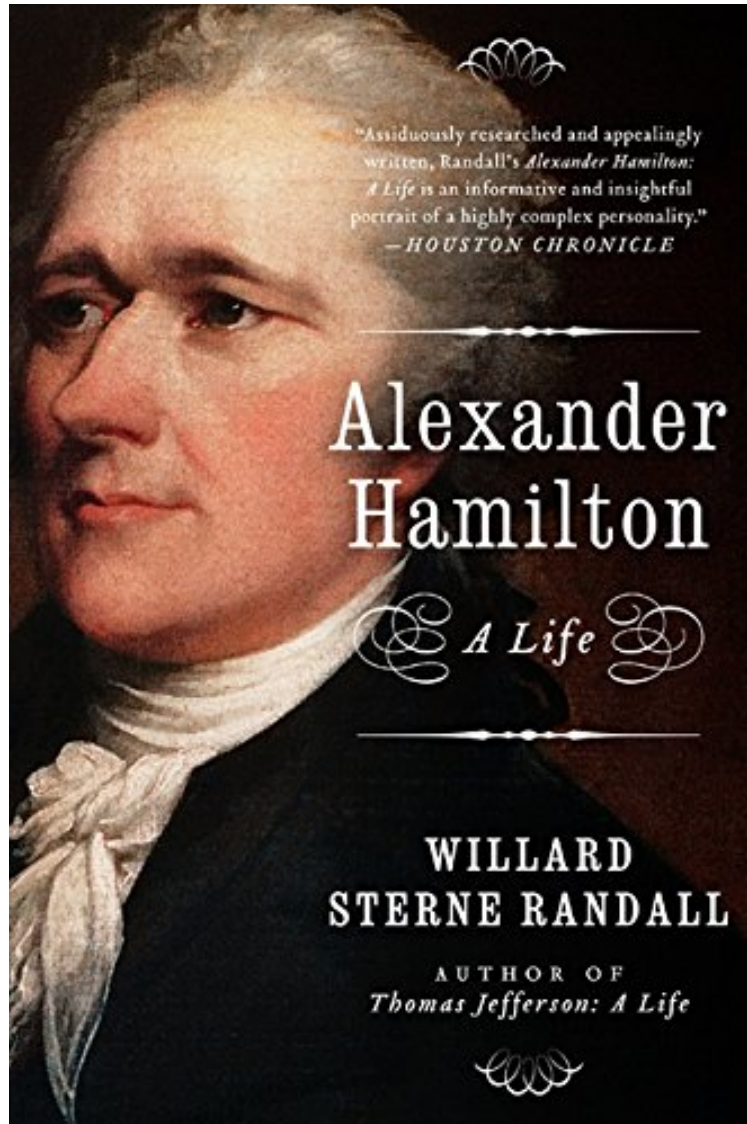


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Alexander Hamilton: A Life

Willard Sterne Randall

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#333286 in Books Harper Perennial Modern Classics 2014-02-04 2014-02-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .82 x 5.311, .92 #File Name: 0060954663512 pages Great product! | File size: 73.Mb

Willard Sterne Randall : Alexander Hamilton: A Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alexander Hamilton: A Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a Truly Fascinating Dude (and an immigrant to our young nation!) By Tilly's reviews As an American History major, I certainly knew the basics about Hamilton, his involvement in the Revolutionary War, his support for the new Constitution and the Federalist papers, and his huge role in our National banking system. But I did not know all the fascinating aspects of his personal life. And what a really

interesting life he had! For some modern people today who do not think that immigrants contribute enough to the American way of life and our Democratic system, I would point to Alexander Hamilton as an early example of an immigrant who helped forge our young country in a very positive way. He certainly rates as a fine example to prove the anti immigrant folks wrong! What a huge difference this man made in the formative years of our young nation. This book is well written. I highly recommend it!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good bookBy James CoyneHave read quite a bit about Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Revere, Paine and other Founding Fathers, but had never read about Hamilton. Having read this very good book, was able to fill in some large gaps in my knowledge of how our country was created. And got to learn so much about someone who rose from very meager beginnings to become one of the most influential and amazing people in America's history. Easy to read, well structured, very informative without bogging the reader down, this is a very good book about a man that everyone should come to know and appreciate.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good well researched book but not a great storyBy Paul M. StullHistorical biographies are always hard to tell as an exciting story, but this one bounced around a lot and didn't have a good central theme or two. A real shame because Hamilton's life lends itself to that approach. It was well researched and fairly complete but in the end left me wanting to read another one to get a more complete story of Hamilton's contribution to our history.

From his less than auspicious start in 1755 on the Caribbean Island of Nevis to his untimely death in a duel with his old enemy Aaron Burr in 1804, Alexander Hamilton, despite his short life, left a huge legacy. Orphaned at thirteen and apprenticed in a counting house, Hamilton learned principles of business that helped him create the American financial system and invent the modern corporation. But first the staunch, intrepid Hamilton served in the American Revolution, acting as General Washington's spymaster. Forging a successful legal career, Hamilton coauthored the Federalist Papers and plunged into politics. Irresistibly attractive, he was a man of many gifts, but he could be arrogant and at times a poor judge of character. In this meticulously researched, illuminating, and lively account, Willard Sterne Randall explores Hamilton's life: his illegitimate birth, little-known military activities, political and diplomatic intrigues, and scandalous affairs and its indelible impact on modern America.

From Publishers WeeklyBiographer of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, Randall is in his usual engaging form in dealing with the complex Hamilton, who in 1804 died in a duel with Aaron Burr. Creating a bigger-than-life hero, Randall sometimes strains credibility in the interest of color, and the evidence of occasional unreliability is exposed by gaps in documentation or in attributions like "according to tradition." One quotation credited to a Tory historian of the Revolution describes an American gallows erected near Charleston harbor, where "twenty-four reputable Loyalists [were] hanged in sight of the British fleet, with the army and refugees on board." In Randall's pages the close of the quotation is altered incredibly to "the army and thirty-five thousand Loyalists looking on." Randall's restless Hamilton, illegitimate son of a West Indian Englishwoman, succeeds on his energy, industriousness and intelligence, and a little help from distant relatives, becoming the new nation's first Secretary of the Treasury at 34. As a New York lawyer, aided by a loveless but lucrative marriage, he scrambled for riches before becoming a power behind the scenes in the federal government, then by Cabinet appointment. Even after Hamilton's resignation at 40, he is described, too sweepingly, as "a sort of unpaid prime minister in absentia," even though he was disgraced by two adulterous affairs, one with his wife's sister. Most of Randall's narrative is vivid and accurate, but the rest should give the reader pause. Eight pages bw illus. not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistHamilton is a popular choice for biographers and was most recently profiled in Richard Brookhiser's interpretive *Alexander Hamilton, American* (1999). Randall hews to a more descriptive style, narrating Hamilton's fortune-marked rise to fame, which was sealed when the ambitious aide-de-camp of Washington pleaded for, and got, the assignment to lead the final assault at the Battle of Yorktown. Randall's coverage of Hamilton's subsequent career is covered economically in the one-volume format, so the reader here has an offering weighted toward Hamilton's rise from obscurity on the Caribbean island of St. Croix, emigration to New York City, and enlistment in the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War. An extremely intelligent and diligent prodigy, Hamilton had a talent for attracting influential patrons, a feature Randall capably emphasizes while also using adroit detailing to vivify the worlds Hamilton moved through, from the slave economy of St. Croix to the upper American social crust into which he married. Randall's vigorous prose captures shows the compass of Hamilton's life and his role in making the U.S. a going concern. Gilbert TaylorCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorWillard Sterne Randall is the prize-winning author of thirteen books, including *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*; *A Little Revenge: Benjamin Franklin at War with His Son*; *Thomas Jefferson: A Life*; *George Washington: A Life*; and *Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor*. A finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, he is a professor of history at Champlain College and lives in Burlington, Vermont.