



AMERICAN PHOENIX

The phoenix riddle hath more wit, we two being one are it.

Louisa & John Quincy Adams



Their Russian destination changed U.S. destiny

Pilot script available through agent Jonathan Clements, Jonathan@wheelouseliterary.com, wheelouselit@gmail.com, 615.738.6970 cell, and 615.263.4150 office.



AMERICAN PHOENIX
BY JANE HAMPTON COOK

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INTRODUCTION

The award-winning AMERICAN PHOENIX is a female-leaning, true-story, family-friendly, historical TV drama series based on a book and spanning three seasons.

AMERICAN PHOENIX draws on the best period pieces . . . The awe and emotional intimacy of Queen Elizabeth as she finds her voice in *THE CROWN* . . . the spirit of independence as John Adams stands up for justice for his nation . . . the feeling of triumph and romance as Abigail Adams reunites with *JOHN ADAMS* . . . and the power of love overcoming the restraints of polite society of *JANE AUSTEN* . . . Quintessential historical drama sets the tone for this true story.

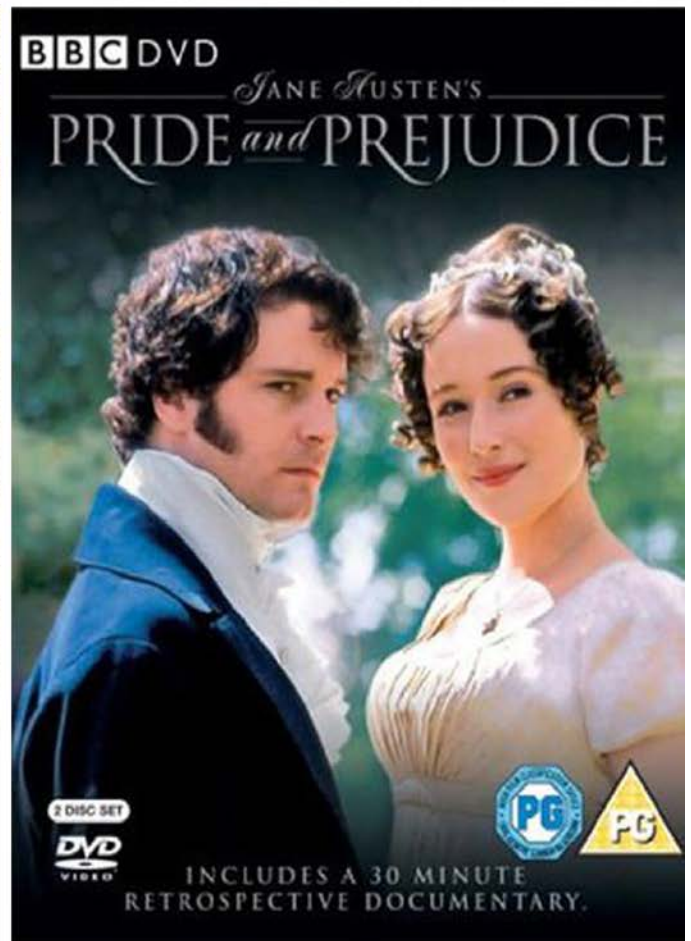
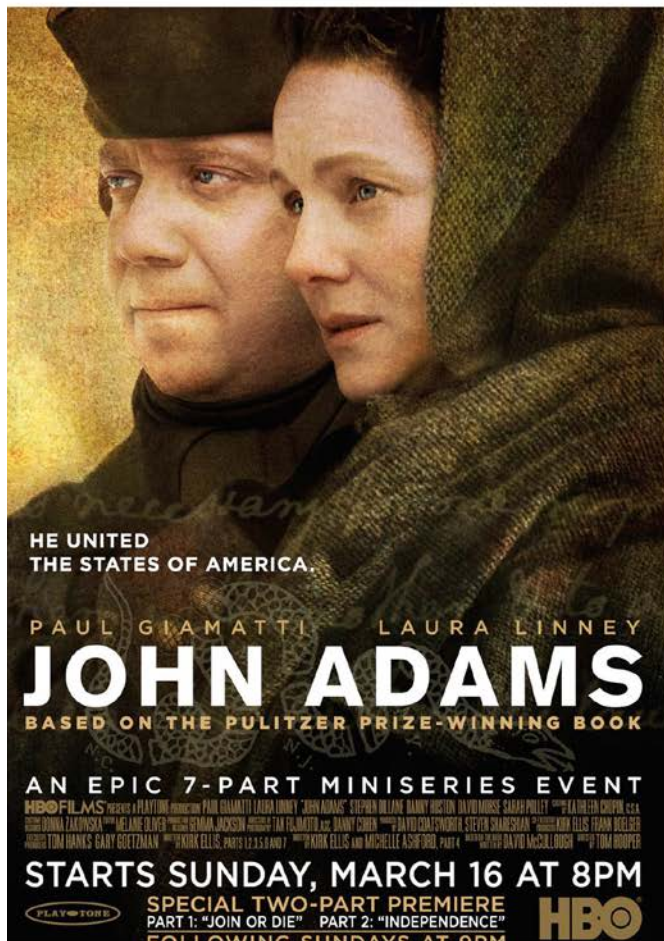
AMERICAN PHOENIX explores a marginalized mother, Louisa Adams, and her husband John Quincy Adams, a down-on-his luck politician, and the theme of patriotism versus global threats—much like today.

AMERICAN PHOENIX is set primarily in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 1807-15 with occasional Boston and Washington D.C. scenes.

AMERICAN PHOENIX is a timeless, relatable family-oriented comeback story appealing to U.S. domestic and international viewers. It's emotional, character-driven, epic, and cinematic.



[Video Pitch https://vimeo.com/516958609](https://vimeo.com/516958609)



TONAL COMPS

JOHN ADAMS (HBO)



Starting with the Revolutionary War, JOHN ADAMS (HBO) is the biographical story of John Adams, the second U.S. president. AMERICAN PHOENIX is the second-generation of JOHN ADAMS with two twists. The first is that AMERICAN PHOENIX is more female-leaning by focusing on his daughter-in-law Louisa Adams and son, John Quincy, as the leads. Leaning more on Louisa with John Quincy as a close second, both have strong organic arcs. Families everywhere will recognize the complicated relationships between fathers and grown sons, daughters-in-law and in-laws.

The second is that AMERICAN PHOENIX largely takes place in a surprising place—St. Petersburg, Russia. John Quincy Adams’s shocking diplomatic appointment to Russia thrusts Louisa and Adams into a world that is as opulent as it is oppressive, a stark contrast to the liberty-loving simplicity of their home in Boston. Instead of the Revolutionary War, AMERICAN PHOENIX is a character-driven story set against the backdrop of the War of 1812 and Napoleon wars but without the need for expensive large battle scenes.

THE CROWN (NETFLIX)

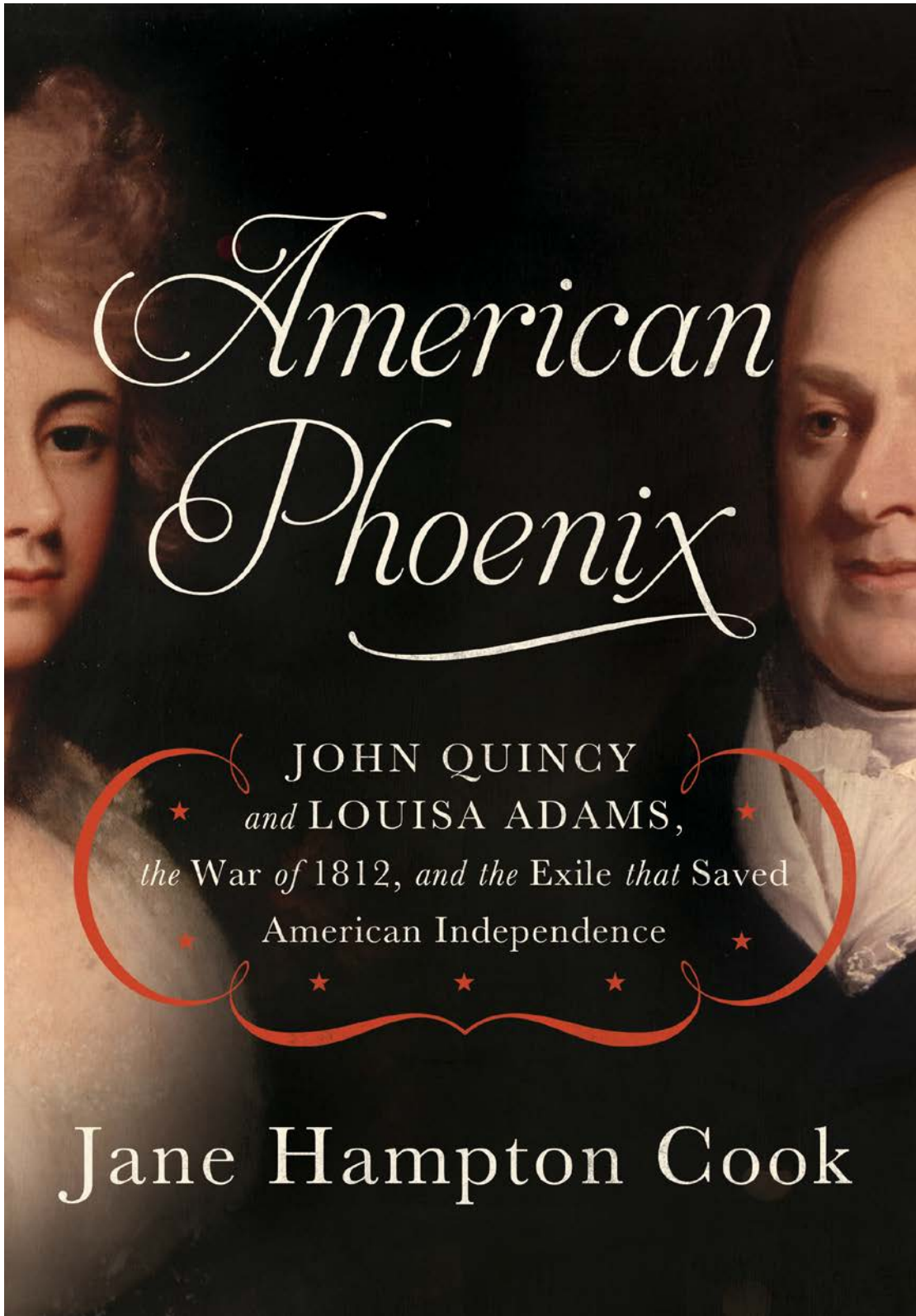
AMERICAN PHOENIX is similar to THE CROWN, where family relationships and palace politics create internal and external conflict in this biographical story. Just as Queen Elizabeth’s power comes from her crown, so Czar Alexander’s power comes from his Russian palace splendor, a great contrast to Louisa and Adams’s priorities of integrity and honor. Likewise faith plays a role in both stories. Napoleon casts a shadow over this story.



JANE AUSTEN’S PRIDE & PREJUDICE (MULTIPLE FORMATS)



BBC’s PRIDE & PREJUDICE is one of several based on Jane Austen’s books. Louisa is similar to Austen—born in the same year in England, trapped by the manners of polite society, and a desire to show the strength of the female character through writing. Viewers will recognize AMERICAN PHOENIX’s costumes from Jane Austen’s world. Louisa and Adams’s love relationship will resonate with Austen fans, who will appreciate the love escapades of Louisa’s single sister, Kitty, in subplots.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GENRE & FORMAT

TV original series. A female-driven, family-friendly, and true story adapted from the non-fiction book, *American Phoenix*, by author and screenwriter Jane Hampton Cook.

SERIES LOGLINE

Forced by her in-laws, John and Abigail Adams, to leave her sons behind in America, British-born multilingual Louisa Adams and John Quincy Adams, her down-on-his luck husband, must forge an alliance with Russia's czar to save U.S. independence. While their Russian destination changes U.S. destiny, Louisa transforms from a marginalized mother into a female champion and Adams becomes a statesman ready to be president (1807-15, during the War of 1812). [Video Pitch](#)

COMPS

JOHN ADAMS (HBO) and PRIDE & PREJUDICE (BBC) meet THE CROWN.

THEMES & TRENDS

The politics of shutting down an economy to save lives, love between a husband and wife, faith and family, making a comeback after loss, finding acceptance with your in-laws, and patriotism. Napoleon's totalitarianism is a metaphor for today's internal and global threats.

AGENT

Pilot script available through Jonathan Clements, Jonathan@wheelouseliterary.com, wheelouselit@gmail.com, 615.738.6970 cell, and 615.263.4150 office.

ABOUT JANE HAMPTON COOK

A frequent national media guest on the FOX News Channel, CNN, BBC and other outlets, Jane Hampton Cook is a former White House communications staffer who has written ten published books and placed third in ScreenCraft's 2018 Drama Contest.

ACCOLADES

AMERICAN PHOENIX placed in the top ten in the Biography/Historical category of the Emerging Screenwriter's Genre Contest in 2020. It was a featured screenplay in D.C. Women in Film and Video's Spotlight on Screenwriting, a program by a former DreamWorks executive. Jane has received producer's notes from Lionsgate, HBO Max, WME, and other companies.



Louisa & John Quincy's **TRANSFORMATION**



MAIN CHARACTERS



LOUISA ADAMS (34) An American Jane Austen. Physically-delicate. British-born. French-sounding. Multilingual. Longs to be accepted as a proud American by her father-in-law, former President Adams. Values excellence over the Adams's ambition. Believes she is "unfit to be the wife of a politician and great man." Louisa makes life-or-death decisions to be reunited with her children. Comes face-to-face with Napoleon and defies him.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (42) A prickly, down-on-his-luck politician. Lost his dream job in the U.S. Senate. Under pressure to hold the highest public office by his famous parents, former President John Adams and Abigail Adams. Must figure out what he wants for his life. Sincere in serving his nation. Stands up for his nation and justice for all.



CZAR ALEXANDER (32). Russian emperor. Mysterious. Under coercion from France's Napoleon to reject an American alliance. The Alexander's failure to please Napoleon could lead to war. A fun-loving extrovert. Alexander teases his political intentions through social situations such as balls. In Russia, custom is the law.



FRENCH AMBASSADOR CAULAINCOURT (36) is the hand of France's Napoleon in Russia. Torn between his duty to his country and his sense of honor, the French Ambassador is a foe and a rival to John Quincy Adams.



CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION

1807-15. Louisa transforms from a marginalized mother into a female leader who must make life or death decisions to be reunited with her husband and children. While their Russian destination changes U.S. destiny, Adams makes a personal comeback, transforming from a prickly, down-on-his-luck politician into a statesman who secures lasting independence and peace with England, which puts him on track to become president.



SUPPORTING CHARACTERS—The series features a variety of supporting characters to appeal to a broad domestic and global audience . . . Abigail Adams & President John Adams . . . a free African American . . . diplomats from Germany, France, Britain, Denmark . . . Russian Emperors . . . a chambermaid and at the very end an appearance by . . . Napoleon.



Winter Palace, Russia

CONTRASTS *Peacefield, Boston*



STORY & STRUCTURE

“The phoenix riddle hath more wit, we two being one are it.”

A STORY OF VIVID CONTRASTS . . . the feeling of modest pride and warmth at the Adams’s family Boston home of Peacefield compared to the awe and splendor of the Czar’s Winter Palace . . . the contrast of the personalities of Louisa and John Quincy Adams, who will both go through the fire and both will rise like phoenixes before this story concludes.

A RELATABLE STORY OF FAMILY OPPOSITES AND DIFFERENCES . . . the delicate, aristocratic Louisa couldn’t be more opposite from her robust, opinionated mother-in-law. John Quincy’s frank integrity clashes with the game-playing French Ambassador and mysterious Czar Alexander.

STRUCTURE: Louisa and John Quincy’s character arcs stretch over three seasons, eight episodes each. The structure is simple. Season 1 is Act 1. Season 2 is Act 2. Season 3 is Act 3, while adding a few new supporting characters and surprising plot points to bring mystery to each new season.

ACT 1: The feeling of empathy at the separation of Louisa from her sons George and John . . . sadness at John Quincy Adams’s job loss . . . respect for taking a job out of duty . . . mystery and shock at the location of his new mission . . . frustration at the obstacles he faces in Russia in the quest for justice . . . relatability at their inability to compete financially with the other diplomats . . . triumph at how they overcome their disadvantages and . . . surprise at how they get the Czar’s attention.

ACT 2: The emotion of shock when Adams turns down a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court . . . his horror as America goes to war with England and France goes to war with Russia . . . joy as Louisa overcomes her delicate health in a triumphant event . . . sadness of her personal loss and suicidal depression . . . relief as she turns to writing for therapy and her Christian faith to emerge as a writer and champion for females . . . shock when Adams and Louisa are separated.

ACT 3: The sensation of terror as the British burn the White House . . . awe as Adams stands up to the British and negotiates a treaty to end the War of 1812 . . . satisfaction as Louisa becomes a diplomat in her own right . . . surprise that Adams goes to Paris . . . thrill at Louisa’s courage to travel over war-torn land to Paris to be reunited with Adams . . . terror at the life and death decisions she must make . . . shock as she fights for her life in the face of Napoleon . . . relief and joy at her reunion with Adams and all of her children.

The series concludes with a feeling of triumph that together Louisa and Adams have fulfilled the phoenix poem: “The phoenix riddle hath more wit, we two being one are it.”



MODERN RESONANCE FIGHTING TYRANNY

Napoleon is the villain in the background of this story, the antagonist whose wars of conquest of other nations affect everyone that Louisa and John Quincy Adams interact with in Russia. Napoleon's policies and England's response push America into war with England.

All of the European diplomats that Louisa and John Quincy socialize with either loved Napoleon or hated him. For example, a German diplomat tells John Quincy that Napoleon burned down his house and forced him to become a diplomat in Russia while a Dutch diplomat worships Napoleon and considers him a god.

Like global tyranny today, Napoleon's best weapon was fear. He used it to disseminate propaganda, suppress liberty, engage in large-scale espionage, and hold fake Democratic elections.

Napoleon's tyranny and example influenced the rise of tyranny in Lenin's Soviet Union, Hitler's Germany, Mussolini's Italy, and Mao's China, which still suffers from communism.

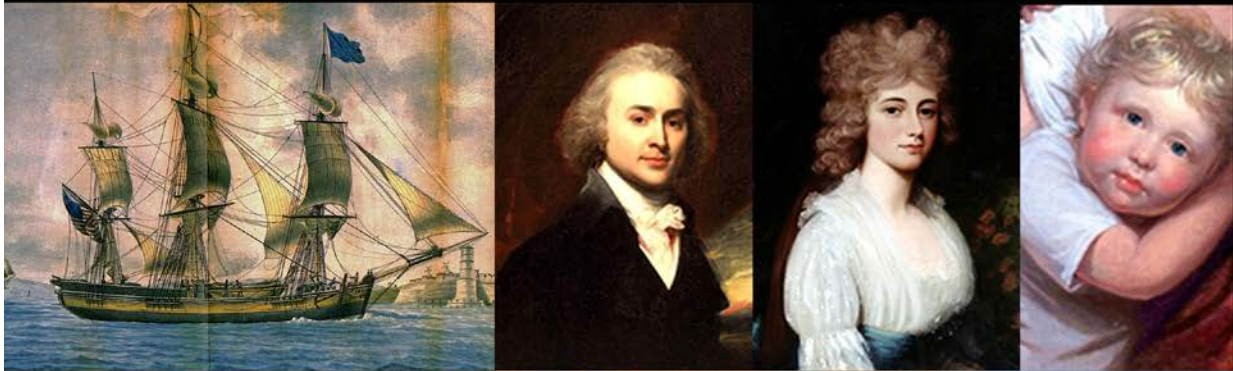
Given today's globalist threats, AMERICAN PHOENIX is a story that must be told, an important opportunity to weave themes and cautionary tales warning against global tyranny and totalitarianism at home.



Louisa's in-laws force her to leave two of her sons behind

PILOT-ADIEU, AMERICA

John Quincy's political enemies send him to Russia





PILOT—ADIEU, AMERICA

1807-09

WE START WITH TWO EMOTIONAL GUT PUNCHES.

The first sequence delivers shock as Louisa learns two of her children are being taken from her and that she must move to a mysterious faraway place without them.

The next sequence reveals the shocking but relatable devastation of the government shutting down the economy . . . along with sadness as John Quincy Adams loses his job in the Senate.

MYSTERIES REVEALED

The set up continues with shock at the location of Adams's new appointment as the first top U.S. diplomat to Russia . . . the sadness that his political enemies are behind getting him out of the country . . . the realization that the aristocratic British-born, French-sounding Louisa believes in her heart she's an American like her father . . . but her in-laws do not view her as a patriot.

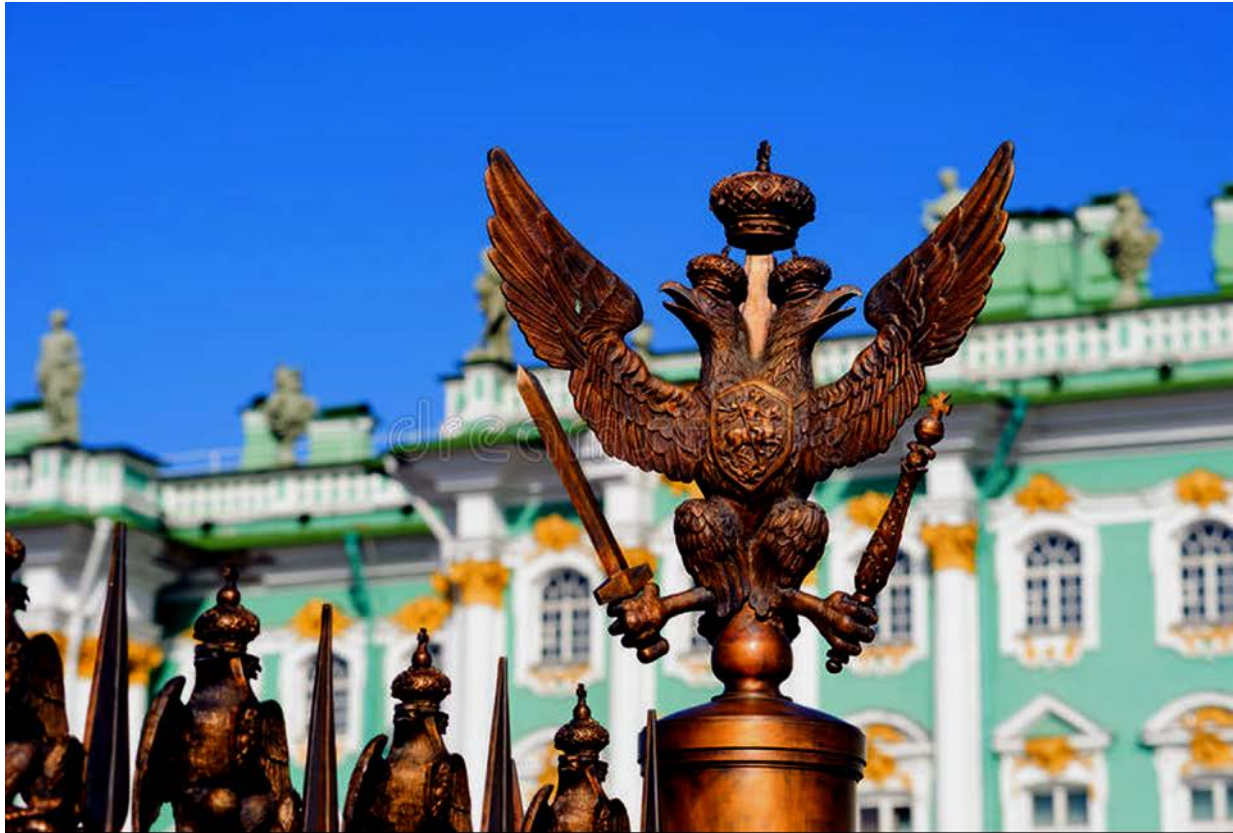
The opening becomes clear through the fear that President John Adams and Abigail have of a shipwreck wiping out their family line . . . and hence this is why they refuse to allow Louisa and John Quincy to take their sons George, 8, and John, 6, to Russia but do allow them to take their son Charles, 2 . . . the temporary satisfaction that Louisa fights back and demands they will only be gone for a year.

GLOBAL STAKES AND CLIMAX

The emotion of terror of their harrowing voyage where they come face-to-face with American sailors being kidnapped by the British . . . the surprising impact this has on Louisa's view of her husband's diplomatic mission to Russia.

MYSTERIOUS CHARACTERS LEAVE VIEWERS WANTING MORE

The ending concludes with mystery over new characters, Czar Alexander and the French Ambassador.



SEASON 1 - SPLENDOR





SEASON 1: EPISODE SUMMARIES

1807-10 SPLENDOR

S1:E1 ADIEU, AMERICA—An ambitious presidential appointment cooked up by their political enemies separates Louisa and her husband John Quincy Adams from two of their young sons, who stay behind in Boston at the behest of her in-laws, former President John and Abigail Adams. On their voyage to Russia, Louisa and Adams come face to face with the stakes of their mission after British officers threaten to kidnap an American sailor.

S1:E2 WHEN IN ROME—Only able to afford one formal gown, Louisa struggles to keep up with the lavishness of Russia’s palace. Adams discovers the Czar’s dark mysterious past.

S1:E3 ICE—Adams confronts the Danish diplomat over the captured Americans in Denmark at an ice hills party and makes a disturbing discovery. The Empress Mother threatens to cut Louisa from all social events. Napoleon’s divorce tests the Czar’s alliance with France and reveals the loyalties of the diplomats from Germany, France, and Holland.

S1:E4 KING CAKE—Illness and finances force Louisa to reject social visits from the Empress. Adams puts the Czar to the test. Abigail sends a meddling letter to President Madison.

S1:E5 FRENCH ECONOMIE—When Adams becomes ill, he asks Louisa to take his place at events hosted by the French and English. Louisa uncovers the real reason Napoleon sent the French Ambassador to Russia. Kitty looks for love.

S1:E6 RUSSIAN EASTER EGGS—Louisa strategizes to win over the Czar. Russia’s Easter egg customs force Adams to change his ways. The Czar seeks a Russian bride for Napoleon.

S1:E7 FAVOR—When the French Ambassador gives a ball for Napoleon’s marriage to an Austrian princess, the Czar causes a scandalous stir with Louisa. Adams receives a concerning letter from President Madison. Louisa finally receives letters from their sons in Boston.

S1:E8 PLATO’S BEARD—Adams confronts the French Ambassador after Napoleon’s allies close their doors to U.S. ships. Adams and Louisa discover that some aren’t what they seem to be. Louisa worries when Nelson, a free African-American, wants to give up his freedom to join the Czar’s service, which he cannot leave, a form of slavery.



SEASON 2 - NOT TO US, O GOD





SEASON 2: EPISODE SUMMARIES

1810-13 Non Nobis Domine

S2:E1 OBSTINATE—The Czar reveals his true intentions toward America. Adams’s reputation and enemies back home affect his decision to stay in Russia. While battling infertility, Louisa hosts a christening service for an employee.

S2:E2 TREASON & HONOR—Czar Alexander faces treason in his ranks while Adams confronts the French Ambassador in a climatic duel of honor. Louisa tries to hide her condition.

S2:E3 CONTRACTIONS—Tragic news from America arrives. Louisa goes into preterm contractions. Alexander confronts the French Ambassador, who is recalled by Napoleon. Adams receives life-changing news from President Madison.

S2:E4 SUPREME NEWS—Under pressure from his father John Adams, John Quincy debates accepting President Madison’s offer to join the U.S. Supreme Court. A pregnant Louisa helps a new diplomat’s wife with her court presentation. Czar Alexander plays politics with the new French ambassador. Adams gives Louisa an anniversary gift.

S2:E5 COMETS—A comet looms in the sky above, Czar Alexander fears war with France. Adams tries to bring his sons in Boston to Russia. Kitty and William grow close.

S2:E6 NON NOBIS DOMINE—Adams emerges as the leader of the diplomats while Napoleon invades Russia. Adams faces a new rival in Russia as America goes to war with England, leading Adams to declare: Not to us Oh Lord. Louisa worries about her baby girl’s convulsions after a superstitious woman gives her a warning.

S2:E7 REQUIEM—Adams and Louisa fight for their baby’s life as war with France wages around them. Czar Alexander makes Adams an offer he can’t refuse to end America’s war with England.

S2:E8 DRY BONES—Louisa battles depression after the loss of her daughter, turns to her faith and begins to write for therapy. Adams prepares to take Louisa and Charles home to America. News from America and France changes everything.



John Quincy secures peace for America, emerges a statesman

SEASON 3- PHOENIX

Louisa defies Napoleon in person, reunites with sons



John Quincy Adams

Louisa Adams

George Adams, 16

John Adams II, 14

Charles Adams, 8



SEASON 3: EPISODE SUMMARIES

1814-15 Double Phoenix

S3:E1 SEPARATION & NEGOTIATION—Adams leaves Louisa and Charles in St. Petersburg to negotiate with the British in Belgium. Louisa faces challenges as she unofficially takes over Adams’s diplomatic duties in St. Petersburg.

S3:E2 FIRE—News about the British military burning the White House threatens Adams’s peace negotiations with the British. Louisa faces the diplomats in St. Petersburg who think America is conquered. Former President John Adams encourages his son.

S3:E3 HALF AN AMERICAN—When Czar Alexander seeks the upper hand in redrawing the map of Europe, he is accused of being half an American. Adams refuses to give up and fights with his fellow American diplomats in Belgium to achieve peace. Louisa confronts a British diplomat and stands up for her nation in a new way.

S3:E4 PHOENIX OF PEACE—Adams emerges as a statesman after achieving peace between America and England--the greatest achievement of his life. Adams makes a shocking request of Louisa.

S3:E5 ADIEU, ST. PETERSBURG—A fortune teller gives Louisa an ominous reading as she and Charles leave St. Petersburg. Adams enjoys the pleasures of Paris while Louisa encounters thieves and murderers on her way to Paris by land.

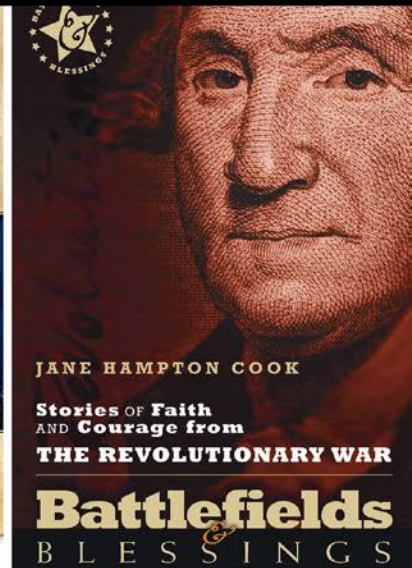
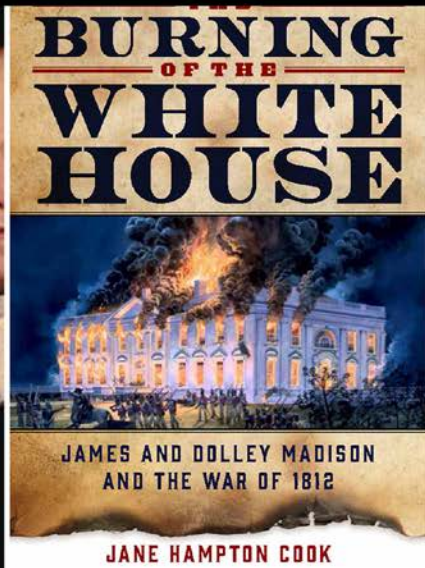
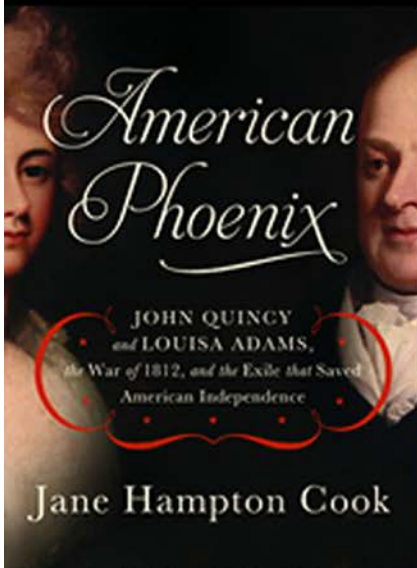
S3:E6 BREAKPOINT—From getting lost in the woods to falling into an icy river, Louisa must make life and death decisions on the road to Paris. Adams discovers that life and leadership in Paris is not what it seems.

S3:E7 HOMECOMING—While Louisa faces rumors of Napoleon’s return from exile, she encounters the carnage his war left behind on a German field. Adams meets the king of France, King Louis, as he waits for Louisa in Paris.

S3:E8 DOUBLE PHOENIX—Napoleon’s march from exile to Paris threatens Louisa directly as she tries to reach Adams in Paris. Adams receives news that changes his reunion with Louisa and their children.



TALENT-JANE HAMPTON COOK



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR & SCREENWRITER

JANE HAMPTON COOK makes history relevant to news, current events, politics, faith, and modern life. She is the award-winning author of ten books, including *American Phoenix*. Adapted from her book *The Burning of the White House*, her feature screenplay SAVING WASHINGTON placed third out of 1,000 entries in ScreenCraft's Drama Contest in 2018.

A national news media commentator, a contributor to TheHill.com and GenealogyBank.com and the first female White House webmaster, Jane is a frequent guest on the Fox News Channel, CNN, BBC, SKY News and other television and radio outlets. She has been a cast member and on-camera storyteller for Fox Nation, THE FIRST AMERICAN, and the History Channel's UNITED STUFF OF AMERICA.

Jane received a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from Texas A&M University. Launching her passion for biography through a fellowship from the White House Historical Association in 2003, Jane currently lives with her husband, Dr. John Kim Cook, and their children in the Washington D.C. www.janecook.com.

BOOKS

Resilience on Parade: Short Stories of Suffragists and Women's Battle for the Vote

The Burning of the White House: James & Dolley Madison & the War of 1812

America's Star-Spangled Story

American Phoenix

Stories of Faith and Courage from the War in Iraq and Afghanistan

(Winner 2010 Gold Medal from the Military Writers Society of America)

Stories of Faith and Courage from the Revolutionary War

The Faith of America's First Ladies

For Children: *What Does the President Look Like? B is for Baylor, Maggie Houston*

GRAMMY & AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER FLETCH WILEY



Fletch is a Grammy-winning arranger and award-winning composer and conductor. Fletch is Jane's "must have" talent. Pictured with the Budapest Orchestra, Fletch is excited to compose the score for Jane's film projects. "At a very early age, I knew I was going to be a musician; maybe it was sleeping with my trumpet as a ten-year-old!"

Thus began a musical journey that has taken Fletch Wiley literally around the world playing and producing with some of the world's great players and given him a heart for helping the local musician. Fusing his love of jazz, classical and world music with digital technology has made Fletch a sought after producer, arranger, instrumentalist and orchestrator. www.fletchwiley.com, fletch.wiley@gmail.com



SCRIPT EXCERPT

Included are the first several pages of the pilot for AMERICAN PHOENIX.

To read full script contact agent Jonathan Clements, Jonathan@wheelouseliterary.com, wheelouselit@gmail.com, 615.738.6970 cell, and 615.263.4150 office.

AMERICAN PHOENIX

EPISODE 1: ADIEU, AMERICA

by

Jane Hampton Cook

Adapted from *American Phoenix: John Quincy and Louisa Adams*
by Jane Hampton Cook

Based on a True Story

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BLACK SCREEN

CARD: "The phoenix riddle hath more wit. We two being one are it."

FADE IN

INT./EXT. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "Boston July 1809"

Frog and Nassau Street. Dusk. A 15-star U.S. flag flies.

A WOMAN (LOUISA ADAMS, 30s) speaks in a French accent.

LOUISA (O.S.)
How unfit I am as the wife of an
American politician much less a
great man in a family of great men.

JUDGE THOMAS ADAMS, 37, dismounts from a horse. His face
twists with dread as he looks at the front door.

This is the worst "sentence" this judge has ever issued. TWO
BOYS with noses pressed at window smile and wave.

BOYS
Uncle Thomas!

Thomas fakes a smile. Limply waves back.

INT. ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - FRONT PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE ADAMS, 8, and JOHN ADAMS II, 6, twirl around from the
window and:

-- Scurry past stacked crates, sheet-draped chairs, a piano.

-- Nearly knock over a painting of President George
Washington leaning against a crate on the floor.

-- Run into German chambermaid MARTHA GODFREY, 40s. She
carries a painting of their grandfather President John Adams.

MARTHA
George. John. Careful. You might
punch a hole in your grandpappa.

They race up the stairs.

INT. ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - BOYS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A proud U.S. citizen, British-born, French-sounding LOUISA ADAMS, 34, has an aristocratic air, delicate frame and light brown hair. Louisa has yet to find her inner Jane Austen.

She packs boys' clothes into a trunk. Her youngest son, CHARLES, 2, teethes on a coral ring. George and John rush in.

GEORGE

Mama!

JOHN

Judge Adams --

LOUISA

-- George, have you packed your multilingual dictionary?

She warmly hugs George and John and looks at Charles.

LOUISA (CONT'D)

Imagine what exotic sights all three of you will soon see.

GEORGE

I thought you didn't want to go?

LOUISA

-- At least we'll all be together. That's what matters most.

John blurts.

JOHN

Judge Adams is here.

Her eyebrows lift with surprise. She corrects him.

LOUISA

Judge Adams is here? He's always Uncle Thomas to you. Your father?

GEORGE

I didn't see Papa.

Her nose wrinkles, puzzled. She picks up Charles. Leaves.

INT. ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - FRONT PARLOR - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas's hat trembles in his hand. George and John hug him. Bouncing Charles in her arms, Louisa cheerily greets him.

LOUISA
I wasn't expecting you, Thomas.

THOMAS
Sorry to disturb, Louisa.

Martha frets at Adams's and Washington's paintings.

MARTHA
Excuse me, Mrs. Adams. Are these
going or staying?

LOUISA
Going ... as a gallery of
presidents.

THOMAS
May I have a word?

LOUISA
Where's John Quincy?

THOMAS
With my parents.

Louisa's face tenses.

LOUISA
Martha, take Charles upstairs.
George. John. Please pack the flag.

EXT. ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

George and John lower the flag.

INT. ADAMS TOWNHOUSE - FRONT PARLOR - SAME

Seated, Thomas's tone is resolved, not cold. Louisa's face is
flushed with shock and anger.

LOUISA
How dare you require such a thing!

THOMAS
My parents and I will give George
and John our utmost devotion here.

LOUISA
Politics has broken our hearts
once. Now you want to take my
children from me? I won't let you.
It's too far where we're going.

THOMAS

That is exactly why George and John
must stay. What if your ship sinks?
Charles will go with you and John
Quincy.

Her lips tremble. She is too stunned for words. This is the
biggest shock of her life. Louisa tears up. Her head turns
away in pain from Thomas.

LOUISA

A man can take care of himself.
Before God a mother can not abandon
any of her children! Ambition can
never repay such sacrifice.

Louisa gets up, picks up the John Adams painting leaning side
by side with the Washington painting against a crate. She
thrusts the Adams painting into Thomas' arms.

LOUISA (CONT'D)

A face I do not want to remember
while we're gone.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - U.S. CAPITOL - DAY

SUPER: "18 months earlier, December 18, 1807"

SUPER: "Washington City"

Early morning. Snow gently falls. A young MAN (WILLIAM SMITH,
20s) walks urgently from the Capitol.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. FEDERAL HOUSE - SAME

A lantern suddenly brightens an upstairs window.

INT. WASHINGTON D.C. FEDERAL HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Louisa tiptoes to a cradle. Martha picks up infant Charles,
four months.

MARTHA

Are you feeling well?

Louisa nods. Takes Charles from Martha. Looks at the window.

LOUISA

How do you like your first snow
Charles? If it's snowing here, it
must be a blizzard back home.