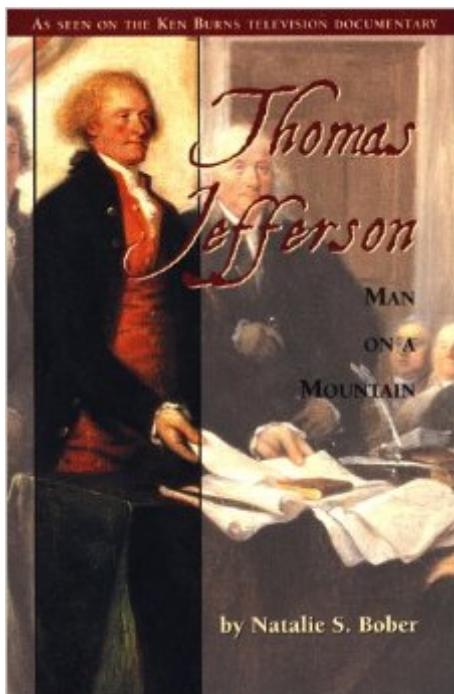


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Thomas Jefferson: Man On A Mountain



Synopsis

Natalie Bober's critically acclaimed biography of Thomas Jefferson brings a human dimension to this president. This comprehensive biography includes a wealth of helpful supplemental material. "A marvelously readable and informative biography."--School Library Journal. Young Adult.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #622,014 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 inÂ Books > Teens > Biographies > Political #45 inÂ Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Biographical > United States #102 inÂ Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods

Customer Reviews

As a life long Jefferson fan, I enjoyed this book immensely, but am concerned that Bober does not offer a critical analysis of her subject. She says that one of her goals in writing this book is to make Jefferson appear more human. While she goes into great detail about Jefferson's family values and other interests aside from politics, she omits any mention of his mortal flaws which are exactly what make him human. Any reader can tell that Bober reveres Jefferson like a Revolutionary God (and indeed he was one), but she is unable to maintain any degree of impartiality as a biographer. For instance, Bober enthusiastically discusses the various ways Jefferson tried to bring an end to the peculiar institution of slavery through his writings, but she never questions why if this was so important to him, he failed to take advantage of his executive power as president to ensure that the Louisiana territory he purchased in 1803 remained slave free? Why didn't he fight harder to retain the clause prohibiting slavery in his original draft of the Declaration of Independence? The Jefferson of Bober's imagination is not capable of such double standards or inconsistencies in character. Bober only briefly mentions that while Jefferson professed to be against slavery, he

owned several hundred slaves at Monticello and his other plantations. Why was his rhetoric inconsistent with his actions? Bober conveniently ignores the fact that Monticello was built entirely by slaves. (This I know because I have a degree in history, but a less informed reader would be misled). Jefferson may have thought that ending slavery was a good idea, but he did not pursue this cause with the same passion with which he fought for the freedom of white Americans from the British.

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