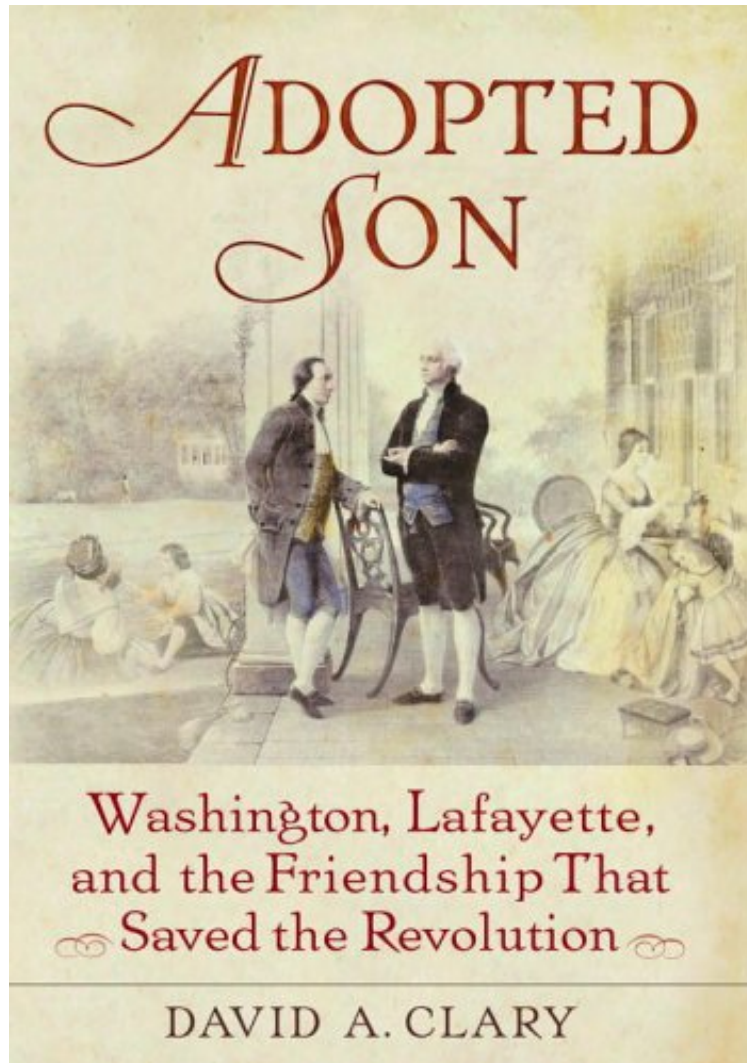


[Get free] Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution

## Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution

David A. Clary

audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



 Download

 Read Online

#994389 in Books 2007-01-30 2007-01-30Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #1 9.40 x 1.40 x 6.60l, #File Name: 0553804359592 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**David A. Clary : Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Very Long-Winded Take on an Interesting RelationshipBy kahemingwayAfter reading another book about Lafayette, and having previously been interested in his relationship with George Washington, I decided this looked like something that I would enjoy reading. While I learned a lot from the book and there were many memorable moments, the book also has certain drawbacks.The book actually starts off

by depicting the scene between Washington and Lafayette after the battle of Monmouth, in which the pair sat on top of Washington's cloak and fell asleep side by side. From there, it details first Washington's then Lafayette's early lives before they met in 1777 and documents the many parts both men played in the American Revolution. After the war is over, the book mainly focuses on Lafayette's various political and diplomatic escapades in France. It includes some information about Lafayette's return to America in 1824 for the fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution before finally wrapping up with his death in 1834. I'll start with the good parts about this book. There is a plethora of information about both George Washington and Lafayette in terms of their roles in the American Revolution and what happened to them after it was all over. The portrayal of the genuinely affectionate relationship between two people, both of whom lost their fathers early, from different backgrounds is touching and it makes these two great men seem more human. The book also comes with a number of illustrations and pictures of the people the book is discussing. It was a nice addition that gave a few visuals to a book full of names, dates and places. I certainly learned a lot not just about Washington and Lafayette, but many other players in the American Revolution as well. On the downside, however, this book is mired down with far too many details. I would have liked this book more if it had focused more on just the relationship between Lafayette and Washington, as it had a tendency to deviate from the pair in question as more and more people were introduced. In addition, it takes a few chapters before you get to the point where Lafayette and Washington actually meet and interact with each other, which was the reason I wanted to read this book in the first place. In short, I think some of the content could have been trimmed down and the book would have been better for it. That being said, this is a very informative book. I did learn a lot of things I didn't know about the two of them by reading it and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in Washington and Lafayette's relationship. If you don't mind reading some wordy and dense material, it is likely you will enjoy this book as well.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very well-researched book and it gave a good introduction to both men

By ARVery well-researched book and it gave a good introduction to both men, their backgrounds, and their ultimate fate while mentioning all their acquaintances and the parties involved in the American Revolution. The inclusion of their letters along with a Who's Who list of names and titles was very helpful, and the paintings and illustrations added a needed visual element to a dense book that needs the reader's time and attention. In the end, it seems both men affected one another in equal measure. Few men can leave their mark on history like Washington and Lafayette.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Lafayette, the boy general

By C. TravisThe book is an engaging story about the historic friendship between Washington and a young Lafayette. Lafayette was a rich, 19 year old French aristocrat without military experience who lusting for glory came to America of his own accord and volunteered to be a General under Washington. Congress, in its desire to attract French support for the war, appointed Lafayette a major general in the American Army within 50 days of his arrival and without Washington's consent. Washington upon meeting Lafayette is so taken by his boyish charm and magnetic personality that his made him an aide-de-camp without a military command and serving without pay. Washington had no son and Lafayette had no father and they naturally gravitated toward one another. The book centers on the relationship between Washington and Lafayette, but provides pungent insights into the forlorn struggle for American independence. It is less insightful about Lafayette's true contribution to America's war for independence. What the book does give is an entirely different view of the war. About 20 percent of the colonists, called Tories, remained loyal to Britain and would not help the revolution. Approximately half the colonists tried to avoid involvement in the struggle. They would not sell food or give shelter. Patriots were hardly more supportive; they demanded hard money which Washington did not have. The U.S. Congress was not much better. It was a quarrelsome mob with the fractious state governments unwilling and unable to provide money while the troops were starving. Soldiers lack tents, blankets, shoes and clothing. Many soldiers did not even have guns; they had to wait for someone to die to get a gun. This was not just for one winter at Valley Forge (at Valley Forge 2,500 men (out of 10,000) died from hunger, disease, and exposure.). The suffering went on for 5 years. General Greene said of the situation, "A country overflowing with plenty are now suffering an army, employed for the defense of everything that is dear and valuable, to perish for want of food". "We were absolutely liberally starved;--I so solemnly declare that I did not put a single morsel of victuals into my mouth for four days." "The only reason the whole army did not desert was because the roads were buried in snow". He was not talking about Valley Forge, but the winters of 1776-7 and 1779-80. Washington was not a great battlefield general. What he did was hang on for 5 long years until the French navy came into the war and blockaded British reinforcements and supplies and they were eventually forced to surrender. Washington's great contribution was to keep the army intact, suppress the Loyalists; and avoid defeat. Lafayette's great military accomplishment was to aid in bringing the French into the war, although major credit must go to Benjamin Franklin. Following the war, Lafayette was a national hero in France, but never lived up to his early promise since in maturity Lafayette continued to act with the impulsive rashness of his youth. The major focus of this book is Lafayette and paints an intriguing picture of a brave young man longing for glory. By studying Washington, he learned to be a good general and contributed to several battles. I found the book interesting if for no other reason than to learn about Lafayette, who is so famous in America. If the book has a negative part it is too much focus on the numerous Lafayette letters.

They were unlikely comrades-in-arms. One was a self-taught, middle-aged Virginia planter in charge of a ragtag army of revolutionaries, the other a rich, glory-seeking teenage French aristocrat. But the childless Washington and the orphaned Lafayette forged a bond between them as strong as any between father and son. It was an unbreakable trust that saw them through betrayals, shifting political alliances, and the trials of war. Lafayette came to America a rebellious youth whose defiance of his king made him a celebrity in France. His money and connections attracted the favor of the Continental Congress, which advised Washington to keep the exuberant Marquis from getting himself killed. But when the boy-general was wounded in his first battle, he became a hero of two countries. As the war ground on, Washington found in his young charge the makings of a courageous and talented commander whose loyalty, generosity, and eagerness to please his Commander in Chief made him one of the war's most effective and inspired generals. Lafayette's hounding of Cornwallis's army was the perfect demonstration of Washington's unconventional bush-fighting tactics, and led to the British surrender at Yorktown. Their friendship continued throughout their lives. Lafayette inspired widespread French support for a struggling young America and personally influenced Washington's antislavery views. Washington's enduring example as general and statesman guided Lafayette during France's own revolution years later. Using personal letters and other key historical documents, *Adopted Son* offers a rare glimpse of the American Revolution through the friendship between Washington and Lafayette. It offers dramatic accounts of battles and intimate portraits of such major figures as Alexander Hamilton, Benedict Arnold, and Benjamin Franklin. The result is a remarkable, little-known epic of friendship, revolution, and the birth of a nation.

From Publishers Weekly: Personal friends and political allies, George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette had one of the most important friendships of the 18th century. In this enjoyable study, Clary (*The Place Where Hell Bubbled Up: A History of the First National Park*) argues that although each man was a hero of the American Revolution, it was their partnership that secured American victory. Both men were orphans, and their devotion to each other was motivated by a deep psychological bond. As the title suggests, Washington was something of a father figure to the younger Frenchman, and Lafayette gave the general "unwavering loyalty, truly filial devotion." But the mentoring was not wholly one-sided: Lafayette was committed to the abolition of slavery, and Clary suggests that it was because of Lafayette's influence that Washington chose to free his slaves on his wife's death. The chapters on Lafayette's role in the French Revolution and Washington's anguish over Lafayette's imprisonment make this book far broader than the usual 1776 account. Occasionally, Clary gives over to cutesy Frenchisms (about Lafayette being wounded at the Battle of Brandywine, he writes, "If this was martial glory, trs bien"). Still, on the whole, Clary has satisfyingly woven together grand military history with an intimate portrait of deep affection. Illus. (Feb. 6) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist: In 1777 a wealthy 19-year-old nobleman from France presented his untested military services to the Continental army. Prudent as always, Washington tried the kid out as an aide before consenting to a command for Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de la Fayette. After proving his courage with a severe wounding at that year's Battle of Brandywine Creek, Lafayette was on his way to the military glory he sought, and the Americans had in him an advocate for French intervention against the British, which they sought. As Clary shows from the extensive correspondence that Washington and Lafayette conducted, their relationship deepened into an unabashedly paternal-filial one. His work's tone captures the sincere mutual solicitude that arose between the two, characterized by gratitude from Washington for Lafayette's personal loyalty, and by near idolization of Washington by Lafayette. Clary acquits himself well in narrating the military action of the major battles in which Lafayette commanded: Monmouth in 1778 and Yorktown in 1781. Portraying youth learning from experience, Clary's history will deservedly tap the readership for the War of Independence. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Few stories in American history are more intriguing, or touching, than that of the bond that developed between General Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. With verve and charm, David Clary shows how the childless Washington, who felt betrayed by many of the men who surrounded him, and Lafayette, who never knew his father and lusted for glory and the chance to help the American cause, drew close in a loving and trusting relationship. With his engaging style, Clary succeeds in bringing to life Lafayette and Washington, and also in acquainting readers with America's great and, at times seemingly forlorn, struggle for independence. John Ferling, author of *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic* As Clary shows from the extensive correspondence that Washington and Lafayette conducted, their relationship deepened into an unabashedly paternal-filial one.... Portraying youth learning from experience, Clary's history will deservedly tap the readership of the War of Independence. Booklist "A beautifully crafted, insightful study of the deeply intertwined lives of Washington and Lafayette, two key figures in the transforming age of revolution." Susan Dunn, author of *Sister Revolutions: French Lightning, American Light* A finely researched work on the sometimes awkward, often endearing, and ultimately historic relation between two great leaders. James MacGregor Burns, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Roosevelt: Soldier of Freedom*, and George Washington "David Clary's *Adopted Son* is a fascinating account of the relationship between Washington who lacked a son and young Lafayette, who lacked a father. It was a warm, affectionate connection that was greatly satisfying to both men, one that significantly strengthened France's commitment to America during our War of Independence. This fine study deserves a wide readership." Don

Higginbotham A riveting history of a tumultuous time in America and France...I loved this book. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, author of *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country* "This is a remarkable book about two of the most remarkable men of the revolutionary era indeed, of any era. At long last we have the full story of how the Father of Our Country and his French 'adopted son,' the Marquis de Lafayette, joined hands across the Atlantic and on the battlefield, and together launched a new nation and a new age of democracy around the world." Arthur Herman, author of *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* Personal friends and political allies, George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette had one of the most important friendships of the 18th century. In this enjoyable study, Clary.... [has] woven together grand military history with an intimate portrait of deep affection." Publishers Weekly