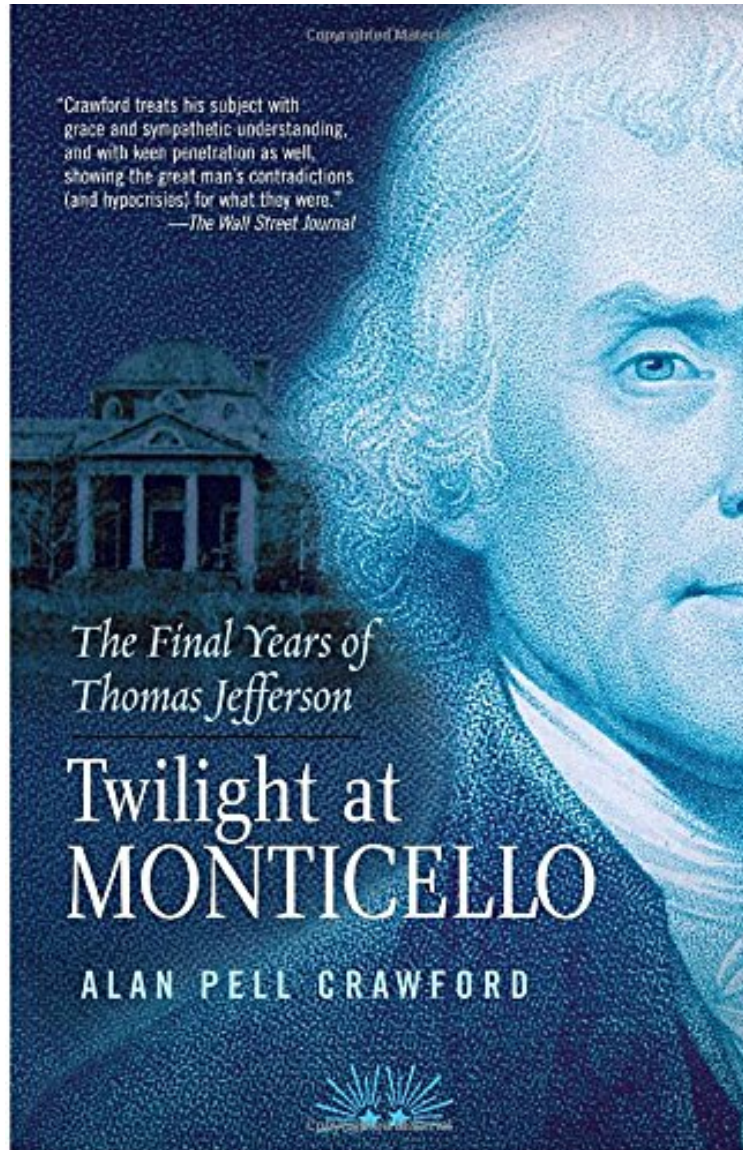


[Free download] Twilight at Monticello: The Final Years of Thomas Jefferson

Twilight at Monticello: The Final Years of Thomas Jefferson

Alan Pell Crawford

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Alan Pell Crawford : Twilight at Monticello: The Final Years of Thomas Jefferson before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twilight at Monticello: The Final Years of Thomas Jefferson:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy MAGAn excellent book that covers a part of Jefferson's life that is not often covered.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Objective and fascinating

look at the 'Sage of Monticello' By Daniel Hurley According to Clay Jenkinson, this is a better profile of the final years of Jefferson that is more objective than Dumas Malone's 6th volume 'The Sage'. Aside from Jefferson's financial issues that are quite fascinating, his desire to keep his family close created a large number of dependents and made relations within the families complex and strained. His grandson Randolph is remarkable giving up his education to work the lands, later assuming Jefferson's debts, selling lands and household materials from Monticello after TJ's death and he protected TJ from the Hemmings controversy by pointing to other family members. Fascinating too is the discussion of Monticello's design and offers that the Jefferson bedroom and library were very private with restricted access (however, providing discrete access to the house servant who maintained his quarters. That was Sally whose room was not directly connected to Jefferson but an access way was. Also, provided background on TJ's role in the creation of UVA, his late life writings to John Adams and his complicated view on slavery. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Twilight Sheds New Light By Tamara J Lawson Twilight at Monticello has put new light on Thomas Jefferson, one of our most complex, fascinating Founding Fathers. Having lived in Virginia for a number of decades, it's impossible to be anywhere without feeling the impact of his life and leadership. However, after reading this biography which reads like a novel, I have a greater understanding and appreciation for his legacy. Of course, I'm hungry to read more about him. Jefferson was complicated, a conflicted and almost tortured soul who put country and family first. He learned that the policies he put in place as president weren't always easy to live with as a private citizen, and, as a private citizen, what he thought should be done wasn't simple despite being president. He struggled with the slavery issue, foreign policy, economics, and how to govern a young republic. He was taken ruthlessly advantage of by family and friends, and suffered mightily - but stoically. What an example. What a fascinating life. Twilight at Monticello merely whet my appetite to explore this complex, heroic, compelling man who wanted only for his fellow citizens - and those who followed (us!) to be free.

Much has been written about Thomas Jefferson, and with good reason: He was the architect of our democracy, a visionary chief executive who expanded this nation's physical boundaries to unimagined lengths. But Twilight at Monticello is entirely new: an unprecedented look at the intimate Jefferson in his final years from his return to Monticello in 1809 after two terms as president until his death in 1826 that will change the way readers think about this American icon. Basing his narrative on new research and documents culled from the Library of Congress, the Virginia Historical Society, and other special collections, Alan Pell Crawford paints an authoritative, deeply moving portrait of the private Jefferson the first original depiction of the man in more than a generation. Though physical illness and family troubles, Jefferson remained a viable political force, receiving dignitaries and corresponding with close friends, including John Adams and other heroes from the Revolution; helping his neighbor James Madison during his presidency; and establishing the University of Virginia. It was also during these years that Jefferson's idealism would be most severely, and heartbreakingly, tested.

From Publishers Weekly Crawford (Unwise Passions: A True Story of a Remarkable Woman) does a thorough if artless job of narrating Thomas Jefferson's postpresidential years. Crawford's narrative is a slave to chronology, which works against him. The first 50 pages are a highly condensed account of his life up through his presidency: information which, if it must be included, could have been more elegantly inserted into the main narrative. After this false start, Crawford's story improves as he delivers an exhaustive account of Jefferson's tangled dotage: the attempted murder of his much-loved grandson by another relative, his dealings with other descendants both white and black; his de facto bankruptcy; and his late relations with such fellow founders as Adams and Madison. Much of this has been recounted before, though interesting and surprising details abound. For example, a young Edgar Allan Poe was at Jefferson's funeral. Despite all this diligence, however, Crawford's narrative regularly stops dead in its tracks, especially when the author crawls inside Jefferson's head, presuming to know his thoughts at a given moment. Crawford is quite sure, for example, that on the first day of February 1819, Jefferson dwelled upon the planters' financial plight, and his own... but this difficulty, Jefferson told himself, was surely temporary. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Intimate and detailed . . . [Alan Pell Crawford] had access to thousands of family letters some previously unexamined by historians that he used to create his portrait of the complex idealist, [and] there are some surprising tidbits to be found. Associated Press [A] well-researched look at Jefferson, and even readers with only a passing interest in our third president should find it fascinating. Richmond Times-Dispatch Insightful analysis and lucid prose make this autumnal portrait a rewarding experience. Kirkus s About the Author Alan Pell Crawford is the author of Unwise Passions: A True Story of a Remarkable Woman and the First Great Scandal of Eighteenth-Century America and Thunder on the Right: The New Right and the Politics of Resentment. His writings have appeared in American History, The Washington Post, and The New York Times, and he is a regular book reviewer for The Wall Street Journal. Crawford has had a residential fellowship at the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. He lives in Richmond, Virginia. From the Hardcover edition.