Brief Annotated Bibliography of the Lincoln Assassination

Non-Fiction

**Fortune’s Fool** Terry Alford *His biography is probably the last word on a person who only lived to be 26*. In depth review of his acting career, which often gets short shrift in studies of the assassination

**American Brutus** Michael Kauffman *Kauffman is one of the leading scholars of the assassination (and who I met while he was leading a Surratt Society Booth escape tour)*. Kauffman sees Booth as a master manipulator – which does not exonerate the other conspirators

**Manhunt** James Swanson *Probably the best single volume on the assassination*. Very easy read – as compared to other books which tend to be academic

**Lincoln Murder Conspiracies** William Hanchett *Effectively debunks all of the nonsense we discussed in Class 3, particularly the Stanton conspiracy*. Well organized and an easy read

**Chasing Lincoln’s Killer** James Swanson *Young adult version of Manhunt*. Good first book on the Lincoln Assassination for tweens

**The Day Lincoln Was Shot** Jim Bishop *By far the oldest book on the list – originally published in 1955 - literally goes hour by hour on April 14, 1865. More what and when than how and why.*

**Blood on the Moon** Edward Steers *Steers, along with Swanson and Kauffman, are probably the leading contemporary writers on the Lincoln assassination. Very good on Mudd and Southern MD*

**The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia** Edward Steers *The one book to have next to you while you are reading any of the other assassination books. Only drawback – very limited before and after information about the people discussed*

**Come Retribution** William Tidwell *This volume revives the Confederate grand conspiracy, and proves Booth was working with the Confederate Secret Service in Canada on the kidnap plot*
Assassination Vacation  Sarah Vowell  If you were going to bring one Lincoln assassination book to the beach, this would be the one - Plot is the author (along with her sister and nephew) visit sites from, among others, the Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley and Kennedy assassinations

Lincoln Assassination Riddle  ed. Frank Williams and Michael Burkhimer  A series of essays about different aspects of the assassination, manhunt and trial - presupposes a basic knowledge of the assassination

The Assassin’s Accomplice  Kate Clifford Lawson  Used as the basis for the movie The Conspirator  Looks at the assassination through the lens of Mary Surratt

Alias Payne  Betty Ownsbey  Ownsbey has created, in the absence of any other biography, what will probably be the last word on Lewis Powell

His Name is Still Mudd  Edward Steers  Edward Steers, one of the foremost Lincoln assassination writers clearly refutes the “innocent doctor” theory

Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination  Thomas Bogar  An excellent introduction to the general world of theater in the mid-19th century and the events at Ford’s

Fiction

The Lincoln Conspiracy  David Balsinger and Charles Seiller  Not sure whether to put this in fiction or nonfiction – only included to show what bad history looks like

Hanging Mary  Susan Higginbotham  Fictional account of Mary Surratt, told through the eyes of a fictional boarder

Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln  Stephen Carter  “What if” book in which Lincoln survives the assassination attempt His “let ‘em up easy” philosophy comes into conflict with the Radical Republicans and like Andrew Johnson is impeached – you’ll have to read the book to find out the verdict!

Henry and Clara  Thomas Mallon  To a large extent, the lives of Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris were “stranger than fiction” so the novel reads like a novel, even when true