

## Jefferson's Sword: Meriwether Lewis: Witness to Thomas Jefferson's Duplicitous Plots

August J Specht II

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Come join American explorer Meriwether Lewis of Lewis & Clark fame on his very last recorded journey. This suspenseful account of Lewis' mysterious last days is a historical voyage into what colliding interests viciously struggled for control of the fledgling United States and the vast Louisiana Purchase in the early 19th century. In contrast with their discovery of the vast, natural wonders of the new American frontier, Lewis learns firsthand of the darkness of his enemy's hearts during a thrilling adventure in the untamed wilderness of the new American South. Two hundred years ago 38-year-old Lewis left St. Louis to meet with President Madison to settle a reimbursement dispute over monies Lewis spent in good faith. He never made it. His alleged corpse was mutilated and reported to have two fatal gunshots. No witnesses have ever come forth and the only evidence offered was inconsistent. Was he murdered or did he commit suicide with two shots as some claim? The answer resides in his relationship with Thomas Jefferson who hired Lewis, sponsored him, and aggressively promoted him to the Governorship of the vast Louisiana territory; a position that placed him as third in succession to the Presidency. So why did Jefferson write an unfounded epilogue that contradicted all previous actions and statements by labeling Lewis suicidal and unstable? In so doing, Jefferson's inexplicable paragraph wiped out any serious debate as to the cause of Lewis' death for almost two hundred years. No one can or should attempt to decipher what happened to Lewis without first explaining why Jefferson would eternally condemn a friend and his good name with that stained legacy. What party did George Washington represent and why did Thomas Jefferson expend every effort to destroy it? Why has the National Park Service repeatedly denied the Lewis family's exhumation requests for over fifteen years? Why would they prevent any efforts to learn what truly happened to Lewis? Was Lewis murdered as part of a larger conspiracy involving Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr and others? Why did Thomas Jefferson's two other personal secretaries also die unexpectedly and prematurely? Why is there no mention of gold and silver in the Journals of Lewis & Clark while President Jefferson knew of a gold mine within the Louisiana Territory? Why are there over a year's gap of journal entries in Lewis' record of the exploration? Why did the first editor of the Lewis & Clark journals believe they had been altered after the expedition? Why did Jefferson feel compelled to testify as to their authenticity? What triggered Lewis to suddenly write a will on his way to meet President Madison, rather than before he left? During his last voyage, what caused Lewis to suddenly change his pre-planned mode of travel from steamship to horse? There was no history of suicide in Lewis' family, so why did Jefferson write that there was? Jefferson's third personal secretary wrote a memoir on his time serving with Jefferson. Who took out three pages of William Armistead Burwell's memoirs and re-paginated them? What were the true causes of the deaths of nine people very close to Jefferson or close to his allies?

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