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*William H. Crook*

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**William H. Crook : Through Five Administrations: Inside the White House with Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, and Garfield** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through Five Administrations: Inside the White House with Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, and Garfield:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Personal Perspective of History By Joan Rodriguez I happened on this book by accident, and I am so glad I did. This is an amazing book! The author was actually one of the first, if not the first, presidential bodyguard. There was no secret service, just this man walking/riding next to the President. The book gives insight into the personalities each of these presidents (Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes and Garfield) and their families. Of course, I was fascinated by the personal accounts of Lincoln. However, I was absolutely unprepared for the portrait the author painted of Johnson, his administration and his impeachment. All these years I have scorned Andrew Johnson as a president so ineffective he was the first to be impeached. Author Crook paints a different and actually sympathetic picture of a man ill prepared but expected to fill the shoes of a man considered by many to be larger than life. Overall, this is an excellent read if you enjoy historical accounts and have any interest in what these American Presidents were like. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Crook was an intelligent and reflective observer and offers many never quoted insights ... By Belle C Goebel William Crook is very frequently quoted in accounts of Lincoln's last days. We see the identical quotes and selections in book after book. However we do not hear the fact that he was closely associated with later administrations, and, sadly another assassination, that of Abram Garfield. He was also working in the White House during Andrew Johnson's administration as well as that of Grant's controversial eight years. Crook was an intelligent and reflective observer and offers many never quoted insights into how the events of Reconstruction times were regarded by intelligent and relatively unbiased contemporaries. Altogether, his memoirs are an instructive, eye-opening and enjoyable read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting stories of the personal lives of some well known presidents. By Jim in Greenville Brief but interesting book. The author at times seems somewhat naiuml;ve about the presidents he served, but his accounts provide an interesting and personal observation of the intimate lives of these presidents. The stories show that our presidents are very often two different people, the public politician-president, and the private husband and father with personal goals and objectives. Give it a try!

Fifty years of service at the White House in various capacities, including bodyguard to Abraham Lincoln, William H. Crook's memoir brings an astonishing array of personal details of life in the executive mansion. His sensitive observations of Lincoln are especially moving. A well-known figure in Washington, Crook knew every president from Lincoln until Crook's death in 1915. He was a keen observer and his stories will entertain and sometimes surprise you. Here are also stories of presidents Andrew Johnson, Rutherford B. Hayes, and James Garfield. A friend of Ulysses S. Grant, a guest at the White House wedding of Grant's daughter, Nellie, he also tells stories of racing with Grant in buggies.

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