



## Daydreams and Nightmares: A Virginia Family Faces Secession and War

By Brent Tarter

University of Virginia Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Daydreams and Nightmares: A Virginia Family Faces Secession and War, Brent Tarter, The story of secessionthe prelude to perhaps the most dramatic chapter in American historyuhas typically been told on a grand scale. In Daydreams and Nightmares , historian Brent Tarter uses a smaller, more intimate lens, sharing the story of one Virginia family who found themselves in the middle of the secession debate and saw their world torn apart as the states chose sides and went to war. George Berlin was elected to serve as a delegate to the Virginia Convention of 1861 as an opponent of secession, but he ultimately changed his vote, later defending his decision in a speech in his hometown of Buckhannon, Upshur County, and had to flee for his safety when Union soldiers arrived. Berlin and his wife, Susan Holt Berlin, were separated for extended periodsuboth during the convention and, later, during the early years of the Civil War. The letters they exchanged tell a harrowing story of uncertainty, bringing to life for the modern reader an extended family that encompassed both Confederate and Union sympathizers. This is in part a love story. It...



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