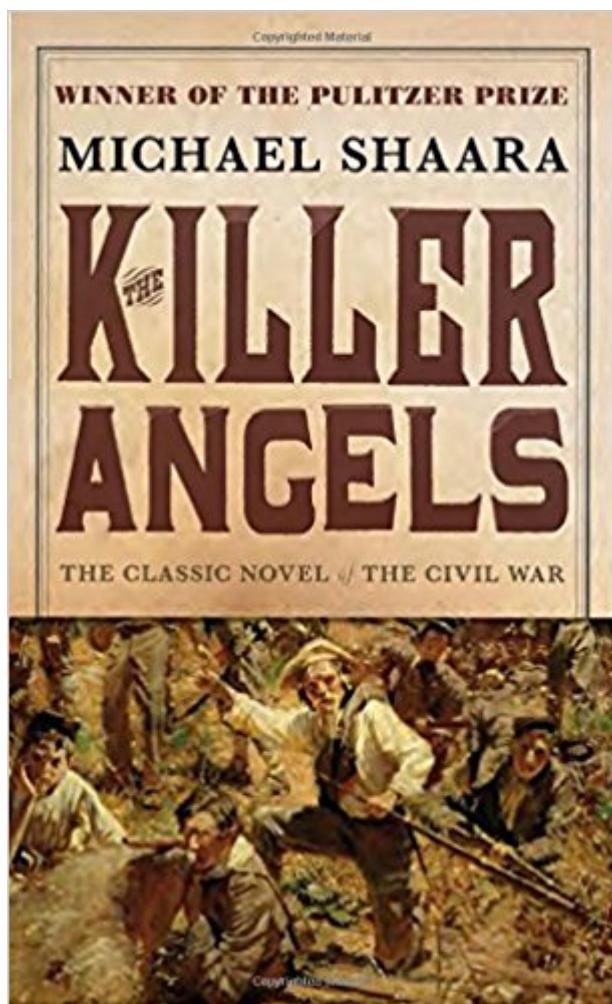


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The Killer Angels: The Classic Novel Of The Civil War (Civil War Trilogy)



Synopsis

“My favorite historical novel . . . a superb re-creation of the Battle of Gettysburg, but its real importance is its insight into what the war was about, and what it meant.” •James M. McPherson In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation’s history, two armies fought for two conflicting dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were also the casualties of war. Michael Shaara’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—the dramatic story of the battleground for America’s destiny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This novel reveals more about the Battle of Gettysburg than any piece of learned nonfiction on the same subject. Michael Shaara’s account of the three most important days of the Civil War features deft characterizations of all of the main actors, including Lee, Longstreet, Pickett, Buford, and Hancock. The most inspiring figure in the book, however, is Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, whose 20th Maine regiment of volunteers held the Union’s left flank on the second day of the battle. This unit’s bravery at Little Round Top helped turn the tide of the war against the rebels. There are also plenty of maps, which convey a complete sense of what happened July 1-3, 1863. Reading about the past is rarely so much fun as on these pages.

The late Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (1974) concerns the battle of Gettysburg and was the basis for the 1993 film Gettysburg. The events immediately before and during the battle are seen through the eyes of Confederate Generals Lee, Longstreet, and Armistead and Federal General Buford, Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain, and a host of others. The author's ability to convey the thoughts of men in war as well as their confusion-the so-called "fog of battle"-is outstanding. This unabridged version is read clearly by award-winning actor George Hearn, who gives each character a different voice and effectively conveys their personalities; chapters and beginnings and ends of sides are announced. Music from the movie version adds to the drama. All this comes in a beautiful package with a battle map. Recommended for public libraries not owning previous editions from Recorded Books and Blackstone Audio (Audio Reviews, LJ 2/1/92 and LJ 2/1/93, respectively). Michael T. Fein, Catawba Valley Community Coll., Hickory, N.C. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Killer Angels is the second of three historical novels in Michael Shaara's epic telling of the story of the American Civil War. These books are described by the author as "historical fictions", which means he tells his well-studied version of what happened as truthfully as possible in the form of a novel where we look into the interactions and events of notable people involved in the war, particularly the Generals. The format is highly effective and it really lets Shaara put us in the middle of the battles, the middle of the planning sessions, let's us feel what it may be like to be marched to death, to see your blood brother's leg amputated, to see truces called to clear the dead and injured off the battle field when farm animals come to feast upon them, let's us feel like we may be experiencing just a modicum of the horror that the men and women of the civil war experienced. Shaara's prose draws you right in and leaves you there to where you feel like you are watching more than reading, and every once while he reminds you, it's only a novel. Then you take pause, and you realize that for millions of people, it was nothing less than real.

my sister recommended i read this book before my trip to Gettysburg. It was definately worth the read, and really helped with understanding the battle. When i got to Gettysburg, by having read the book, the sites were in my head and to see them in person, the distances, the lack of cover, the rocky terrain, its no wonder so many men lost their lives over the course of those 3 eventful days that changed the history of our great country. i highly recommend this for anyone interested in the past of our country.

I loved this book, and ordered another copy to give to my son as a gift. A nice blend of fiction woven into real events of the battle of Gettysburg. The author managed to keep historical facts intact while giving the characters the human qualities that we tend to forget about when thinking of the men who led soldiers into battle.

This audio book is read by an actor who clearly imitates the movie "Gettysburg" in this rendition. This is just fine as Shaara's book was the basis of screenplay for the movie. Tones, accents, and nuances are captured and much to my delight as I thoroughly enjoyed the movie. Additionally, Shaara's glimpses of the thoughts and perspectives of the "players" enhances it all. I go through audio books pretty quickly during my commute. This one was so good I found myself sitting in front of my house a few extra minutes each evening to hear just a little more! Highly recommend.

I've found from reading non-fiction books on the Civil War that the author did a great job of accurately portraying the personalities, including demeanor and quirks, of the main characters that were largely responsible for the outcome of this battle. He obviously knew his subjects, and the battle, well. And although much of the dialogue is fictionalized, their interactions and decisions, and how they came about them, as described in this book, also hold up well. Although I read very few fiction-related books, my keen interest in this battle and the Civil War came about because of this fine book, which is what I feel was a primary objective of the author. It was not designed to focus on everyone who had a key role in this battle (because there are others), and it was not designed to be an in-depth account of the battle. However, this book helps personalize it and provides a unique perspective in how leaders on both sides interacted and how their unique personalities and feelings, including jealousies, arrogance, over-confidence, and personal courage, led to the decisions that largely shaped the outcome of a battle considered by many to be the turning point of the war. This book is well-balanced in telling both sides of the conflict, easy to read and comprehend, and would be a great history assignment from junior high on up. Insightful for the Civil War novice and the well-read alike.

I read this book in high school more out of obligation than any genuine interest. But now being older and having traveled to many Civil War battlefields and now residing in Northern Virginia, I picked this book up again. It really humanizes an event that changed the course of U.S. history and therefore, modern human history. Had Gettysburg never occurred the way it did, the entire global

geopolitical system would be fundamentally different. The United States would not have been the full participant in global affairs that it has been because it would not have existed in its currently understood form. Michael Shaara's book gives an emotionally charged account of a world altering event. *The Killer Angels* is a triumph of American literature.

It's a war. It's tragic. The beauty of this book is that it delves into the real or imagined feelings of the characters involved and makes you really stand in their shoes (or no shoes as the case may be). Such heroism, such unfortunate circumstances, so much death and heartbreak. I think the point is well made when a couple of the main characters question what the CAUSE even was that started them on this quest. Not being very familiar with the Civil War, I had some confusions through maybe half of the book as to who was on which side but by the end I knew much more about the war than I did previously, making this an excellent educational tool. Suggest that you have a kindle or device that displays the maps and troop positions at full size, those diagrams would be very helpful, but were too small to see on my paperwhite kindle. Thinking of getting the paper copy just to see those.

I am fascinated by the civil war. Over my life I have read dozens of books on all details of and about the war and issues before and after. Of all those books the one I come back to again and again is *The Killer Angels*. It is beautifully written, poignant and a gripping page turner.

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