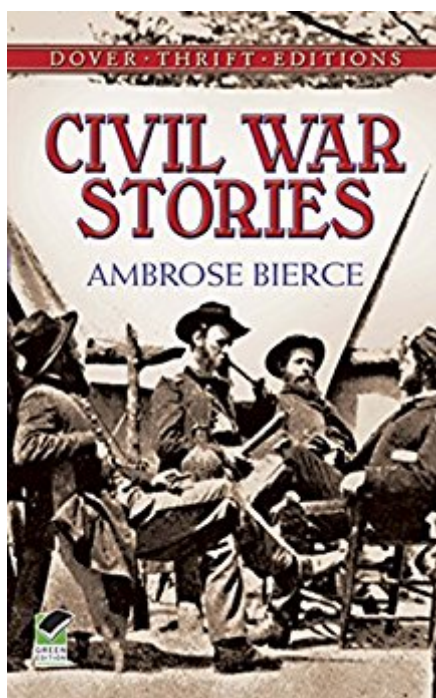


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Civil War Stories (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Newspaperman, short-story writer, poet, and satirist, Ambrose Bierce (1842–1914) is one of the most striking and unusual literary figures America has produced. Dubbed "Bitter Bierce" for his vitriolic wit and biting satire, his fame rests largely on a celebrated compilation of barbed epigrams, *The Devil's Dictionary*, and a book of short stories (*Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*, 1891). Most of the 16 selections in this volume have been taken from the latter collection. The stories in this edition include: "What I Saw at Shiloh," "A Son of the Gods," "Four Days in Dixie," "One of the Missing," "A Horseman in the Sky," "The Coup de Grace," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "The Story of Conscience," "One Kind of Officer," "Chickamauga," and five more. Bierce's stories employ a buildup of suggestive realistic detail to produce grim and vivid tales often disturbing in their mood of fatalism and impending calamity. Hauntingly suggestive, they offer excellent examples of the author's dark pessimism and storytelling power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A DARK book. This work explores just some of the heartbreak of a civil war. Brother against brother. Families divided. Brutality, the order of the day. But, it does put the whole matter of warring into its real perspective. Dehumanizing the enemy to cover any feelings or regrets brought on by slaughtering other human beings, even if they are family.

Bierce has the edge of writing from the perspective of one who was there, and he makes you a part of the action, as though you were in a cyclorama - think Gettysburg or Atlanta. His stories remind me of Karl Marlantes, writing of his experiences as a Marine officer in Vietnam. His title is 'Matterhorn' and his is a book about his tour of combat (already a classic.) Just as with Bierce you're in the moment. And both writers portray the senselessness, banality and cruelty of war. Both also share a taste for the twist, and the denouement in the 3rd act. Bierce, while being exceptional, also writes in the style of the late 19th century. At that he'll impact you emotionally in a way that's rare. Other reviews here are quite good, and quite descriptive, but you must read it for yourself. Terrific!

I bought this book for my husband for Father's Day and he really enjoyed it. He's a big Civil War person he also really enjoys history in general. He really liked the book and had absolutely no problems with it. I recommend this book to anybody who likes history or even just the Civil War.

Have always enjoyed Ambrose Bierce's writing. It's clear, concise, ironic, witty, and the prose is modern, not dated like some other 19th century writing. Think he and Mark Twain could be writing today. The stories are interesting, some heartbreaking, well worth reading if you want to read a finely crafted story.

Excellent personal account of one soldier's experience(s) in the Civil War. I would recommend this to any Civil War enthusiast.

This is a wonderful book of the period I would recommend to all interested in stories of the civil war.

This is a book of short stories all about the everyday lives of civil participants. All are filled with the dark content consistent with the author of life and the consequence of death. It gives the reader a glimpse into the mind of the every day soldier. Overall a good book for the Civil War scholar and anyone who enjoys works of fiction based on the irony of the human condition.

An awesome compilation of short stories about the American Civil War. Some are fiction and some are Bierce's personal accounts of his own experiences. I burned through it in only a couple of hours and enjoyed every word. If modern authors employed Bierce's brand of eloquence, I would read more modern novels. What can be found in these stories is often lacking in today's literature, not only in content but social relevance as well.

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