



Second Sight

Gary L. Blackwood

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Washington, D.C., 1864: In a city that's weary of war and eager for entertainment, Joseph and his father's mind-reading act has become the toast of the town. Even President Lincoln comes to see Joseph demonstrate his amazing mental powers. It's all an elaborate hoax, of course, but Joseph is enjoying his fame. Then he meets Cassandra, a young girl who really does have second sight—the ability to foretell events. And she's having terrifying visions about the president. Someone is plotting to murder him. But who would believe such an accusation? It's up to Joseph and Cassandra to interpret the visions, expose the conspiracy, and save Lincoln's life!

Second Sight Details

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Author : Gary L. Blackwood

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From Reader Review Second Sight for online ebook

Chrissy says

If I could give it a 1.5 I would. It has some decent historic details throughout the story, but the writing is not thrilling and the ending irks me more than I'd like to say.

Elizabeth says

This book is very informative about conditions during the Civil War era. It makes the student feel as if they are really there! Although the main characters are fictional, they encounter historical characters such as President Lincoln and Mr. Boothe. This is a great book to teach about the Civil War time period.

~?Catherine?~ says

Wait, only 22 reviews? I read this in, like 5th grade lol

Emily says

This book got a rating of 1 star because I just wasn't able to finish it. It was due back to the library, and although I was halfway through it, I wasn't compelled to renew it. The writing style wasn't my favorite. I felt that the author was too present, and that held me back from being immersed in the story. I still really like other books by this author, but this wasn't a favorite for me.

Rosemary says

Stage performers who profess to be clairvoyant usually have a system and a partner, as is the case in this novel. The author, too, plays a role in speaking directly to the reader from time to time in a sort of stage whisper; a nudge to pay attention and to understand a back story. All in all, this bit of fluff around an alternative history of Lincoln 's assassination is difficult to recommend to sophisticated readers, but I think the YA category might find it quite enjoyable.

Francis says

Complex spy-biography story.

The Count is Alive says

This book took a twist on American history as well as Historic Fiction. The book follows a boy named Joseph and his father Nicholas in the final months of the Civil War. They perform "mind reading" act in Washington D.C. Their routine is not the real thing but they impress the crowds. Until one day he meets a girl named Cassandra who might actually be the real deal and even predict the future like what horse will win, old lovers coming together and the assassination of President Abe Lincoln. This book does a great job at showing what life was like as an actor during this time and most of the characters are fleshed out. The book is told through a strange method of third person but told through an act in a play but sometimes it is self aware as a book it is kinda confusing. If you can get past that it is actually a good read. It is a simple read all the characters are very fleshed out and keep that way through the entire story. About 99% of the characters actually did exist so it benefits young readers in actually learning history. It is worth a read and never did I feel like stopping the book at any point because it was boring.

Deborah Morgan says

This book is in news style for me. The author stopped frequently in his narrative to talk to the audience about the situation, or what we were going to be doing or not doing. It was strange at first, but became enjoyable after seeing it more.

Uchronia, or alternate history, is a new genre for me.

This book claims it is more altered history than alternate, falls under this genre.

Nathaniel Brodie says

Diffidently a must read for many kids into fiction. Has a lot of detail about the plot, characters, and events in which things were happening. A great read, try it!

Rhiannon says

Great story about a girl who had precognition and saw the plot to assassinate Lincoln.

Erick Nichols says

I am a big fan of Gary Blackwood's writing. I like his books, and this one is no exception. This book takes place in Washington DC during the Civil War. Joseph is a teen, who is just as ordinary as the rest of us, but he is striving to be different. He and his father, for the past two years have been working on a mind-reading act that not only makes Joseph a very well known person among the people of Washington, but also gets his family the money that they have been so desperately working to get.. But it isn't only the common folk who love their act. Also Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln. But Joseph's life changes very quickly when he meets Cassandra, a young girl, with the actual ability of clairvoyance, who constantly sees the murder of Mr. Lincoln. It is left

up to Joseph to not only aid her in her attempt to save the president's life, but to also keep his 'ability' under wraps, so she doesn't find out that he is a fake. I gave this book five stars because it, like many of Gary's other books, was entertaining, relatable, well told, funny, and a real page turner.

Jeremy says

Great Book. The book puts you into the middle of the plots and the assassination of President Lincoln. This book really sparks the interest of history buffs.

Margo Tanenbaum says

This is a fun Civil War story that re-imagines that night at Ford's Theatre and the few days proceeding. Definitely an "alternative history" with a better ending than the real events! Includes many real-life characters from Suratt's boarding house, seen through the eyes of a young boy who, with his father, puts on a "mind-reading" act. When he meets a young girl with real second sight abilities, the two of them must warn the president of the dangers she sees ahead for him. But will anyone listen?

Erin Sterling says

An alternate history set around the time of Lincoln's assassination, a boy Joseph is perfecting a mind-reading act with his father, a has-been actor, when he meets a girl who appears to have actual mind-reading abilities. Can they help prevent the kidnapping and/or assassination of Abraham Lincoln? The story is told in second-person narrative with the author playing a prominent role, and would be interesting to use in not only talking about history but also about the role of narration and stories.

07SethH Huber says

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, I intend to prove to you today that *Second Sight* by Gary Blackwood is an extremely compelling read. This story is told in a third person limited voice. It is about a boy named Joseph Ehrlich and his father, Nicholas Ehrlich, who are performers with a very successful mind-reading act. But then Joseph meets a girl named Cassandra Quinn, who really can read minds and becomes involved with stopping an assassination plot on President Lincoln. The main issue of this story is how to stop the plot, or even get people to believe there is a plot.

The only problem with the book is the setting. There is almost no way to change the setting of this book, because then there wouldn't be horse-cars, telegraphs, and President Lincoln would not be in the book. This is not a huge problem, but it is kind of annoying. But, in spite of that problem, *Second Sight* is still a very compelling and enjoyable read.

"Some part of him (Joseph) is still insisting that Mr. Booth would never shoot the president," says the narrator near the end of the book. This is just one of the many parts in this book where it keeps you in suspense and keeps you turning pages. I must admit, there are a few parts in this book that are a little boring and dull, but overall, this book is very intriguing.

Another great quality about this book is that it teaches you history, but is not boring while doing it. The narrator really lets you get to know all of the characters, even the ones that are not extremely important, and

many of the characters in this book are real, such as John Wilkes Booth, Davy Herold, Ward Hill Lamon, and of course, President Abraham Lincoln. It also shows you, mostly through Joseph and Nicholas's act, the technology they used, the things they did for entertainment, and other things.

Finally, this book is excellent at not dragging out unimportant things. It sometimes skips several weeks at a time if there is nothing particularly exciting happening. Some people might look at this as a bad thing, but it keeps you intrigued and doesn't bore you with unimportant details.

In conclusion, I believe that this is a book that makes you want to read. I believe that it is one of the books that could get people who don't enjoy reading to love reading if they could find more books like it. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves mystery, magic, history, or adventure.
