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The Civil War: A Narrative, Vol. 3 : Red River To Appomattox



Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner]Here is the third and final volume of the highly acclaimed narrative history named one of the best nonfiction books of the century by National Review. In The Civil War: A Narrative, Vol. 3, Shelby Foote follows the events of the war from 1862 through 1864, discussing the strategies of both the North and the South and assessing the performance of the Union generals. The book opens with the beginning of the two final, major confrontations of the war: Grant against Lee in Virginia and Sherman pressing Johnston in North Georgia. In vivid narrative as seen from both sides, he tells of the climactic struggles, great and small, on and off the field of battle, that finally decided the fate of this nation. The Civil War: A Narrative, Vol. 3 brings to a close the story of four years of turmoil and strife that altered American life forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I recently finished reading the third volume of Shelby Foote's "The Civil War: A Narrative" trilogy. Volume 3, "Red River to Appomattox," tells the story of the Civil War's final two years, 1864-1865. During this year, Abraham Lincoln finally discovers the general that will lead the Union to victory. However, that triumph still very much in doubt. Union armies have been victorious at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga, but the Confederates have also won key battles as well – most notably at Chickamauga. Rebel armies, commanded by Robert E. Lee, are still formidably strong. They're spoiling for a fight, and they're soon embroiled in one. In April 1864, Ulysses S. Grant, now General-in-Chief of all Federal armies, marches his 120,000-man Army of the Potomac into Virginia and begins the bloodiest campaign of the war. He engages Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in major battles at the Wilderness; Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

Union and Confederate armies suffer over 55,000 casualties. Grant slowly and relentlessly moves toward Richmond... but ends up in a siege at Petersburg instead. Meanwhile, General William T. Sherman marches his army southeast from Chattanooga toward Atlanta. In September 1864, Sherman captures Georgia's largest city. A month later, after razing Atlanta, Sherman and his "bummers" begin a march eastward through Georgia toward Savannah, leaving a path of total destruction behind them. By March 1865, Sherman reaches Savannah and marches northward from there. His army captures Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina, and Wilmington, North Carolina. Mobile, Alabama is now in Union hands.

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