

0. A SHOCKING DEATH - Story Preface

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At the time he was shot at Ford's Theatre, President Abraham Lincoln had several items in his pockets. This image, from the Library of Congress, depicts those items.

As Lincoln slumped forward, Major Rathbone struggled with Booth. Using his knife, the actor slashed Rathbone's arm. As the assassin jumped from the presidential box, the spur of his boot caught a flag. When he fell to the floor, Booth apparently fractured his leg.

Laura Keene, it is said, rushed to Lincoln's side. As she helped to care for the stricken President, his blood allegedly stained the cuff of her dress.

Undaunted, Booth fled the theater through the back door, escaping Washington on horseback and crossing the "Eastern Branch" of the river. The police blotter reveals his name as the suspect.

The President, meanwhile, was carried across the street to Petersen's Boarding House. Mortally wounded, he was diagonally positioned on a bed too small for his 6'4" frame.

Shocked, his closest advisors gathered round him. Mary Lincoln was hysterical and, for the most part, not with the President as he lay dying.

At 7:22 a.m. the next morning, President Abraham Lincoln died of his wound. He never regained consciousness. In his pockets were reading glasses and other personal items. Ironically, his assassin had napped on Lincoln's death bed one month earlier.

America, while celebrating the end of a disastrous Civil War, now faced a different "national calamity." Despite the country's overwhelming grief at the loss of her President—a mere six weeks into his second term—a killer was still at-large.

A killer, that is, who kept a diary.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-SHOCKING-DEATH-National-Treasure-Book-of-Secrets)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-SHOCKING-DEATH-National-Treasure-Book-of-Secrets>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-SHOCKING-DEATH-National-Treasure-Book-of-Secrets)

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Media Stream



Blood Stains on Laura Keene's Dress

Image online, courtesy National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Blood-Stains-on-Laura-Keene-s-Dress>



Booth - Wanted Poster

Image online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Booth-Wanted-Poster>



Booth Jumped From the Presidential Box

Image online, courtesy sonofthesouth.net website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Booth-Jumped-From-the-Presidential-Box>



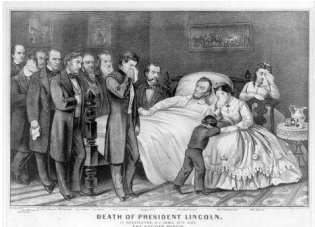
Lincoln Assassination - Contents of His Pockets

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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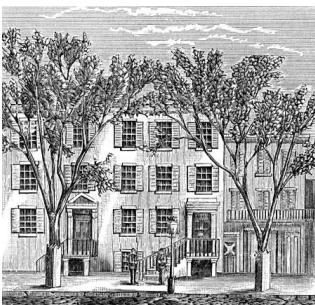
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lincoln-Assassination-Contents-of-His-Pockets>



Death of President Lincoln

Image online, courtesy the Springfield Museums website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Death-of-President-Lincoln0>



Peterson Boarding House Near Ford's Theater, D.C.

Image online, courtesy mrlincolnwhitehouse.org website.

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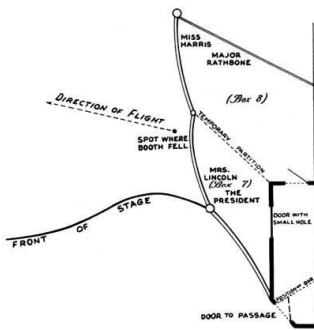
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Potomac River - East Branch Bridge

Image online, courtesy the civil-war.net website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Potomac-River-East-Branch-Bridge->

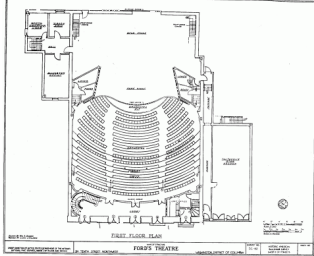


Ford's Theater - Seating, Time of Lincoln Shooting

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Park Service.

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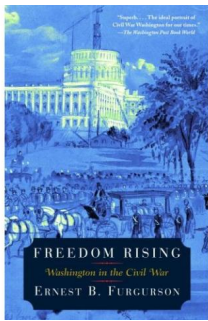
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ford-s-Theater-Seating-Time-of-Lincoln-Shooting>



Ford's Theater - Floor Plan

Image online, courtesy the fold3.com website.

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Freedom Rising: Washington in the Civil War - by E.B. Furgurson

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Freedom-Rising-Washington-in-the-Civil-War-by-E.B.-Furgurson>



Lincoln - Death Scene

Image online, courtesy the [Chicago Historical Society](http://chicago-historical-society.com) website.

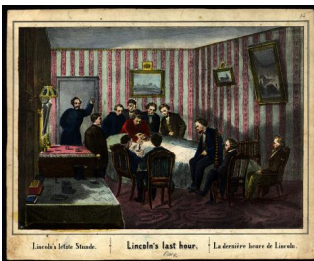
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Lincoln - Lying Wounded Photo

Image online, courtesy pbs.org website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lincoln-Lying-Wounded-Photo>



Lincoln's Last Hour

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lincoln-s-Last-Hour>



Lincoln's Reading Glasses

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lincoln-s-Reading-Glasses>



Knife of John Wilkes Booth - Lincoln Assassination

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