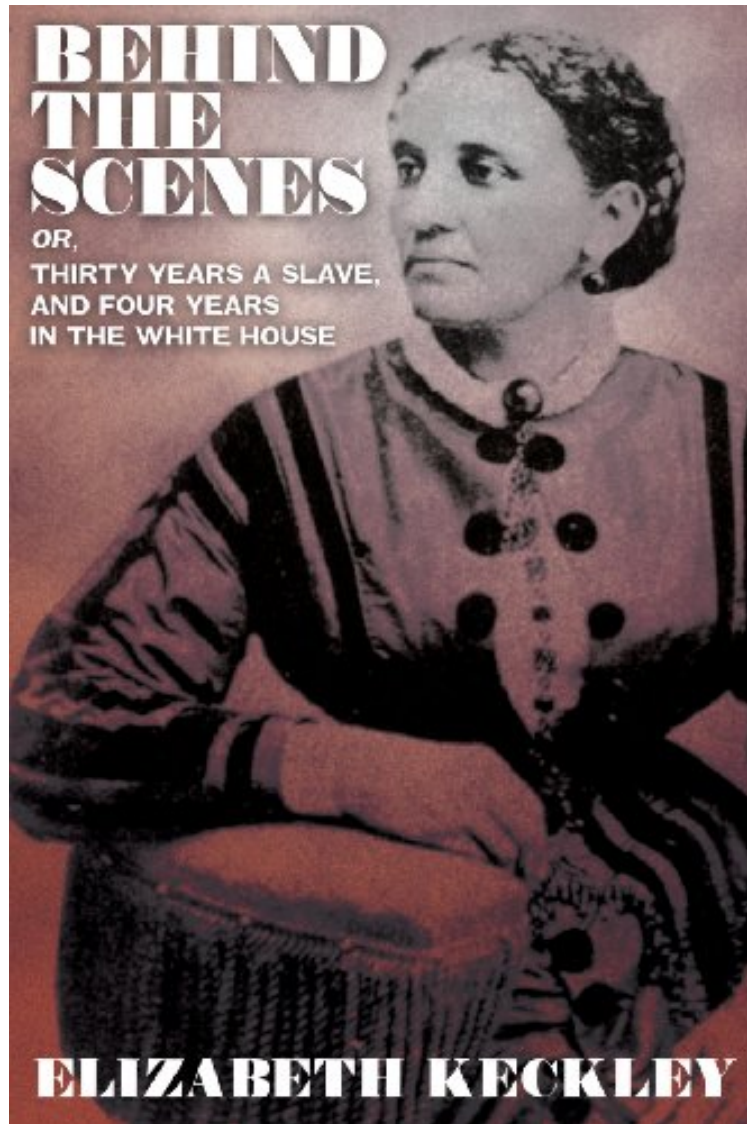


[Free pdf] Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, And Four Years in the White House

Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, And Four Years in the White House

Elizabeth Keckley

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#266746 in Books Elizabeth Keckley 2013-04-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .45 x 6.001, .60
#File Name: 1434441946180 pagesBehind the Scenes Or Thirty Years and Slave and Four Years in the
White House | File size: 56.Mb

Elizabeth Keckley : Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, And Four Years in the White House before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, And Four Years in the White House:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The fictionalized biography draws heavily on the subject's 19th

Century book
By Mae Beth Williams
What a cast of (TRUE!) characters! Mrs. Keckley is the more interesting character. She deals with the obviously difficult Mrs. Lincoln with grace, compassion and humor. As one reviewer noted, after 39 years as a slave, dealing with difficult owners, Keckley had skills and experience for her interesting relationship with Mrs. Lincoln. In doing research to serve as book club discussion leader, I also discovered that Mrs. Keckley thrived for many years in the most lucrative professions available to nineteenth century women. We learn through the book that Mrs. Keckley was a highly accomplished entrepreneur. Integrity and loyalty are among the many virtues of Mrs. Keckley and in the end, they are her downfall. Some reviewers castigate our author for her detailed descriptions of fashion creation and business building while others praise her descriptions of Washington D.C. for the appreciation of the atmosphere of city during the late 19th century. Judge for yourself when you read this one.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Behind the Scenes.....
By Tigierlady1412
I had first read the book Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckley before reading the Behind the Scenes..... Book. If I had read this book first, I probably would have given it a higher rating. Being from IL, near St. Louis, I certainly could identify with both of the women, their history, events and relationship. I found it very sad that Mrs. Keckley's later years were so desolate after her very hard work to free herself from slavery, her successes and her having shared such a close positive relationship for so many years with Mrs. Lincoln, that ended in a distasteful manner on the part of Mrs. Lincoln. No doubt Mrs. Lincoln's contributions to their relationship and her poor mental health contributed to the unfortunate outcome for Mrs. Keckley. I recommend both books, however, please read the Behind the Scenes book first since so much of the information is annotated the other book.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Readable, informative, wonderful and so interesting. (Read in 4 days on vacation plane!)
By Luchi1012
I loved this book. It was fascinating from the start. I was so impressed by Ms. Keckley's vocabulary and fluency. I loved how she expressed herself. Mostly I loved the intimate vignettes of Pres. Lincoln at home with his family. She buys herself out of slavery after several horrifying experiences. She needs to earn a living and pay back the money she borrowed to buy herself and her child. She ends up being Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker. Wonderful to feel you are inside the Lincoln White House. She discusses Mary Todd Lincoln in kind terms, admitting Mrs. Lincoln had some idiosyncrasies. Well done! She describes mannerisms, actions, words of President Lincoln in very personal terms, so you feel close to him. Wish there had been more of that. Her descriptions of his manner and persona were so beautifully done, that when he died in such a horrible way (which we all know), it caught me off guard and I teared up...I am so glad she was able to become literate at a time when many slaves weren't allowed that luxury. I am glad she put these experiences down on paper...it was part of her efforts to be financially independent...sewing in the daytime, and writing at night. An admirable lady.

An autobiographical narrative, *BEHIND THE SCENES* traces Elizabeth Keckley's life from her enslavement in Virginia and North Carolina to her time as seamstress to Mary Todd Lincoln in the White House during Abraham Lincoln's administration. It was quite controversial at the time of its release--an uncompromising work that transgressed Victorian boundaries between public and private life, and lines of race, gender, and society.

From Library Journal
The life and times of one remarkable woman encompasses *Behind the Scenes*. Keckley's first 30 years were spent as a slave, and the cruelties and injustices of her life are related clearly and succinctly. This enlightening memoir recounts how she was beaten and how she became a dressmaker to support her master and his family, how determined she was to purchase freedom for herself and her son, how her friends in St. Louis came to her aid, how she became Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker and close friend, and her perspectives and experiences from her inside view of Lincoln's White House. Keckley emerges as a calm and confident person who speaks of a very tumultuous period of American history. Reader Ameria Jones does a superb job, reading with a clear, strong voice. The musical performances are provided by David Hab. Recommended.
?Denise A. Garofalo, Mid-Hudson Lib. System, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Keckley provides a contrast between her life as a slave and her life as freed dressmaker. From her early years to her later friendship with Mary Todd Lincoln, Keckley's life is the pattern of a self-made woman as she buys her own freedom and becomes a friend to one of the most influential couples in history." -- Civil War "[Keckley's] unusual memoir offers a rare view of the formal and informal networks that African Americans established among themselves, as well as an intimate perspective of the Lincoln family... Heavily illustrated with eighty-six photographs." -- Documentary Editing "Lizzie Keckley in those Civil War years was privy to the most intimate conversations of the White House living quarters. You will never find a life of Abraham Lincoln in which her remembrances are not extensively quoted." -- Gene Smith, American Legacy
From the Back Cover
Only a few years later, however, that relationship was in ruins, when this 1868 book created a scandal. Intended by Keckley to rehabilitate the reputation of the former First Lady--who had run up extensive debts on clothing and other luxuries while in the White House, and found herself unable to repay them after the President's assassination--the book was perceived instead as a betrayal of friendship. Perhaps one of the first examples of celebrity gossip publishing gone awry, *Behind the Scenes* does, nevertheless, offer an insider perspective on the Lincoln White House that will intrigue armchair historians and fans of biography alike.