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Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter by Seth Grahame-Smith, Grand Central Publishing, 2010

Eloise Sureau-Hale
Butler University, esureau@butler.edu

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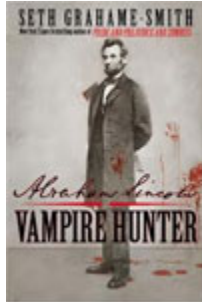
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Recommended Readings



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

by Seth Grahame-Smith, Grand Central Publishing, 2010

Reviewed by Eloise Sureau-Hale

In this rather unusual take on American history and how the Civil War came to be, Seth Grahame-Smith portrays Abraham Lincoln as a vampire hunter and exterminator. Divided chronologically, focusing on the various eras and events that have shaped Lincoln's life, the text starts with his childhood as Abraham encounters his first vampire: his mother's murderer. We then move on to his political years, culminating with his election as the 16th president of the United States of America. The last part covers his assassination... and beyond! No aspect of the great man's life is left untouched. Helped in his quest against vampirism by a few good friends, Abraham will spend the rest of his life on a vampire quest, determined to rid the world of those who, in the shadows, encourage mankind to be at each other's throat, sometimes quite literally.

Meant to be read as pure entertainment, or as a metaphor, this 2010 novel does a fantastic job at keeping its reader gripped to the end. Mixing facts and fiction, real events with imaginary accounts and dialogues, *Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter* is a fun new perspective on those mysterious remaining details in the life of the president that, as of today, the historians have still not been able to explain. What if it was all because of vampires? asks author Seth Grahame-Smith. After all why not?

All in all a fun and fast read, surprisingly and thankfully poor in graphic descriptions; a very thought-provoking albeit unique take on how political upheavals between creatures with various motivations gave rise to the largest battle ever to divide the nation.

- Eloise Sureau-Hale is Associate Professor of French at Butler University.