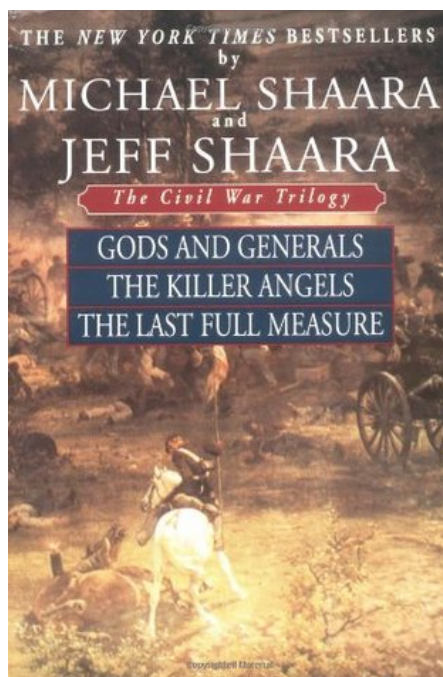




The Civil War Trilogy: Gods and Generals / The Killer Angels / The Last Full Measure

Michael Shaara , Jeff Shaara

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Michael Shaara reinvented the war novel with his Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece of Gettysburg, *The Killer Angels*. Jeff Shaara continued his father's legacy with a series of centuries-spanning New York Times bestsellers. This volume assembles three Civil War novels from America's first family of military fiction: *Gods and Generals*, *The Killer Angels*, and *The Last Full Measure*.

Gods and Generals traces the lives, passions, and careers of the great military leaders—Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock, Joshua Chamberlain—from the gathering clouds of war. *The Killer Angels* re-creates the fight for America's destiny in the Battle of Gettysburg, the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history. And *The Last Full Measure* brings to life the final two years of the Civil War, chasing the escalating conflict between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant—complicated, heroic, and deeply troubled men—through to its riveting conclusion at Appomattox.

The Civil War Trilogy: Gods and Generals / The Killer Angels / The Last Full Measure Details

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Dave says

This was an outstanding trilogy about the civil war and I'm not a big fan of history books about our country's wars. Although this is what I'd call fictional history the events were real. A great story!

Ginger Stephens says

This is a review of the entire trilogy.

All Americans should read this, especially in this time when the Confederacy and the causes of the War are misunderstood and misconstrued. The Killer Angels is MUCH better than God and Generals and The Last Full Measure. That does not mean that those are not good books worth reading. The Killer Angels is in a class by itself. Few books are its equal.

The Killer Angels inspires emotions: sadness, anger, confusion. The other two do that, but not as strongly and the characters are not nearly as vivid as those same characters I. The Killer Angels.

All in all, this was time well spent and I recommend all three books.

Lynn Ferder says

Highly recommend. This trilogy answered a lot of questions I had about the civil war. I feel I know the history a lot better now. Easy to read, great writing by both authors.

Lee Ann says

Loved all three, with Gods and Generals being the best of them.

Heather says

I'm really not much in to the war history thing, all the little details of who surrounded who's flank, etc, BUT this was a very compelling fictionalization of the real life people leading the armies of both sides of the war.

Gods & Generals felt a little too appologetic for the Southern states. It was, afterall, really about slavery, no matter how much some might want to white-wash this as state's rights. Maybe it felt that way because the folks in charge of the Union's army were complete bumbling idiots, compared to the Southern generals.

Gettysburg was a pretty engaging, exciting read. Really enjoyed reading about Buford and Chamberlain's parts in this battle, as well as Hancock. Lee really jumped the shark with this one by sending in Pickett's division on day 3 -- what a useless slaughter. I'm amazed that Longstreet didn't just quit right then & there. He understood how badly that would turn out.

The Last Full measure was good, but seemed to drag on forever. Maybe that was the point, though. It was a 2 year slog of trench warfare and horrible casualties while the Union slowly ground Lee's forces down. It was interesting to get to know more about Grant -- I'm curious now to see if I can get my hands on his memoirs.

So, all in all, probably a 5 star read, as if for no other reason than that it made this war's history more alive to me than anything I ever learned in school / high school.

Now I'm going off to find me some fluffy sci-fy to rest my brain...

Greg Parrott says

Though long, I really enjoyed this trilogy from cover to cover. Fictional but plausible... refreshing putting the human on each major character trying to see inside their minds on why they did what they did. Covering from the pre-war years until just after the death of General Lee, the book dives into the (possible) emotions and thoughts of the major players. Did it really happen this way? No one can truly know. Worth the reading to have some perspective on the current events regarding things Confederate.

David Radin says

An incredible trilogy!

I loved every minute of it. Well written and exciting.

Joseh says

Civil war trilogy

Outstanding presentation of one of the bloodiest wars of the United States. Shaara presents a detailed story of the civil war from both the union and confederate viewpoints with no bias towards either side. The box set holds the readers attention throughout al three books. Excellent reading.

Karen Pierangeli says

Some of my all time favorites.

Shannon Olsen says

good book with a different perspective since it's about/from the Generals. Can be frustrating at times hearing some of the hurdles (even though it's fiction, I'm sure some of the challenges were very much true!).

Ernie says

Amazing

Canadian reading about the US civil war after recent headlines about General Lee. Could not put this book down. Amazing character development, detail, story. I would recommend it to anyone interested in peeling back the onion layers.

Wendy Rabe says

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara gripped me from the moment I started it, another one of those books dangerous for a mother to start as it could lead to the neglect of children. (Fortunately, mine are old enough that at least serious accidents were ruled out during my stolen moments.) The portraits of the warriors are vivid. Robert E. Lee's honor and character are captured, along with the devotion of his men and even what might be seen as arrogance that led to Pickett's Charge. The heroism of rhetoric professor Joshua Chamberlain, who held the end of the line at Gettysburg, is shown in the many details, including his wise treatment of deserters, his rousing speeches to his men, his horror at filling a hole in the line with his own brother. *The Last Full Measure*, written by Shaara's son, Jeffrey, takes the reader to the surrender of Lee, continuing in the same style as the original author. The thorough background research, based on soldiers' journals, newspaper accounts and other primary documents, is what gives these works the depth and richness that is so enjoyable. (I haven't read *Gods and Generals* yet, but look forward to that as a future treat.)

Misfit says

These three books should be required reading in school. Very eye opening to the horrors of war.

Gods and Generals - Fascinating portrayal of a sad time in US History, as told from the perspectives of the generals involved in these campaigns. I was most particularly moved by Lee and his torn loyalties to the US Army and his home state of Virginia, and most especially by the great Stonewall Jackson. I've come across the names in history classes (oh so long ago) and the occasional novel covering this period, but it was wonderful to have them brought to life as this author did, and we are once again reminded that war is indeed hell. One moment in the book that particularly touched me was during a retreat of Federal soldiers. One of them slipped in the mud and was told that since the general decreed the roads to be in good condition therefore there is no mud. Four stars instead of five as the author's habit of inserting a comma instead of the word "and" was a bit of a distraction for me.

The Killer Angels - The author brings the Battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War to life in this wonderful novel. He uses the alternating views from the officers of both sides of the conflict, thus making you feel as you are right with them, culminating in the horrific and tragic end of the battle. I was truly saddened by the

incredible loss of life due to the mistakes of the priveleged few, the generals. No wonder they say Gettysburg is one of the most haunted places in America.

The Last Full Measure - I think this book, and the two preceding it should be required reading in school. I had no idea how horrific this war was, particularly more so as the brutalities committed on both sides were against our own. There were so many moments when I wanted to stop and cry for the loss of life, and especially at the end when the one man who was capable of healing the country and bringing us all back together as one nation, Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated.

The research was impeccable and telling the story from the viewpoints of the various generals absolutely fascinating. The honorable Robert E. Lee, Chamberlain (loved his gracious salute to the surrendering army), and the ever fascinating U.S. Grant.

One quote from so many in the book that just brought tears to my eyes: "Yes, it was horrible, horrible indeed. But he had to tell himself that, remind himself to see it that way. There was no sickening revulsion, no outrage, no indignation at the barbarism. It was just one more scene from this war, one more horror, one more mass of death, blending together with all the rest."

Highly highly recommended.

James Christensen says

Very well written. Covers the period of 1858 to 1863, prior to the civil war up to but not including Gettesburg.

Tells the story of the lead up to the war and the early years from the perspective of Robert E. Lee, Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, with visits to other leaders. So, not a history book per say, but wonderful insight to what was going through the minds of these players.

Very insightful as to the mind of a civil war military leader. Thoroughly engrossing.

The first book leads into his father's book, The Killer Angels which focuses on Gettysburg. The Last Full Measure finishes off the last two years of the war.

Elizabeth says

A compelled and well written fictional on the horror and adventure of war.
