family: Abigail and John Adams:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Being at the Right Place at the Right TimeBy HMAIIIIEllis is a great author. I have never been disappointed in him. He introduces the term " paradox of proximity" to refer to the issue of separation from one's spouse, Abigail, results in a lot of letters from Braintree Mass to Philidelphia. When John and

Abigail are together the written correspondence naturally stops. Adams made copies of his letters as he knew as did other Founding Fathers that he was living in a propitious time. While John Adams is not a terribly likable man he was very honest and self made. Abigail is a Saint and perfect partner for him. Adams emotion would run very high and then low. Abigail was the ballast he needed. Her writing skill was actually superior to his. If you are interested in Colonial America, you will like this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still some surprises....By Gloria Even if you think you know everything there is to know about this famous couple, there are still some surprises in this book. I did not realize just how politically savvy she was, and I did not recognize just how long his absences were, that their love survived through it all is a testament to their own abilities... I also did not realize how differently their children were raised...any more and you won't feel the need to buy this extremely well written fascinating book, and that would be a shame. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating look into the lives of the most influential husband and wife in American History By C. Dickey I have read this book twice. This is a fascinating look into the lives of a great couple. Their personalities and interaction have kept me turning the pages. Now I enjoy discussing and arguing with my husband the conflicts between Adams, Jefferson, and Hamilton.

In this rich and engrossing account, John and Abigail Adams come to life against the backdrop of the Republics tenuous early years. Drawing on over 1,200 letters exchanged between the couple, Ellis tells a story both personal and panoramic. We learn about the many years Abigail and John spent apart as Johns political career sent him first to Philadelphia, then to Paris and Amsterdam; their relationship with their children; and Abigails role as Johns closest and most valued advisor. Exquisitely researched and beautifully written, First Family is both a revealing portrait of a marriage and a unique study of Americas early years.

From Publishers Weekly Pulitzer Prizewinning historian Ellis (Founding Brothers) gives "the premier husband-wife team in all American history" starring roles in an engrossing romance. His Abigail has an acute intellect, but is not quite a profeminist heroine: her ambitions are limited to being a mother and helpmeet, and in the iconic correspondence she often strikes the traditional pose of a neglected wife who sacrifices her happiness by giving up her husband to the call of duty. The author's more piquant portrait of John depicts an insecure, mercurial, neurotic man stabilized by Abigail's love and advice. Ellis's implicit argument--that the John/Abigail partnership lies at the foundation of the Adams family's public achievements--is a bit over-played, and not always to the advantage of the partnership: "Her judgment was a victim of her love for John," Ellis writes of Abigail's support for the Alien and Sedition Acts, the ugliest blot on John's presidency, all of which explains little and excuses less. Still, Ellis's supple prose and keen psychological insight give a vivid sense of the human drama behind history's upheavals. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist When so much has been written and televised about John and Abigail Adams, do we need another book? Yes, when the author is distinguished historian Ellis. Although Ellis notes that any study of either John or Abigail is necessarily about them both since their partnership was so central to their story, his focus is on that partnership (an approach also taken by Edith B. Gelles in *Abigail and John: Portrait of a Marriage*, published last year). The letters John and Abigail exchanged are the chief documents an ongoing conversation that ceased (to the frustration of historians) when they were together but also sometimes when they were apart. John was not a good correspondent when he was in Europe, for example, and what letters he did write often took six months to arrive, when they were not lost at sea. In addition to looking at the strengths of the Adams marriage, the book examines the toll taken by their years apart and the misfortunes in the lives of all their children except John Quincy. Ellis has produced a very readable history of the nation's founding as lived by these two. --Mary Ellen Quinn Written with the grace and style one expects from Ellis. . . . John Adams could not have a better biographer. The Los Angeles Times Authoritative. . . . Ellis employs his narrative gifts to draw a remarkably intimate portrait of John and Abigail's marriage as it played out against the momentous events that marked the birth of a nation. Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times A brilliant book. . . . Provocatively interpretive, carefully researched, and gracefully written. Providence Journal A stirring portrait of a marriage. First Family reminds us that in certain presidencies (FDR and Clinton spring to mind), there is no closer adviser than a brilliant spouse, improving the thoughts of her husband, often before he has even conceived them. The Boston Globe Engaging. . . . Ellis does a marvelous job of capturing Abigail and John at their boldest and most vulnerable. . . . He possesses a rare understanding of human nature. In First Family, he has given us the story of a marriage worth emulating and, not least, a subtle reflection on the perils of parenting. Chicago Tribune Richly detailed. . . . Erudite as well as eloquent, First Family proves that bedfellows can make superior politics. Richmond Times-Dispatch