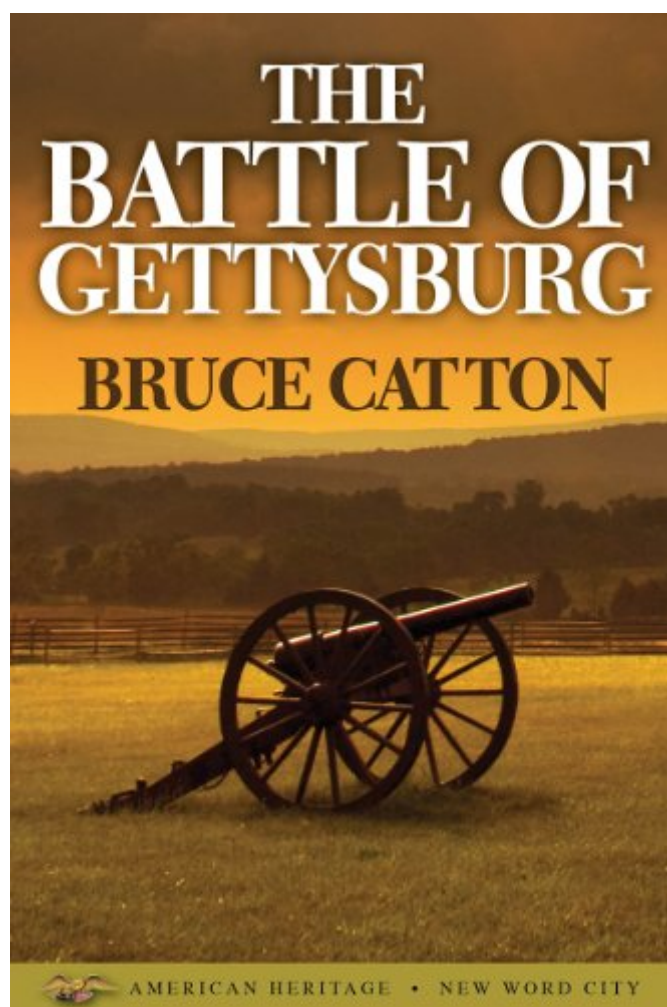


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The Battle Of Gettysburg



Synopsis

Bruce Catton, Pulitzer-Prize winner and one of the most acclaimed historians of the Civil War, vividly recreates the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. From the opening shots to General George Pickett's ill-fated charge, he tells the dramatic story of the battle that resulted in more than 51,000 Union and Confederate casualties and changed the course of the war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like others, I found multiple editing errors in this short work. The dates of the battle are actually mistakenly stated several times throughout the book as June rather than July. The leading generals are several times placed on the wrong side of the war, and Union generals are described attacking themselves. The book begins strongly, fades in the middle, and dies with a whimper. It certainly feels like a poorly written exercise from a student or possibly some rewritten condensation from a larger work, not something from Mr Catton. Anyway, don't waste your time with this version.

This is the worst military book I have ever read. In an interest to keep the book short the author left out many critical aspects of the Battle of Gettysburg. Why he chose to spend pages on who fired the first shot of the battle and describing the circumstances of the only civilian casualty while virtually ignoring the Battle of Little Round Top is beyond me. The grammatical errors became annoying. For example - a military unit is singular not plural; the author does not seem to understand this. I read this book because of the previous Pulitzer Prize the author was awarded. This book must have been ghost-written.

I'll admit that I'm just starting down the road to becoming a full-blown Civil War buff, but Catton's book on Gettysburg serves as a great signpost. It's a clear, vivid telling of what must have been a frighteningly chaotic battle. I really like that it goes beyond explaining which troops were where when and gets into the motives of the combatants and the significance of the conflict. Highly recommended.

Not sure where this comes from, but with numerous serious factual errors in the first five pages, I doubt it is really from Bruce Catton. Do not trust what you read in this edition. I suspect this is a hurried edited volume, with no fact checking.

This is a very intense book. The author carries the action in vivid mental pictures. It seems to carry right into the decision making through to the action and in to the aftermath. I can almost hear the guns, the whistle of the bullets, the crash of cannonball and the smells.

Covers the basic facts but there is more for those interested. There are many books devoted to the different aspects of this battle. The mistakes and the chance encounters. "They Met At Gettysburg" might be a good place to get an expanded view and a little more detail.

While reading this book it seemed as if the authors were there with me telling this dramatic event in person. I don't read many war books but this one is excellent, easy to understand and told in an historical and professional way. I recommend it fully.

I have always liked the writing of Bruce Catton, and this is another of his great efforts. In his details Catton puts one in the scene and gives the reader excellent descriptive as well as an understanding of the significance of the actions on both sides. In his conclusion Catton says the battle was

important because if the Union win, and that the people began to understand the reason for the war through the special words of President Lincoln. It has been more than 150 years, but a visit to Gettysburg can give the visitor a sense of the scope of the battle and the many narrow events that changed the Confederate victory on the first day turn into the serious defeat on the second and third day. It was not the end of the Civil War, but it is remembered as the turning point for the Union.

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