

## **The First Lady and the Rebel, Susan Higginbotham**

*The First Lady and the Rebel* is a historical fiction account of the years 1839-1876, telling the story of Mary Todd Lincoln, and her younger half-sister, Emily Todd Helm. The story has been well researched, sharing many details of the Civil War years both from both Union and Confederacy points of view.

Emily was a young girl when Mary left home for Springfield to live with their older sister. While in Springfield Mary met, and eventually married Abraham Lincoln. Emily married Benjamin Hardin Helm, who served and perished as a Confederate officer. Interestingly, Lincoln had offered Helm a position in Washington which Helm turned down before joining the Confederate army. Both women suffered greatly as the war took several of their family members, and eventually, both spouses. Higginbotham shows a commitment in her writing to the details available of the Civil War battles, and the strong social beliefs of the late 1800s. This book is available as an ebook through ADML, on the Libby app.