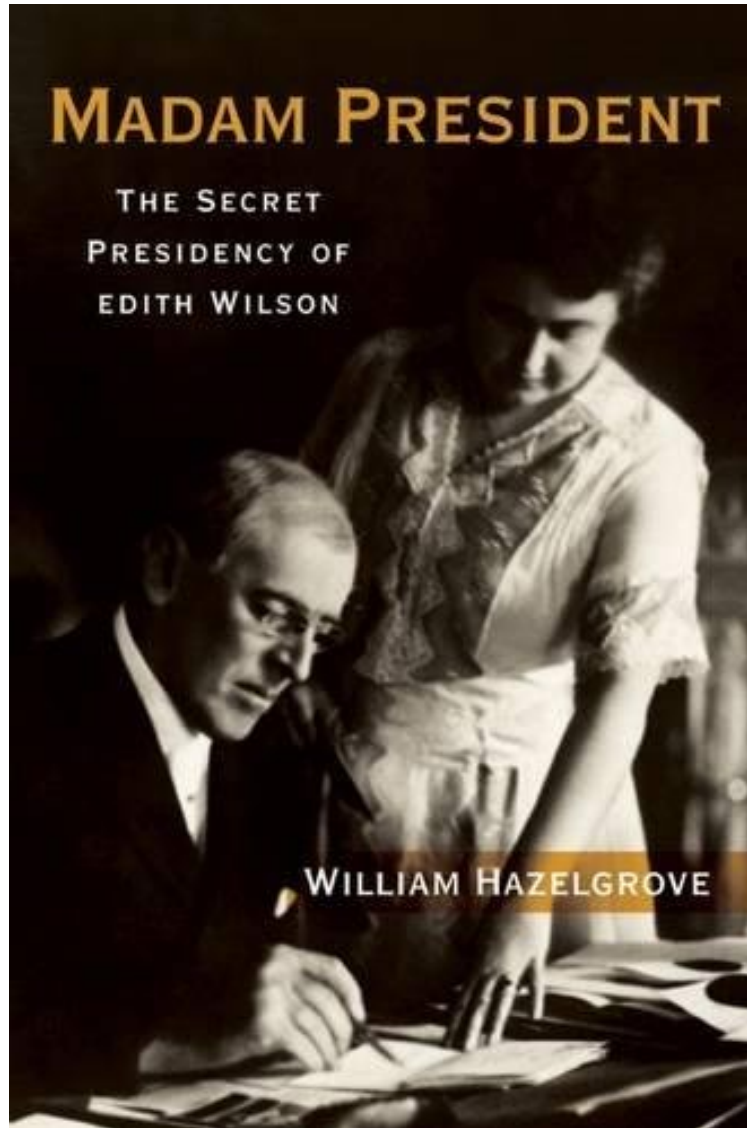


[Pdf free] Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson

## Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson

*William Hazelgrove*

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**William Hazelgrove : Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It could have been fascinating. It wasn'tBy book loverMADAM PRESIDENT by William HazelgroveI was disappointed. I was looking forward to this book having recently read another book that referred to Mrs. Wilson's acting in the President's stead.The facts are all here but the writing is very pedestrian. It reads like a college student's research paper. There is no attempt to construct a cohesive storyline. The

chapters jump from Ellen (first wife) to Edith (second wife), from before World War I to during the war and other chronological leaps with no linkage or connection to the preceding chapter. There are notations of the year under the chapter headings, but nonetheless, the jumps are disconcerting and unnecessary. The book does describe the machinations of Doctor Grayson to keep Edith as the President's voice; the disconnect of Vice President Marshall who made it very clear he didn't want the job of presiding over the country; and the frustration of the politicians who were quite deliberately kept from any contact with the ailing and incapacitated President. As a result, Wilson's dream of a functioning League of Nations was lost. Such a shame. This could have been a riveting and frighteningly true tale of politics, illness, laws, privacy, the League of Nations, ambition, wifely concern, the public's right to know, medical practice and chicanery. It wasn't. 2 of 5 stars 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wilson lite By Edward Amos Drift is a pleasant read, a good book for an airplane where you know you are going to get interrupted and if you miss a little bit of narrative, so what. I concur that the main problem is the author's technique of skipping around the years with Wilson. This may be a nice way to write a novel, but for anything historical, it is an annoying nuisance. Most of what is here has been covered before in better books such as Levin's "Edith and Woodrow" and the Cooper/Berg Wilson biographies. The author seems to have been poised for a Hillary victory last fall, with little references to Edith being a precursor to the election of Ms. Clinton. The overall story is more than interesting but with this writing style most readers of American history will find themselves scrambling for a more weighty look at one of our most fascinating Presidents and his tragic last years in office. A lightweight book, disappointing but again, if someone lends it to you for that flight from New York to Dallas, be thankful and gracious. By the way, note that Woodrow and Edith are the only Presidential couple to be interred in DC, but they are not together. She is several floors below at the National Cathedral. I find that a little disappointing too. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Riveting Read of Power and Love By Deborah Jacob William Elliott Hazelgrove does an admirable job of capturing Edith and Woodrow Wilson as well as any novelist who develops characters. What I found most intriguing is the structure of this tale about how Edith Wilson became "Madam President." This made all the difference in the book. A chronological presentation would have been boring. Flashbacks would have been trite. The author skips back and forth in time with little regard for chronological order at all, and it works almost like having the effect of a magical realism novel. Sometimes readers will likely forget what year it is and the author's method forces readers to dig back into the book. This results in a brilliant use of textualization. This would have been higher on my list of favourite history/biographies if not for two glaring faults: 1. The author's constant need to tell readers Edith is functioning as president -- one or two mentions is enough because the author does an admirable job of showing this. 2. A totally unnecessary last chapter that summarizes the entire book. Again, the author showed all of this. The book ended on a high note in the next to the last chapter. Still, Edith's story is soundly presented, and gladly those two flaws did not ruin the read.

"Gesturing to Edith Wilson as "Madam President" is shown to be deserved, though her role was never officially acknowledged. For a woman who had little formal education or prior political experience, Edith Wilson's efforts to keep the White House afloat are shown to have been extraordinary." --Foreword s Five Stars