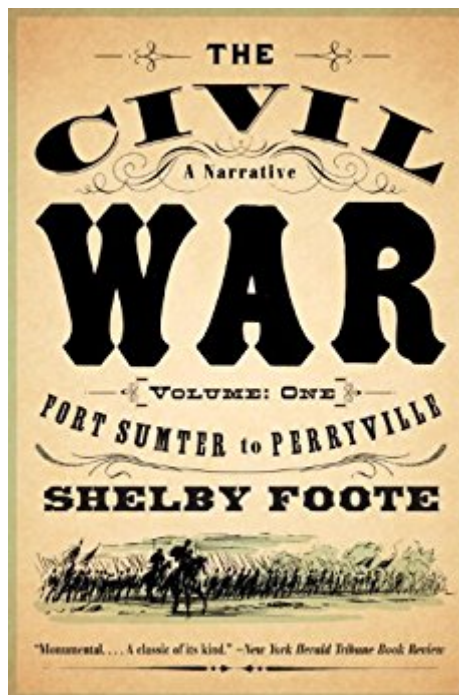




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The Civil War: A Narrative: Volume 1: Fort Sumter To Perryville (Vintage Civil War Library)



Synopsis

This first volume of Shelby Foote's classic narrative of the Civil War opens with Jefferson Davis's farewell to the United Senate and ends on the bloody battlefields of Antietam and Perryville, as the full, horrible scope of America's great war becomes clear. Exhaustively researched and masterfully written, Foote's epic account of the Civil War unfolds like a classic novel. Includes maps throughout. "Here, for a certainty, is one of the great historical narratives—a unique and brilliant achievement, one that must be firmly placed in the ranks of the masters." •Van Allen Bradley, Chicago Daily News "A stunning book full of color, life, character and a new atmosphere of the Civil War, and at the same time a narrative of unflagging power. Eloquent proof that an historian should be a writer above all else." •Burke Davis "To read this great narrative is to love the nation—to love it through the living knowledge of its mortal division. Whitman, who ultimately knew and loved the bravery and frailty of the soldiers, observed that the real Civil War would never be written and perhaps should not be. For me, Shelby Foote has written it.... This work was done to last forever." •James M. Cox, Southern Review

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Customer Reviews

I have Grants bio, Lee's bio, Lincoln's complete words, news articles written at the time the war took place, maps (the original battle maps, that Grant wasn't even allowed to see, until published), so, in short, I've got a lot of stuff, not as much as some, but enough, when you backtrack Shelby Foote, what looks so simple, and effortless, well, it's incredible! Foote is like a Christmas tree, you can get books that go into more detail about a specific event, or person, if you wish, to hang on the branches, but where else would you get a complete over view of the entire 4 years of the war, north and south? the generals, 2 presidents, the political mess? The first two books, over 90 hours are on audible, and for Grover Gardner to read, beautifully no mistakes noted, he even sounds authentic! Believe me when I say (with the exception of Winston Churchill. History of the second world war, which for some insane reason no one seems to have read complete and unabridged, maybe Blackstone, maybe Gardner? Hint, hint, please do) for home school, for journalists (which reminds me of the fugitive episode, where the reporter is told during a wild fire by his boss "forget everything they taught you in school, and just tell us every thing you actually see", we need real journalists these days of the caliber of Walter Lord, and Shelby Foote, by backtracking, they could be able to be as good! you can really learn from these authors. I can't stress enough how beautiful Gardner's audio is which this book! Sounds like a hard sell, but there is a reason why this and volume 2,3, are regarded as some of the best non fiction books of the 20th century

This masterpiece is stunning in the historical detail provided, but also in Shelby Foote's lyrical prose. His background as novelist, in the southern tradition, is evident in the flow of this definitive Civil War trilogy. I have read and loved Civil War history for over 45 years. The only negative I can find in Shelby Foote's work is the fact that I will never find anything as satisfying to read, not just on the Civil War, but on any topic! Oh well, I've solved this dilemma by reading this trilogy for the third time in 30 years. I probably won't wait 10 years to read it again. If you are considering purchasing any of these volumes, go ahead and buy now. Settle down in your favorite chair and cherish this phenomenal work!

This series (this is volume 1 of 3) is exceedingly well-written and, even though it is meticulous in its details, even the most casual history reader should enjoy it. I have read several other biographies

and historical accounts from the civil war period, but none of them have given me the same degree of satisfaction. For the first time, I have gained a thorough understanding of events as they transpired on all fronts, military and political, thanks to the author's careful structuring of the narrative. The author manages to take the reader from one theater to another, while conveying the most minute and interesting details and anecdotes, with a narrative that is fast-paced and refreshing. This is definitely not the dry, narrow-focused reading I was used to when it came to specific historical topics. Reading Shelby Foote's *The Civil War* is every bit as enjoyable as (but far more informative than) watching my favorite series on the History Channel.

Fantastically well written. The amount of effort it took to compile the information, and the artist's ability to portray this epic in smooth lyrical prose is nothing short of stellar. Foote focuses on the physical aspect of the war and only refers to the political landscape as it pertains to the war itself. In addition he only dips his toe into the slavery issue. Which in essence eliminates this grand work from being definitive. I appreciate the work for what is. It's about war. It's about fighting. It's beautifully written and we'll worth the read.

I will write the same review for all three of the late Shelby Foote's three volume set history of the American Civil War. If you saw the Ken Burns PBS series on the Civil War you saw the man with a twinkle in his eye as he told you a story about one of the many events that constituted the war. His gentlemanly charm and an occasional twinkle in his text makes for fine reading. Do keep in mind that there are different opinions about many of the topics Shelby writes. Some compare him to Bruce Catton a noted historian of a slightly earlier age who won plaudits for his tomes on the war. But having read Catton, Foote, and others I am convinced that they have something to offer as we try to understand what really happened and why many things did happen during the course of a war where a nation fought both to stay together and to tear itself apart. Foote's volumes are a read so be prepared for hours of enjoyment of reading the captured discourse of a uniquely talented man.

I have never been a "Military Buff", or a Civil War Enthusiast, at all, in my life. However, someone told me that these books were a fantastic Narrative History, and that Shelby Foote's History was the most influential and authoritative for the Twentieth Century in studying the Civil War. I was also told that his style of writing history changed and influenced how history was written after they were published. I don't know if any of that is true. But, I love to read (I have my whole life) and have been

voracious about it since I was a little kid-- Shelby Foote's, Civil War (all three volumes) are by far, my favorite books I have ever read. I never thought I would say that about a History book/s. They were so Good the first time I read them in Hard back form that when I finished the Third volume, I started reading volume One again. When I saw they were available in electronic version I picked them up immediately. This about the seventh time I have read them (not exaggerating, excellent books). If you like good reading at all, and are even a slight fan of History in General, I highly recommend Shelby Foote's Civil War (whether in e-version or not doesn't matter).

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