



American Sphinx

By Joseph J. Ellis

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis

Following Thomas Jefferson from the drafting of the Declaration of Independence to his retirement in Monticello, Joseph J. Ellis unravels the contradictions of the Jeffersonian character. He gives us the slaveholding libertarian who was capable of decrying mescegenation while maintaing an intimate relationship with his slave, Sally Hemmings; the enemy of government power who exercisdd it audaciously as president; the visionarty who remained curiously blind to the inconsistencies in his nature. *American Sphinx* is a marvel of scholarship, a delight to read, and an essential gloss on the Jeffersonian legacy.

 [Download American Sphinx ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online American Sphinx ...pdf](#)

American Sphinx

By Joseph J. Ellis

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis

Following Thomas Jefferson from the drafting of the Declaration of Independence to his retirement in Monticello, Joseph J. Ellis unravels the contradictions of the Jeffersonian character. He gives us the slaveholding libertarian who was capable of decrying mescegenation while maintaing an intimate relationship with his slave, Sally Hemmings; the enemy of government power who exercisdd it audaciously as president; the visionary who remained curiously blind to the inconsistencies in his nature. *American Sphinx* is a marvel of scholarship, a delight to read, and an essential gloss on the Jeffersonian legacy.

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #83482 in eBooks
- Published on: 1998-11-19
- Released on: 1998-11-19
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download American Sphinx ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online American Sphinx ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Well timed to coincide with Ken Burns's documentary (on which the author served as a consultant), this new biography doesn't aim to displace the many massive tomes about America's third president that already weigh down bookshelves. Instead, as suggested by the subtitle--"The Character of Thomas Jefferson"--Ellis searches for the "living, breathing person" underneath the icon and tries to elucidate his actual beliefs. Jefferson's most ardent admirers may find this perspective too critical, but Ellis's portrait of a complex, sometimes devious man who both sought and abhorred power has the ring of truth.

From Publishers Weekly

Penetrating Jefferson's placid, elegant facade, this extraordinary biography brings the sage of Monticello down to earth without either condemning or idolizing him. Jefferson saw the American Revolution as the opening shot in a global struggle destined to sweep over the world, and his political outlook, in Ellis's judgment, was more radical than liberal. A Francophile, an obsessive letter-writer, a tongue-tied public speaker, a sentimental soul who placed women on a pedestal and sobbed for weeks after his wife's death, Jefferson saw himself as a yeoman farmer but was actually a heavily indebted, slaveholding Virginia planter. His retreat from his early anti-slavery advocacy to a position of silence and procrastination reflected his conviction that whites and blacks were inherently different and could not live together in harmony, maintains Mount Holyoke historian Ellis, biographer of John Adams (*Passionate Sage*). Jefferson clung to idyllic visions, embracing, for example, the "Saxon myth," the utterly groundless theory that the earliest migrants from England came to America at their own expense, making a total break with the mother country. His romantic idealism, exemplified by his view of the American West as endlessly renewable, was consonant with future generations' political innocence, their youthful hopes and illusions, making our third president, in Ellis's shrewd psychological portrait, a progenitor of the American Dream. History Book Club selection.

Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

YA. In studying historical leaders, students rarely get a look at the individuals behind the myths that have grown up around them. Here, Ellis does an excellent job of showing that Jefferson was a human who made many decisions and some mistakes. On the one hand, he was a great historical figure who is due respect; on the other, he was a debt-ridden man with family problems. Ellis does not have an agenda to promote; he has a story to tell, and he tells it well. In a book that reads like fiction, he combines exciting plot turns with information. At the end, readers may not know for certain that Jefferson's life had a happy ending; but they will see him as flesh and blood instead of as a stiff statue or fixed painting in the Capitol rotunda. This absorbing study concludes with an appendix dealing with the Sally Hemmings scandal as well as extensive notes and an excellent index. *?Rebecca L. Woodcock, formerly of Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA*

Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lupita Kirch:

What do you about book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need

something to explain what you problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question mainly because just their can do in which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this particular American Sphinx to read.

Deanna Jackson:

This American Sphinx are usually reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The key reason why of this American Sphinx can be one of many great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you with information that possibly will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this American Sphinx forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Jane Pelley:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write to the book. One of them is this American Sphinx.

Elmo Bragg:

The book untitled American Sphinx contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice learn.

**Download and Read Online American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis
#ZJX17BYOA3N**

Read American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis for online ebook

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis books to read online.

Online American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis ebook PDF download

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis Doc

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis MobiPocket

American Sphinx By Joseph J. Ellis EPub