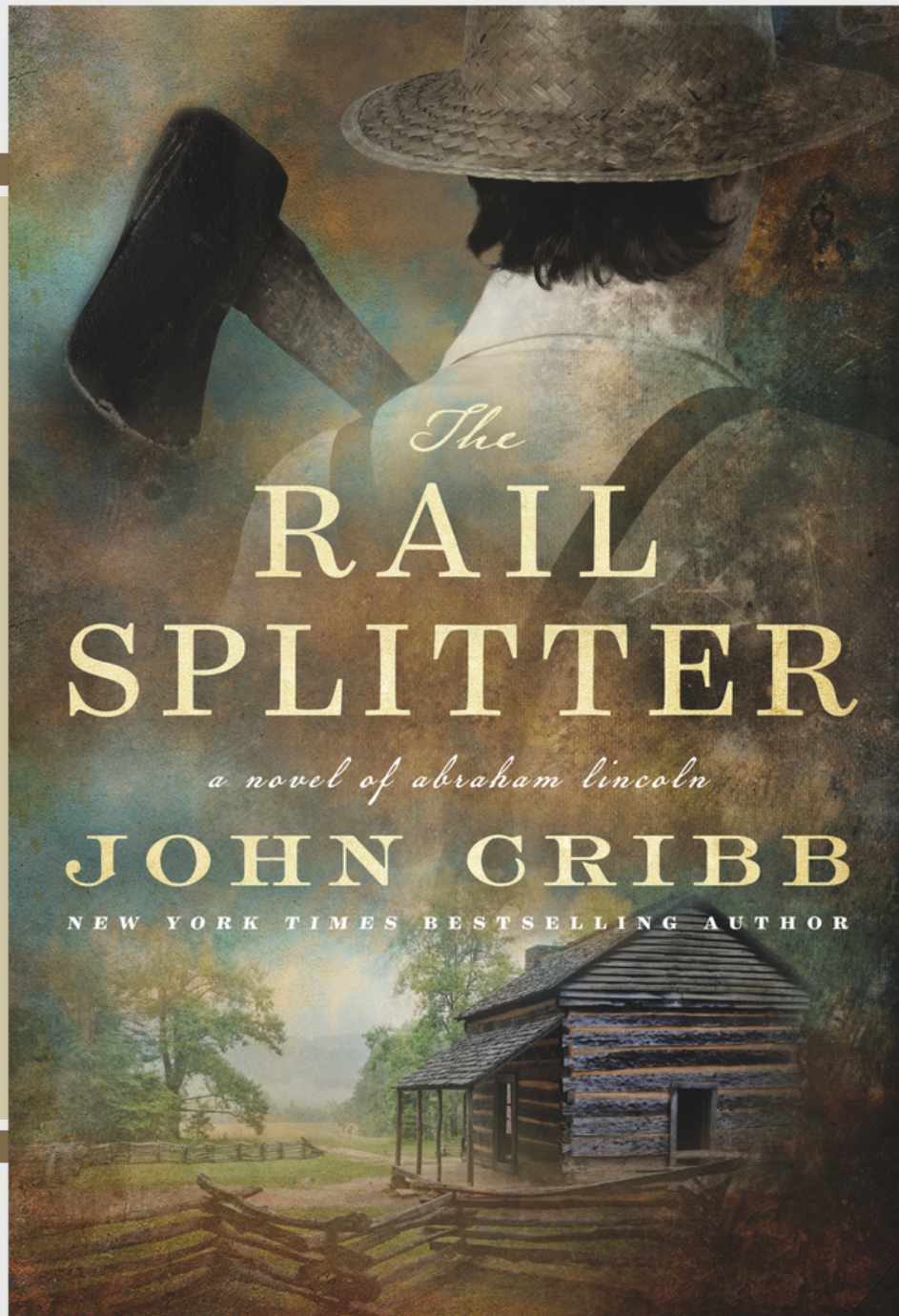


# The Rail Splitter

BY JOHN CRIBB



PRESS KIT

# The Rail Splitter

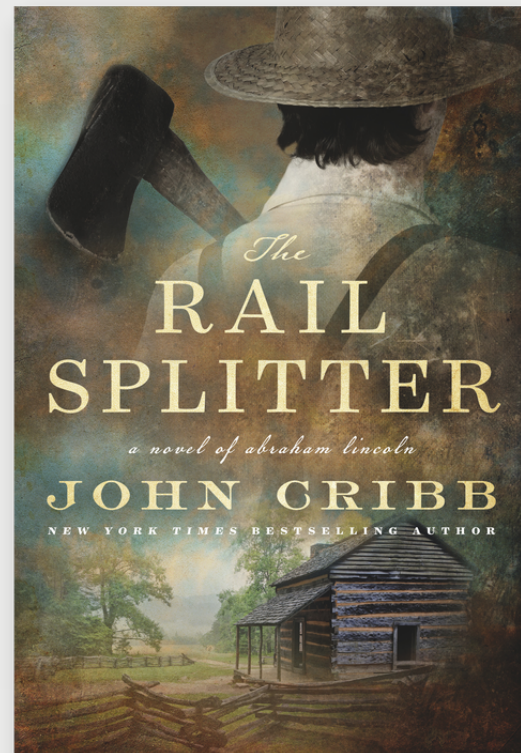
**From *New York Times* bestselling author John Cribb comes the vivid and transformative journey of one of the greatest presidents in American history.**

**The Rail Splitter: A Novel** by John Cribb tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's remarkable journey from a log cabin to the threshold of the White House—a journey that turns him into one of America's most beloved heroes.

Like Old Abe, Cribb's acclaimed novel about Lincoln's years as president, **The Rail Splitter** brings Lincoln to life in a way no other book does. We walk beside him on every page, through Indiana woods and Illinois prairies, and come to know his hopes and struggles on his winding path to greatness.

This is the part of Lincoln's story that many people do not know, yet in many ways the most fascinating part of his life. Part coming-of-age story, part adventure story, part love story, and part rags-to-riches story, **The Rail Splitter** is the making of Abraham Lincoln.

**The Rail Splitter** brings Lincoln to life once again and reminds us that the country he loved is a place of wide-open dreams where extraordinary journeys unfold.



## Contact Information

For any questions or media inquiries, please use the following contact information:

**Website:** [republicbookpublishers.com](http://republicbookpublishers.com)

**Social:** @republicbkpub

**Email:** [publicity@republicbookpublishers.com](mailto:publicity@republicbookpublishers.com)





## Quick Facts

**Full Title:** The Rail Splitter

---

**Page Count:** 384 pages

---

**Genre:** Historical Fiction & Biography

---

**Publisher:** Republic Book Publishers

---

**Publication Date:** 01/24/2023

---

**ISBN:** 9781645720645

---

**Price:** \$28.00

---

**Available formats:** Hardcover & ebook

---

**Distributor:** Independent Publishers Group

---

**Rights:** World



# Press Release

## Forthcoming Historical Novel Shines Light on the Turbulence and Triumphs of Lincoln's Youth

Walk beside Abraham Lincoln on his journey of love and loss, all the way to the White House

NEW YORK, NY - **The Rail Splitter**, John Cribb's latest historical novel in his Lincoln Collection that tells the riveting story of the sixteenth president's life, will be published by Republic Book Publishers on January 24, 2023.

**The Rail Splitter: A Novel** by John Cribb tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's remarkable journey from a log cabin to the threshold of the White House—a journey that turns him into one of America's most beloved heroes. Like **Old Abe**, Cribb's acclaimed novel about Lincoln's years as president, **The Rail Splitter** brings Lincoln to life in a way no other book does. We walk beside him on every page, through Indiana woods and Illinois prairies, and come to know his hopes and struggles on his winding path to greatness. The story of the rawboned youth who makes his way from a log cabin to the White House is, in many ways, the great American story. **The Rail Splitter** brings Lincoln to life once again and reminds us that the country he loved is a place of wide-open dreams where extraordinary journeys unfold.

**"John Cribb accomplishes what all historical novelists try to do, but few pull off: he makes familiar history new again and transforms historical figures into vivid characters."**

— *Christopher Scalia, coeditor of Scalia Speaks and On Faith*

John Cribb is a bestselling author who has written about subjects ranging from history to education. He has published nine books. **The Rail Splitter** is his second novel.

Republic Book Publishers is a 501(c)3 publisher based in New York City. Republic publishes fiction and non-fiction titles centered around politics and the American culture.

###

For more information, to receive a review copy, or to arrange an interview with John Cribb, please contact Emma St. John at [publicity@republicbookpublishers.com](mailto:publicity@republicbookpublishers.com).

# Excerpt

The book was soaked through.

He knew before he reached for it, knew what had happened the instant the sound of water dripping somewhere near his pallet bed jerked him from sleep. It had stormed overnight, and the rain had found its way through a chink in the cabin loft.

Abraham half rose to pull the book from the ledge beside his bed. His fingers met a heavy wet mass lying in a small pool. A groan rose into his throat.

It ain't mine to ruin, he thought.

Darkness filled the loft. The only light in the cabin came from low flames in the fireplace below, but the song of a wren fluting through a window told him the rain was almost done and, somewhere behind the thick Indiana woods, the sun was rising.

He crawled off his corn husk mattress, crouching low to avoid hitting his head on the rough-hewn rafters, pulled on his buckskin britches, and slipped into his moccasins. Three feet away, his stepbrother, John, grunted and rolled over.

Abraham picked up the soggy book and dropped his long legs through a hole in the loft floor. He grabbed a peg driven into the wall and scrambled down. His feet landed on the cabin's plank floor with a soft thud.

The light from the fireplace touched a few wavering shapes in the room—a four-post feather bed, table, chairs, spinning wheel, corner cabinet, chest of drawers. He stepped to the hearth to open the book. The pages stuck together. He tried to separate two or three, but they began to disintegrate as he peeled them apart. His stomach churned at the thought of losing the precious words.

The cabin door opened and his stepmother entered, toting a few pieces of wood in a bucket.

"Morning, Abe."

**It has been said that if you wish to understand the man, you must first know the boy. The story of the rawboned youth who makes his way from a log cabin to the White House is, in many ways, the great American story, and ours begins in the woods of Indiana in the summer of 1826...**

## *Praise for **Old Abe***

### ■ **William J. Bennett**

AUTHOR AND FORMER US  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

"This is the best book about Abraham Lincoln I've ever read. John Cribb has brought Lincoln to life for us."

### ■ **Tom Mayer**

MOUNTAIN TIMES

"Cribb has worked some fictional magic here, creating a historical tome for those who would rather not read historical tomes. The author has said that he wrote the novel out of a love for Lincoln and the desire to share that love with others. In that, the New York Times bestselling author succeeds."



# Biography

JOHN CRIBB is a bestselling author who has written about subjects ranging from history to education. His work also includes coauthoring *The American Patriot's Almanac* and *The Educated Child*, both New York Times bestsellers; co-editing *The Human Odyssey*, a 3-volume world history text; and developing on-line history courses. His writing has been published in *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *FoxNews.com*, *Real Clear Politics*, and several other publications.

**John Cribb is the author of *Old Abe*, an historical novel that brings America's greatest president to life the way no other book has before. *Old Abe* is the story of the last five years of Abraham Lincoln's life, the most cataclysmic years in American history.**

During the Reagan administration, he worked at the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A native of Spartanburg, SC, John studied literature at Vanderbilt University. He and his wife, Kirsten, are the proud parents of two daughters.



[www.johncribbauthor.com/](http://www.johncribbauthor.com/)

## Previous Works

### **Old Abe**

Published by: Republic Book Publishers

Genre: Historical Fiction

ISBN13: 9781645720164

### **The American Patriot's Almanac**

Published by: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Genre: Biography / Almanac

ISBN13: 9781595553751

### **The Educated Child**

Published by: Simon & Schuster

Genre: Education

ISBN13: 9780743200912



# Praise for *Old Abe* by John Cribb

"The best book on President Lincoln I have ever read."

— **Mike Pence**, *Former Vice President*

"A complete triumph.... By turns melancholy, humorous, and deeply moving, you'll reconnect with Lincoln's love of country, love his wife and kids, and struggle to ensure victory for the better angels of our nature. A vivid and well paced read."

— *Core Virtues Foundation*

"Cribb presents a Lincoln that many yearn for, the man pictured, unfinished, in our imaginations, more a concept, but one begging to be completed. Cribb provides the flesh and bone and attitude and dialogue. The book races."

— **Jack Fowler**, *National Review*

"A deftly penned historical novel that showcases the author's genuine flair for originality, a close and entertaining story that accurately adheres to historical detail, and the kind of narrative driven storytelling style that fully engages the reader's attention."

— *The Midwest Book Review*



# Interview Questions

---

1. Why did you write *The Rail Splitter*, and what do you hope readers take away from it?
2. What made Lincoln such a great leader and president?
3. Where did your love for Lincoln stem from?
4. What kind of research went into writing the book?
5. How long did it take you to write *The Rail Splitter*?
6. What's different about this Lincoln book?
7. What surprised you the most when researching Lincoln's life?
8. What do you admire the most about Lincoln?
9. How much of *The Rail Splitter* is fiction, and how much history?
10. Why is knowing about Lincoln and other American heroes important?



# Interview Answers

---

## **Why did you write *The Rail Splitter*, and what do you hope readers take away from it?**

I wrote *The Rail Splitter* because I love Lincoln, and I want others to know and love him, too. I'd like readers to feel like they've walked beside him on his journey from a log cabin to the White House. And to remember that America is the place where extraordinary journeys like Lincoln's unfold.

## **What made Lincoln such a great leader and president?**

I'd zero in on a handful of virtues he possessed. First, he had an incredible ability to persevere, which is something he learned growing up on the frontier. Second, an eagerness to learn. He was one of our least prepared presidents to take office from the standpoint of formal education, but he learned on the job. Third, compassion. Fourth, he had great people skills, including his sense of humor. Fifth, integrity. Sixth, patriotism. He loved this country and was deeply dedicated to our nation's founding principles. And finally, faith. His faith not only gave him the strength to make it through the war, it helped him have the wisdom to be a great leader.

## **Where did your love for Lincoln stem from?**

He's been my hero from history since I was a kid. When I was young, my mom used to read to my siblings and me. I remember her reading about Lincoln from books like the old *Childhood of Famous Americans* series. I was fascinated with those stories about the young Abe splitting rails and walking miles to borrow books on the frontier.

# Interview Answers

---

## **How long did it take you to write *The Rail Splitter*?**

I first had the idea for a novel about Lincoln around 2006. My original idea was a giant novel that covered his whole life, but that turned out to be impractical for several reasons. In the end, the part of the manuscript depicting the last five years of his life was ready first. That became *Old Abe*. The earlier part of his life became *The Rail Splitter*. Of course, I haven't worked on all this full time since 2006. Sometimes the manuscripts sat in a drawer for months at a time. It's been an on-and-off effort, as books often are. My wife jokes that from conception to publication, it's taken about four times as long to get these two books published than to fight the Civil War.

## **What's different about this Lincoln book?**

I hope it brings him to life in a way other books do not. Thousands of books have been written about Lincoln. By some accounts, more books have been written about him than anyone except Jesus. The overwhelming majority are nonfiction. I wanted to write a novel because fiction can paint an image the way nonfiction can't.

## **What surprised you the most when researching Lincoln's life?**

He was a man of incredible faith. I wasn't expecting that when I started this book. His religious views have been a topic of debate for a long time. He went to church quite a bit, but he never joined a church, and he was never baptized. But he loved the Bible. He came to view himself, as he put it, as a "humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty." I don't think he would have made it through the war without a deep faith.

# Interview Answers

---

## **What do you admire the most about Lincoln?**

Probably his perseverance. His whole life, he just plain persevered. He grew up on the frontier, where you pretty much persevered or died. He persevered through the hardest four years any president has faced. He used to say that he was like a man trying to keep a tent up in a storm. Every time he got one of the tent pegs hammered into the ground, the storm blew out another, and he'd have to run around to the other side of the tent to peg it back in. He told people that he just kept pegging away, pegging away.

## **How much of *The Rail Splitter* is fiction, and how much history?**

Like all historical novels, it's a mix, but I spent a lot of time and care trying to make this as true to Lincoln's life as possible. So there's a lot of history in this book. Just about everything I depict actually happened. Much of the dialogue is based on interviews, letters, speeches, and reports from Lincoln's time. But I used my imagination to fill in details in the dialogue and events.

## **Why is knowing about Lincoln and other American heroes important?**

It's important because, first, remembering those heroes and knowing their stories helps us understand the principles and beliefs that underlie American democracy, how those principles were established, and how hard it has been to defend them over the years and extend them to millions more people, both here and abroad. Second, honoring those old heroes helps us remember why this country is so unique and extraordinary, and why we should be grateful to live here.