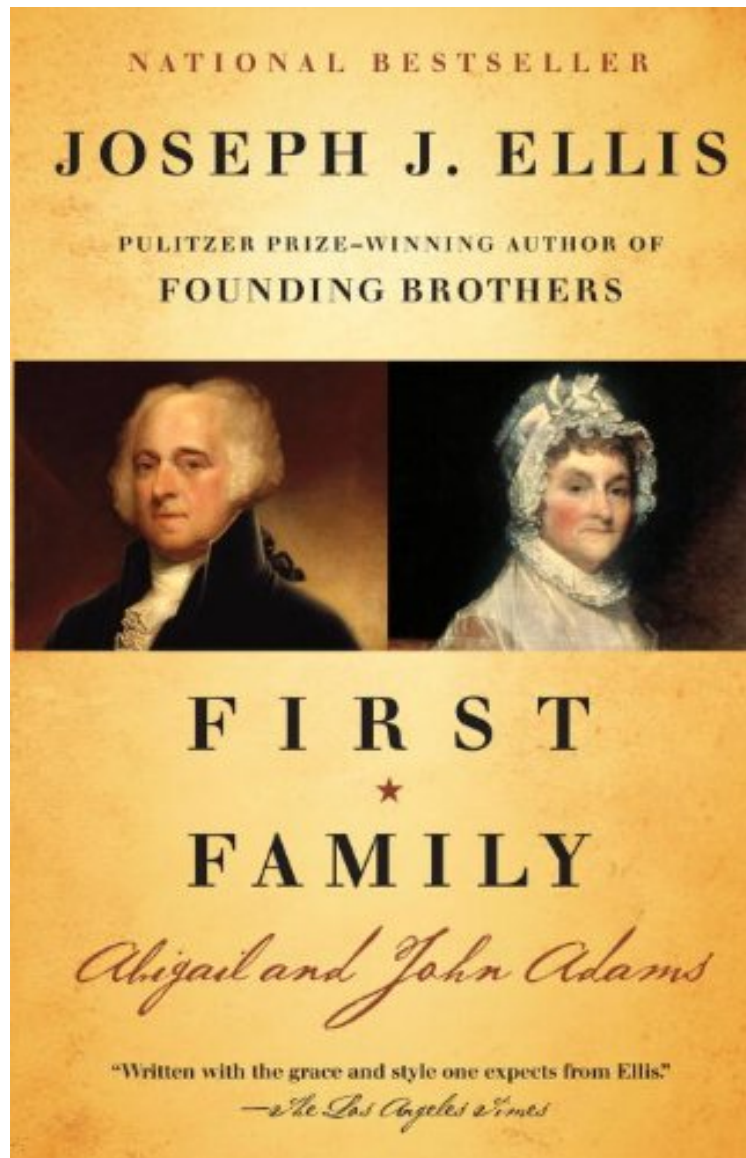


(Mobile pdf) First Family: Abigail and John Adams

## First Family: Abigail and John Adams

Von Joseph J. Ellis

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**Von Joseph J. Ellis : First Family: Abigail and John Adams** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Family: Abigail and John Adams:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Tale of Statesmanship, Diplomacy, Politics...And a Love StoryVon James GallenOur Founding Fathers have their own roles: Washington as Father of our Country, Jefferson as the author of the Declaration of Independence and Madison

as Father of the Constitution. Although a giant in his own right, John Adams shares his role with Abigail as the First Family of America. Renowned Revolutionary Era author, Joseph Ellis, tells their story in this informative and eminently readable book. The story of John and Abigail Adams is unique because their long marriage was not only instrumental in forming our country, but is documented in their well preserved correspondence. This couple was the model for other couples and families to follow. As political partners they yield nothing to Franklin and Eleanor or Bill and Hillary. As founders of a dynasty they are rivaled only by the Bush family. This dual biography focuses more on John as he was the man on the stage of world affairs, while Abigail was the counselor who advised, steadied and made a home for her man as he guided the affairs of the nation. Ellis does not overlook their son, John Quincy, who would be a distinguished force in his own right, following the pattern, with strengths and weaknesses, of his sire. We know that John and John Quincy were the first father-son team to be president, but I learned, through this book, that they negotiated the peace treaties with Great Britain ending the Revolution and the War of 1812, and were the first Ambassadors to the Court of St. James after each war. This book reminds the reader of many bits Adams family lore, such as Abigail's letter instructing John to "remember the ladies" and John's observation that "I must study Politics and War that my sons may have liberty to study Mathematics and Philosophy, Geography, Commerce and Agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study Painting, Poetry, Music, Architecture, Statuary, Tapestry and Porcelain." Ellis does not forget John's prayer that "May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof." Besides tidbits and lore, "First Family" tells a remarkable story. It is a story of a lawyer who represented the accused in the Boston Massacre and the wife who took her children to watch the Battle of Bunker Hill. We read of the husband who drove and coaxed Congress into declaring Independence while his wife maintained the farm and family in wartime Massachusetts. We follow the diplomat who, with his son, eluded the Royal Navy across the ocean, who squabbled with Benjamin Franklin in France, procured a loan from Dutch bankers, negotiated an end to war and then represented his country in European courts before returning as a hero second only to Washington. Through all this Abigail was raising a family, writing him letters and, eventually braving the Atlantic herself to take her place beside him at Court. We then read of eight years a Vice-President followed by a narrow victory in the first contested presidential election. Adams' presidency was doomed from the start. His Vice-President, Thomas Jefferson, an erstwhile friend, was now the leader of the opposition, while the Cabinet holdovers from the Washington administration were more loyal to Alexander Hamilton than to the President who they nominally served. Add to this the Adams willingness to follow his instincts regardless of their popularity and a few mistakes, such as endorsing the Alien and Sedition Acts, which were strongly encouraged by Abigail, and defeat became a certainty. Despite all of this, news of successful avoidance of war with France, if received earlier, might have secured a second term. Ellis does an excellent job of portraying Adams as one who tried to continue the Washington tradition of a President above party and politics in an era that was rapidly becoming partisan. Joseph Ellis has written another fine work about giants of our early republic. The prose holds the readers' interest while telling a fascinating tale, one of statesmanship, diplomacy, politics and, at its heart, a love story. I am grateful for this book and look forward to his next one.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The Pulitzer Prizewinning, best-selling author of *Founding Brothers* and *His Excellency* brings America's preeminent first couple to life in a moving and illuminating narrative that sweeps through the American Revolution and the republic's tenuous early years. John and Abigail Adams left an indelible and remarkably preserved portrait of their lives together in their personal correspondence: both Adamses were prolific letter writers (although John conceded that Abigail was clearly the more gifted of the two), and over the years they exchanged more than twelve hundred letters. Joseph J. Ellis distills this unprecedented and unsurpassed record to give us an account both intimate and panoramic; part biography, part political history, and part love story. Ellis describes the first meeting between the two as inauspicious. John was twenty-four, Abigail just fifteen, and each was entirely unimpressed with the other. But they soon began a passionate correspondence that resulted in their marriage five years later. Over the next decades, the couple were separated nearly as much as they were together. John's political career took him first to Philadelphia, where he became the boldest advocate for the measures that would lead to the Declaration of Independence. Yet in order to attend the Second Continental Congress, he left his wife and children in the middle of the war zone that had by then engulfed Massachusetts. Later he was sent to Paris, where he served as a minister to the court of France alongside Benjamin Franklin. These years apart stressed the Adamses' union almost beyond what it could bear: Abigail grew lonely, while the Adams children suffered from their father's absence. John was elected the nation's first vice president, but by the time of his reelection, Abigail's health prevented her from joining him in Philadelphia, the interim capital. She no doubt had further reservations about moving to the swamp on the Potomac when John became president, although this time he persuaded her. President Adams inherited a weak and bitterly divided country from George Washington. The political situation was perilous at best, and he needed his closest advisor by his side: "I can do nothing," John told Abigail after his election, "without you." In Ellis's rich and striking new history, John and Abigail's relationship unfolds in the context of America's birth as a nation. From the Hardcover

edition. Pressestimmen Written with the grace and style one expects from the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Founding Brothers* . . . John Adams could not have a better biographer. Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Los Angeles Times* The authors fluid style penetrates a correspondence studded with classical references, political dish, felicitous turns of phrases and unvarnished pleadings of affection and anxiety. Americas first power couple enjoyed, teased and rescued each other during 54 years of marriage. John E. Lazarus, *Newark Star-Ledger* Elliss strength is his ability to portray historical icons as real human beings, and his talent remains sharp . . . Ellis has made himself into a sort of bard of our early Republic, and [First Family] is a fitting addition to his repertoire. Anne Bartlett, *Miami Herald* Richly detailed . . . erudite as well as eloquent, *First Family* proves that bedfellows can make superior politics. Jay Strafford, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Ellis is that rare professional historian who can eloquently convey both information and insight with remarkable clarity . . . [he] has once again given us a consistently engaging dual biography and love story as well as an insightful exploration of early American history. Roger Bishop, *Bookpage* *First Family* invites you into a sustaining marriage that survives revolution, personal tragedies and the vicious politics of the moment. In this election year, its valuable reading. Peter M. Gianotti, *Newsday* The authors beautiful writing draws the reader wholly into this relationship, bringing new perspective to the historical importance of this enduring love story. An impeccable account of the politics, civics and devotion behind the Adams marriage. Kirkus s (starred review) In addition to looking at the strengths of the Adams marriage, the book examines the toll taken by their years apart and the misfortunes in the lives of all their children except John Quincy. Ellis has produced a very readable history of the nations founding as lived by these two. Mary Ellen Quinn, *Booklist* Elliss supple prose and keen psychological insight give a vivid sense of the human drama behind historys upheavals. Publishers Weekly From the Hardcover edition. Kurzbeschreibung The Pulitzer Prizewinning, best-selling author of *Founding Brothers and His Excellency* brings Americas preeminent first couple to life in a moving and illuminating narrative that sweeps through the American Revolution and the republics tenuous early years. John and Abigail Adams left an indelible and remarkably preserved portrait of their lives together in their personal correspondence: both Adamases were prolific letter writers (although John conceded that Abigail was clearly the more gifted of the two), and over the years they exchanged more than twelve hundred letters. Joseph J. Ellis distills this unprecedented and unsurpassed record to give us an account both intimate and panoramic; part biography, part political history, and part love story. Ellis describes the first meeting between the two as inauspicious. John was twenty-four, Abigail just fifteen, and each was entirely unimpressed with the other. But they soon began a passionate correspondence that resulted in their marriage five years later. Over the next decades, the couple were separated nearly as much as they were together. Johns political career took him first to Philadelphia, where he became the boldest advocate for the measures that would lead to the Declaration of Independence. Yet in order to attend the Second Continental Congress, he left his wife and children in the middle of the war zone that had by then engulfed Massachusetts. Later he was sent to Paris, where he served as a minister to the court of France alongside Benjamin Franklin. These years apart stressed the Adamases union almost beyond what it could bear: Abigail grew lonely, while the Adams children suffered from their fathers absence. John was elected the nations first vice president, but by the time of his reelection, Abigails health prevented her from joining him in Philadelphia, the interim capital. She no doubt had further reservations about moving to the swamp on the Potomac when John became president, although this time he persuaded her. President Adams inherited a weak and bitterly divided country from George Washington. The political situation was perilous at best, and he needed his closest advisor by his side: I can do nothing, John told Abigail after his election, without you. In Elliss rich and striking new history, John and Abigails relationship unfolds in the context of Americas birth as a nation. From the Hardcover edition.