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Lincoln's Greatest Case: The River, the Bridge, and the Making of America

Brian McGinty

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The untold story of how one sensational trial propelled a self-taught lawyer and a future president into the national spotlight.

In May of 1856, the steamboat *Effie Afton* barreled into a pillar of the Rock Island Bridge, unalterably changing the course of American transportation history. Within a year, long-simmering tensions between powerful steamboat interests and burgeoning railroads exploded, and the nation's attention, absorbed by the *Dred Scott* case, was riveted by a new civil trial. Dramatically reenacting the *Effie Afton* case?from its unlikely inception, complete with a young Abraham Lincoln's soaring oratory, to the controversial finale?this "masterful" (*Christian Science Monitor*) account gives us the previously untold story of how one sensational trial propelled a self-taught lawyer and a future president into the national spotlight. 18 illustrations

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