

# Flashback Four: The Hamilton-Burr Duel



## Flashback Four #4: The Hamilton-Burr Duel by Dan Gutman

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8107 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 237 pages

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The Hamilton-Burr duel was a fatal duel that took place on July 11, 1804, between Aaron Burr, then Vice President of the United States, and Alexander Hamilton, a former Secretary of the Treasury. The duel was the culmination of a long-standing rivalry between the two men, which had escalated in recent months due to political differences. Hamilton was shot and killed by Burr in the duel, and Burr was later charged with murder but was acquitted.

## **The Rivalry**

Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton were two of the most prominent Founding Fathers of the United States. However, they were also two very different men, with very different political views. Burr was a Democratic-Republican, while Hamilton was a Federalist. Burr was ambitious and ruthless, while Hamilton was principled and idealistic.

The rivalry between Burr and Hamilton began in the early 1790s, when they both served in George Washington's administration. Burr was appointed Attorney General, while Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Treasury. The two men clashed over a number of issues, including the creation of a national bank and the ratification of the Jay Treaty.

## **The Duel**

In the years leading up to the duel, the rivalry between Burr and Hamilton escalated. Burr was angered by Hamilton's opposition to his political ambitions, and Hamilton was disgusted by Burr's unscrupulous behavior. In 1804, the two men finally agreed to settle their differences with a duel.

The duel was held on July 11, 1804, at Weehawken, New Jersey. Burr and Hamilton exchanged shots, and Hamilton was fatally wounded. He died the

following day.

## Aftermath

The Hamilton-Burr duel shocked the nation. It was the first time that a sitting Vice President had killed a political rival in a duel. Burr was charged with murder, but he was acquitted. However, his career was ruined, and he never held public office again.

The duel also had a profound impact on American history. It led to the passage of laws against dueling, and it helped to end the tradition of violence in American politics.

## Legacy

The Hamilton-Burr duel is one of the most famous events in American history. It is a reminder of the passions that fueled the early republic, and it is a cautionary tale about the dangers of political extremism.

The duel has been the subject of numerous books, articles, and plays. It has also been depicted in film and television. The most recent depiction of the duel is the Broadway musical "Hamilton," which has been a critical and commercial success.

The Hamilton-Burr duel is a reminder of the fragility of democracy. It is a story about the power of words, the dangers of ambition, and the importance of forgiveness.

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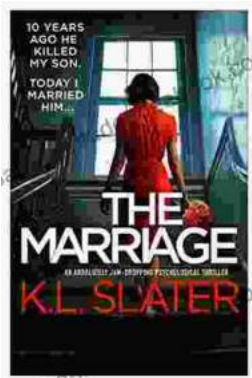
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