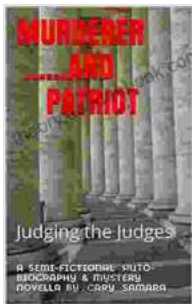


Murderer and Patriot: Judging the Judges

Thomas Jefferson is one of the most revered figures in American history. He was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, the third President of the United States, and the founder of the University of Virginia. However, Jefferson also owned slaves and was accused of murder.



Murdererand PATRIOT: Judging The Judges

by Caitlin Moscatello

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Jefferson's ownership of slaves is a well-known fact. He inherited his first slaves from his father, and he continued to acquire slaves throughout his life. At one point, he owned over 600 slaves.

Jefferson's treatment of his slaves was often harsh. He was known to beat and whip his slaves, and he even sold some of them away from their families.

In addition to his ownership of slaves, Jefferson was also accused of murder. In 1806, a young woman named Sally Hemings died at Monticello,

Jefferson's plantation. Hemings had been a slave of Jefferson's since she was a child, and there were rumors that she had been his mistress.

Hemings' death was ruled a suicide, but many people believe that she was murdered. Some historians believe that Jefferson killed Hemings to prevent her from revealing their affair.

The evidence for Jefferson's guilt is circumstantial, but it is compelling. Hemings was found dead in her bed with a gunshot wound to the head. The gun that was used to kill her was found in Jefferson's bedroom.

Jefferson never admitted to killing Hemings, but he did make some suspicious statements about her death. In a letter to a friend, he wrote that Hemings had "died suddenly and without any previous illness." He also said that he was "very sorry" for her death.

The question of whether or not Jefferson murdered Sally Hemings is a complex one. There is no clear evidence that he did, but there is also no clear evidence that he did not.

Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide whether or not they believe that Jefferson was guilty of murder.

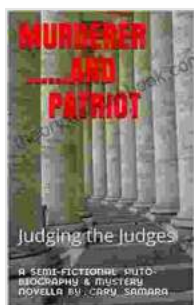
Regardless of whether or not Jefferson was a murderer, there is no doubt that he was a complex and flawed figure. He was a brilliant statesman who helped to shape the United States, but he was also a slave owner who treated his slaves poorly.

Jefferson's legacy is a complicated one. He was a great man who made many important contributions to the United States, but he was also a flawed

man who owned slaves and may have murdered a young woman.

It is important to remember that Jefferson was a product of his time. He lived in a society that accepted slavery, and he owned slaves because it was the norm. However, that does not excuse his behavior.

We must judge Jefferson by the standards of our own time, and by those standards, he was a flawed man. However, we must also remember that he was a great man who made many important contributions to the United States.



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