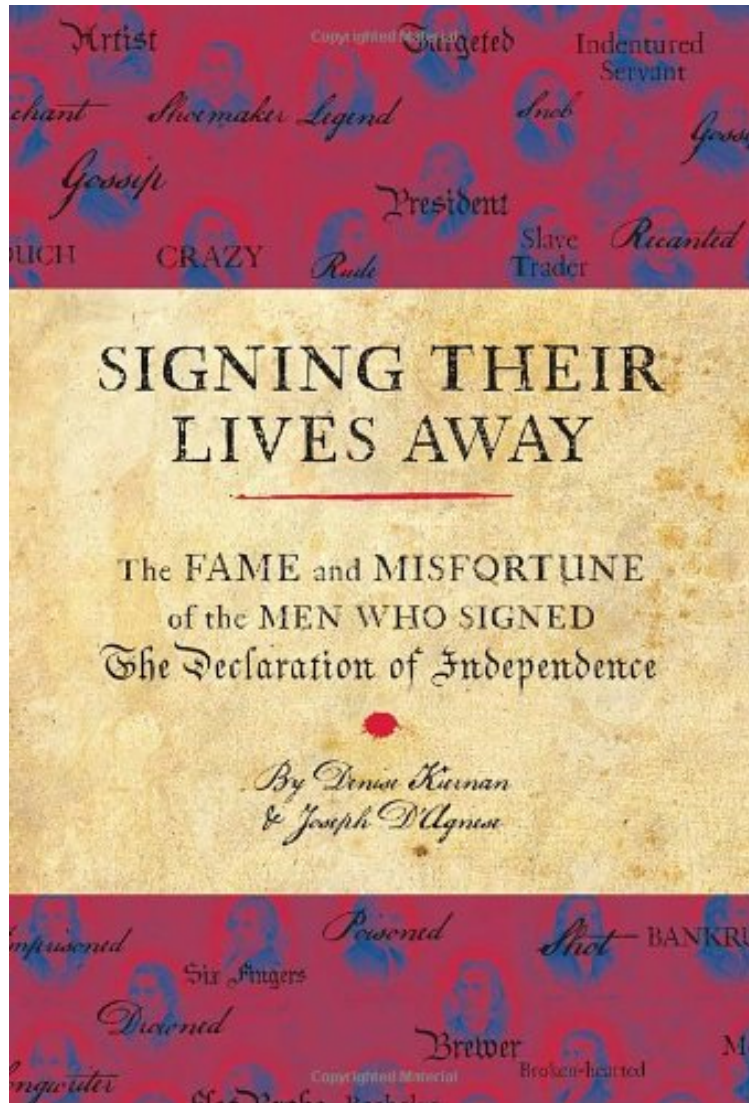


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Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence

Denise Kiernan, Joseph D'Agnese

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Denise Kiernan, Joseph D'Agnese : **Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence:

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Good quick read about a subject and people that all Americans should know about. The cost of and the courage it took for these men and their families to do what they did probably is not known by very many citizens of the U.S.A. Quite honestly this book should be History 101 in every High School in the United States.
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Meh... I was interested in reading this book as I am an amateur Revolutionary War buff. While I didn't expect the author to give a full biography on each person, I also expected a bit more about the people. I feel as you read through the colonies and the men signing the Declaration of Independence, an awful lot of the information is repeated. If there was not enough information on a certain person, paragraphs from the previous signers story were also repeated. In my opinion, the book has great potential to be more than repetitive and disappointing.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this book
By Sirod
I really enjoyed this book. Getting to know the men who risked their lives to give us freedom from England was interesting and sometimes even funny. I will read it again.

In the summer of 1776, fifty-six men risked their lives and livelihood to defy King George III and sign the Declaration of Independence--yet how many of them do we actually remember?

From School Library Journal
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On that immortal "Second of July," in 1776, 56 men described by King George III as daring and desperate affixed their names to the most celebrated document in American history. Or did they? With this work, Kiernan and D'Agnese present readers with astonishing individual portraits of all the signers in an attempt both to dispel some of the mythology surrounding the document as well as to establish a place in the historical discourse for those men not named Jefferson, Hancock, Franklin, or Adams. The marvelously arranged work lends itself to either straightforward reading or skipping around. The table of contents, divided by state, sparks readers' interest from the very beginning with its "the Signer who" format, a feature that also allows great accessibility for reports and assignments. An entertaining and effective narrative of about three to five pages per individual is presented, and the full text of the document, a brief time line, and a section on the "Miscellany of Independence" are appended. Readers will delight as they discover just which signer "was the first to die," "slept in caves," "had the worst penmanship," and "went broke on shady land deals."
Brian Odom, Pelham Public Library, AL
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About the Author
Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese have been published in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Village Voice, Wired, Discover, and other national publications. D'Agnese's work has twice been included in the anthology Best American Science Writing. Both are winners of Educational Press Association awards. They live in North Carolina.