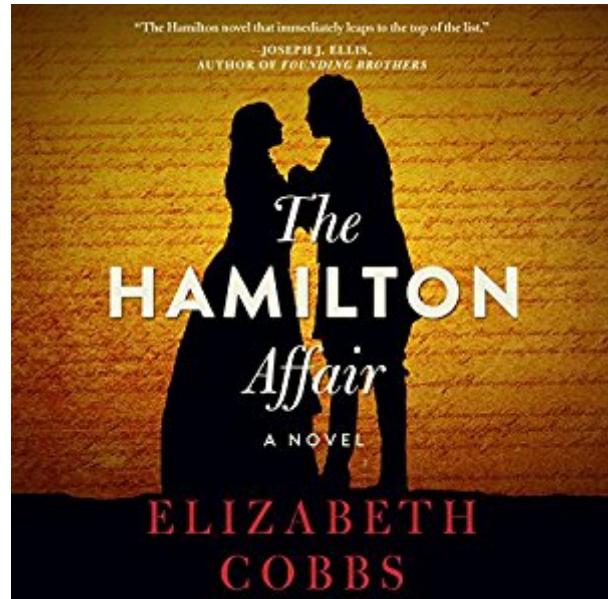


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# The Hamilton Affair



## Synopsis

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the American Revolution, and featuring a cast of iconic characters such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and the Marquis de Lafayette, *The Hamilton Affair* tells the sweeping, tumultuous, true love story of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, from tremulous beginning to bittersweet ending - his at a dueling ground on the shores of the Hudson River, hers more than half a century later after a brave, successful life. Hamilton was a bastard son, raised on the Caribbean island of St. Croix. He went to America to pursue his education. Along the way he became one of the American Revolution's most dashing - and unlikely - heroes. Adored by Washington, hated by Jefferson, Hamilton was a lightning rod: the most controversial leader of the American Revolution. She was the well-to-do daughter of one of New York's most exalted families - feisty, adventurous, and loyal to a fault. When she met Alexander, she fell head over heels. She pursued him despite his illegitimacy, and loved him despite his infidelity. In 1816 (two centuries ago), she shamed Congress into supporting his seven orphaned children. Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton started New York's first orphanage. The only "founding mother" to truly embrace public service, she raised 160 children in addition to her own. With its flawless writing, brilliantly drawn characters, and epic scope, *The Hamilton Affair* will take its place among the greatest novels of American history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although I'm not a fan of historical fiction, I took a chance on *The Hamilton Affair* by Elizabeth

Cobby through Vine as Alexander Hamilton is one of my favorite Founding Fathers. I was pleasantly surprised that this novel was so well-researched and well-written. One observation, however, is that I thought The Hamilton Affair was going to be primarily about Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds, which brought such tragic consequences. But the Reynolds' affair doesn't come into play until over halfway through the novel. With the Hamilton craze happening right now because of the hit musical by the same name, The Hamilton Affair covers well-known territory. The viewpoints alter between Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, who he will marry in 1780. The Hamilton Affair follows the timeline of Hamilton's life fairly faithfully from the time of his early childhood in the Caribbean to his death at the hands of Aaron Burr in a duel in 1804. Cobby uses letters, newspaper accounts, and journal entries to flesh out the story. She also adds some fictional characters, including Ajax Manley, a black Revolutionary War soldier who will become great friends with Hamilton and his family. Cobby doesn't go into great detail about many aspects of Hamilton's life, but she does try to show you what she felt both Hamiltons were thinking and feeling throughout their lives and especially, in their marriage. Maybe the author comes close to what actually happened, and maybe not. But she certainly helps us visualize what might have been. One thing that was especially disturbing is how toxic the political situation was during Hamilton's life. We may think that 2016 is pretty bad, but we have nothing on the infighting between Hamilton, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison and Burr.

Alexander Hamilton – the nation's first Treasury Secretary and a man so reviled that there is a movement to have him removed from the \$10 bill. A man that had become more of a footnote in history – other than his notorious death by Aaron Burr – until a Broadway musical became a smash hit and revived interest in this – soldier, thinker, statesman. In *The Hamilton Affair*, Elizabeth Cobbs has created a novel as fascinating as Hamilton was, and one that sheds light on his unique place in history. I confess – I was initially attracted to this book because of all the brouhaha about the musical. I was curious about the man that inspired such a massive hit, and knew little about him from my high school history classes. I prepared myself for a boring affair that I hoped might enlighten me a bit – what I got was a well-done and extremely interesting book about both Hamilton and his wife Eliza. Both viewpoints are covered in this book, and Cobbs takes great care to try and do justice to both. While the book portrays Hamilton in a positive light, and attempts to demonstrate just how unjust the characterization of him has often been, it also does not shy away from the damage he caused his wife and his family. Regardless of one's feeling about the man as a whole, it is undeniable that both he and his wife accomplished some amazing things in their

lifetimes. Creating the Treasury department from the ground up, ensuring veterans were able to get back pay after the war that created our nation, and even the creation of the first private orphanage in New York â “ these things and many more can be attributed to these amazing individuals.

I mostly read and review nonfiction. However, I am willing to make one significant exception to this, namely, historical fiction. I do this because at its best this genre can make what otherwise can be a tedious listing of dates and facts come to life. And when the work of historical fiction is essentially true to these facts, expanding on them primarily for the purpose of fleshing out the human aspect of the narrative, the end result can be a palatable way of learning history. And so, when I was contacted about receiving a copy of "The Hamilton Affair" by Elizabeth Cobbs in exchange for my willingness to write an honest review, I gladly accepted the opportunity. As someone who likes to think of himself as impervious to hype and trendiness, I have paid scant attention to the recent popularity of Alexander Hamilton, which apparently has been aided and abetted by a musical bearing his name. So, other than what I knew about Alexander Hamilton through my general knowledge of American History, I had little understanding of the man, his life, and his times. Having now completed reading the work by Ms. Cobbs, I can say that it has been illuminating and did a wonderful job of commanding my attention and giving me a better understanding of the man. Despite the book's title, "The Hamilton Affair" is far more than a work about Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds. In fact, the affair does not occur until more than halfway through the book, at which time Hamilton is Secretary of the Treasury, has long since married Elizabeth (Eliza) Schuyler, and their rather large family is already well on its way to completion. The first part of the book describes Hamilton's youth in St.

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