

[PDF] The Harding Affair: Love And Espionage During The Great War

James David Robenalt - pdf download free book

Books Details:

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Author: James David Robenalt
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Warren Harding's philandering while in the White House has already been documented, but Cleveland litigator Robenalt reveals an earlier, perhaps more unwise love affair by the Ohio politician and then U.S. senator. More than 100 love letters reveal Harding's jealous affair with Carrie Phillips—an alleged German spy—between 1905 and 1917. As Harding's political career rose, so too did his proximity to America's eventual Great War adversaries as Phillips's extended family was tried for espionage and suspicions alighted on her. This dangerous liaison illuminates a public figure at his most intimate, human and vulnerable, jealously begging for fidelity from his mistress even as he debated in letters her vocal pro-German stance and publicly addressed the nation to decry Germany's contempt for neutral rights and horrifying disregard of the

rights of humanity. The richness of previously sealed, highly personal correspondence compensates for Robenalt's abrupt meandering between the history of Harding's affair and that of the espionage trial of Phillips's in-law, Baroness Iona Zollner. However, Robenalt fails to frame the Harding affair as one with political or historical repercussions. (Sept.)

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Review "Intimate, revealing -- and sometimes downright embarrassing -- the newly revealed love letters at the heart of *The Harding Affair* provide an altogether fresh look at a future American President hopelessly in love with a woman not his wife."--Geoffrey C. Ward, author of *A First-Class Temperament* and *The War: An Intimate History, 1941-1945* "A crackling history by Greater Cleveland lawyer James David Robenalt gives Ohioans a peek, five years early, at court-sealed love letters that Warren G. Harding, the last Ohioan elected president, sent to his long-time mistress, Marion neighbor Carrie Phillips. Considering that they deal with a presidency that ended 86 years ago, that's saying a lot... Hard to put down."--*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Warren Harding has always been ranked as one of the worst U.S. presidents. But [this] book might just boost his image. Readers will see a tender, human side of Harding and also learn about his opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's nation-building efforts abroad after World War I -- an issue that still resonates. If he had assumed the presidency in 1917 instead of 1921... [it may have] led to an outcome that would have drastically changed the course of the 20th century." -*The Columbus Dispatch*

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