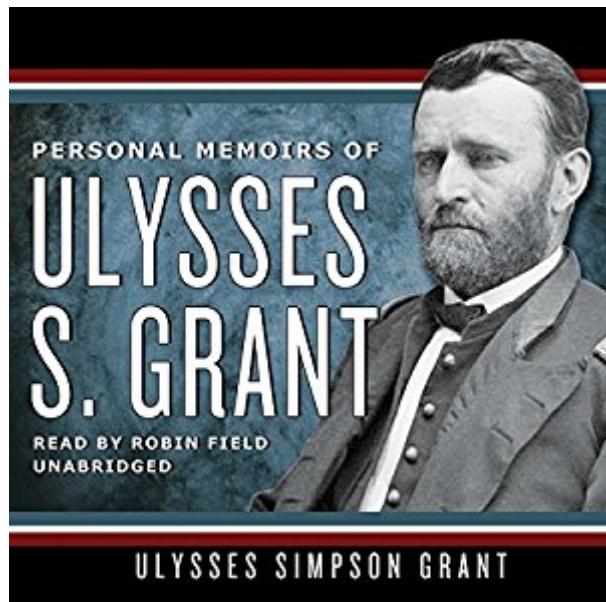


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Personal Memoirs Of Ulysses S. Grant



Synopsis

Among the autobiographies of great military figures, Ulysses S. Grant's is certainly one of the finest, and it is arguably the most notable literary achievement of any American president: a lucid, compelling, and brutally honest chronicle of triumph and failure. From his frontier boyhood, to his heroics in battle, to the grinding poverty from which the Civil War ironically rescued him, these memoirs are a mesmerizing, deeply moving account of a brilliant man told with great courage as he reflects on the fortunes that shaped his life and his character. Written under excruciating circumstances-Grant was dying of throat cancer-and encouraged and edited from its very inception by Mark Twain, it is a triumph of the art of autobiography. Grant was sick and broke when he began work on his memoirs. Driven by financial worries and a desire to provide for his wife, he wrote diligently during a year of deteriorating health. He vowed he would finish the work before he died, and one week after its completion, he lay dead at the age of 63. Publication of the memoirs came at a time when the public was being treated to a spate of wartime reminiscences, many of them defensive in nature, seeking to refight battles or attack old enemies. Grant's penetrating and stately work reveals a nobility of spirit and an innate grasp of the important fact, which he rarely displayed in private life. He writes in his preface that he took up the task "with a sincere desire to avoid doing injustice to anyone, whether on the National or the Confederate side."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"To maintain peace in the future it is necessary to be prepared for war." - Ulysses S. Grant

where have I heard that passage before? Interesting, informative volumes of what comes across as a knowledgeable individual. As to autobiographies, definitely a worthy endeavor and one that I did enjoy reading. This last passage from volume 2 particularly struck me so am going to finish with it in its' entirety. "I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse. I do not question, however, the sincerity of the great mass of those who were opposed to us." Very good book, give it a read!

A great american icon by anybodys standards who described in detail his history before and after the Civil War. If you are an officianno of the Civil War battles and wish to understand the global strategies and geography the armies fought on then you will enjoy this book. Large in scope and full of minutia I thought it too detailed. I often wished I had a large map to guide me through the war zones as one becomes swamped by all the detail. It is written in a style that is very impersonal for those of us who want to know our heros better and while I came away with a good academic knowledge of the war but I felt remote from it as if I were attending a war college exercise where soldiers are merely soulless numbers and mere drawings on a map. I felt little emotional involvement with the tragedy itself and I really didn't get to learn about the inner man called Grant.. Historians and war students will love it but I fear many lay people will fall asleep with it in their laps.

So far i'm about halfway through it. I Really enjoy history so I really like this book. Grant gives good reasoning and alot of tactical assessment concerning his actions during Shiloh and the Vicksburg Campaign. The strong majority of the book is based on his experiences in the civil war. The Beginning touches on his time growing up, West Point and then his battles in the Mexican War. I've often heard he was a heavy drinker but he makes no mention of it so far in his book or his use of cigars. The book is a reflection of his life up until his presidency and everything he did during the civil war. He briefly mentions some of his political views and goes a little in depth about his strong disagreement with the Mexican War. If you like Civil War history then this is a great book. However it doesn't mention his Presidency at all from what I know

Many years ago an Army buddy of mine suggested that I take a look at the Memoirs of U.S. Grant, the overall Commander of the Union Army and the 18th US President. The memoirs, he said, were "highly readable."That is an understatement. U.S. Grant has a deceptively simple writing style which paints the world in which he lived in vivid colors. Grant describes his family background, early life,

and the Mexican War in very vivid terms. Grant says very little about his presidency except he expresses some disappointment in his Administration's failure to purchase the Dominican Republic. He claims his purchase of that land would have been to remove blacks from the CONUS, but still give them a nice place to live under the protection of the American government. I found that comment extremely interesting. Apparently the goals of the American Colonization Society of the early 1800s were still around in the 1870s. The best and most interesting part of the book is Grant's recollection of the Civil War. For those military professionals seeking to emulate his deeds, it is interesting to see what he finds concerning. During the Civil War Grant mostly speaks of two overwhelming things: 1. Logistics: His accounts of his campaigns focus on trains, rations, ammunition, etc. more than any other detail. What is also interesting is that he organized the wagon trains for the Battle of the Wilderness so that the oxen wouldn't need their forage transported to them. 2. Personnel Actions: Grant thinks very hard about his subordinate officers. He calmly lays out his reasons for firing and hiring the various people and has an interesting read on all of them. Grant is also quite fair. Grant didn't like Prentiss, but Grant still commended Prentiss for his excellent defense at Shiloh's Hornet's Nest. Grant defends his hard treatment of General Thomas during General Hood's attack into Nashville. It is interesting to read Grant's perspective and then go and read Thomas' perspective. One can decide who is right. Regardless, Thomas did win and Grant didn't replace him with John A. Logan. Grant also lays out his reasons for allowing Sheridan to relieve Gouverneur K. Warren. Grant proved himself in the Civil War to be a master of internal politics & logistics. His men proved to be expert at the fighting and tactics. Ultimately, this book is really interesting.

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