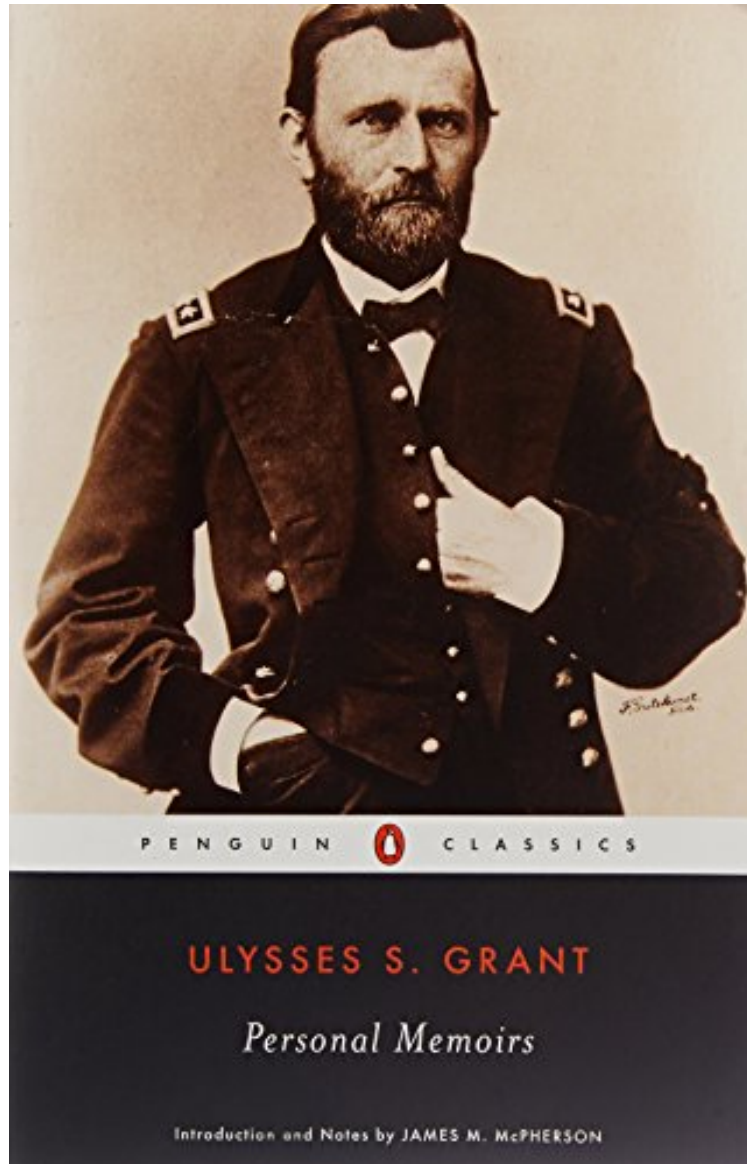


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Ulysses S. Grant

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U S Grant | File size: 53.Mb

Ulysses S. Grant : Personal Memoirs (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Personal Memoirs (Penguin Classics):

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Clear-eyed memoirs of a military man - eBook edition comments tooBy Joseph SomselGrant's memoirs show the power of clear-eyed realism. He was a great general because he

refused the temptations of self-delusion and called it out when he saw it in others. His writing has a clarity about it no doubt developed from years of writing as if the lives of thousands of men depended on getting his message across clearly and unambiguously. One surprise was how loosely the other, supposedly subordinate generals did or did not follow Grant's orders. I expected more discipline in our army - poor communications to distant theaters probably made tighter control impossible. True, the book sometimes bogs down in campaign detail of little interest to today's reader but that is the raw stuff of his success. Before delving deeply into Civil War history, I recommend a book on the military technology of the day - a book like "The Civil War Military Machine" by Drury and Gibbons. One needs to understand issues like a charging group of men can cover 200 yards in 2 minutes while mounted cavalry can do it in 30 seconds. Why is that important? The range of their rifles was about 200 yards and a steady soldier could get off 2 rounds a minute or four shots into the attacking column. A locomotive of the time could pull 15 cars at about 25 mph. A wagon train pulled by horses or mules had a maximum range of 100 miles hauling its own feed and could travel in a day what a locomotive could cover in an hour. All these facts and more shaped how the war was fought. Grant's political development and the events after Lincoln's death were of particular interest. He signed on to the Know Nothing Party as a young officer but only attended one meeting before dropping it. The treatment by Secretary of War Stanton of Grant and Sherman was a great injustice suggesting a political kneecapping by Stanton of the victorious and popular heroes. One wonders if Obama took a page from Stanton's book with Petraeus and McChrystal et al? Grant's opinion of Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's VP and 17th president couldn't get much lower. It helps to illuminate the Radical Republicans' treatment of Johnson, a view I hadn't read before. As to this eBook edition, there were the usual misplaced or redundant text blocks, causing a bit of confusion. Worst, the maps were absolutely useless on my Kindle Fire. I also recommend Sherman's memoirs and would have liked to have seen more post-bellum chapters from Grant on his political career. Perhaps his tolerance of the disobedience of the subordinate generals played a role in his overly trusting attitude to his cabinet and political appointees. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Great Read By CHUCKi read this book using my Google Earth to look at the areas they were fighting in. It is a fascinating read giving a good insight to the character of the man who comes across as a brilliant tactician fighting not only the rebels but Washington as well. He demonstrates care for his men as well as understanding for the failings of some of the generals underneath him. My only criticism is that the maps on Kindle are too small to do any good. Chuck C8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. U.S. Grant wasn't just another pretty face. By Tom from Santa Monica. Great book. Actually I think it is a combination of four volumes. I am still not finished after two years of on and off reading. Reading Grant's thoughts and hearing his account of conversations with Lincoln, Stanton and Robert E. Lee is fantastic. You read how he was a reluctant soldier and West Point student. His father got him an appointment and the Congressman that appointed him actually changed his name from Hiarm Ulysses to Ulysses S. Grant. His thoughts on the Mexican War in which he was a participant. His views on slavery and appraisals of his generals. How he depended on Sherman and Sheridan to finally defeat the Army of North Virginia. The story of how Grant came to write this biography after being bankrupt and then diagnosed with cancer when he is encouraged by his friend to put down in writing his recollections and thoughts. That friend was Mark Twain.

"The foremost military memoir in the English language, written in a clear, supple style . . . a masterpiece." —Ron Chernow, in *Grant* Faced with cancer and financial ruin, Ulysses S. Grant wrote his personal memoirs to secure his family's future—and won himself a unique place in American letters. Acclaimed by writers as diverse as Mark Twain and Gertrude Stein, Grant's memoirs demonstrate the intelligence, intense determination, and laconic modesty that made him the Union's foremost commander. *Personal Memoirs* is devoted almost entirely to his life as a soldier, tracing the trajectory of his extraordinary career from West Point cadet to general-in-chief of all Union armies. With their directness and clarity, his writings on war are without rival in American literature. This edition of Grant's *Personal Memoirs* includes an indispensable introduction and explanatory notes by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson.

.com In 1862, a prominent Republican visited President Lincoln and called General Ulysses S. Grant an incompetent drunk who created unnecessary political problems. Lincoln, frustrated with all his generals but this one, famously replied: "I can't spare this man; he fights." Indeed, Lincoln had gone through a series of unheroic generals before settling on Grant to lead the Union's Army of the Potomac. Grant's success at marshaling the industrial might of the North eventually pounded the South into submission. This memoir, finished as its author was dying of throat cancer in 1885, is widely admired for its clear and straightforward prose. The volume was an enormously popular hit upon publication (by Mark Twain, no less), and today *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant* ranks among the finest pieces of military autobiography ever written. "The best [memoirs] of any general's since Caesar." —Mark Twain "A unique expression of the national character . . . [Grant] has conveyed the suspense which was felt by himself and his army and by all who believed in the Union cause. The reader finds himself . . . on edge to know how the Civil War is coming out." —Edmund Wilson "Perhaps the most revelatory autobiography of high command to exist in any language. . . . If there is a single contemporary document which explains 'why the North won the Civil war,' that abiding conundrum

of American historical inquiry, it is the Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant.” —John Keegan “Well observed, often humorous, invariably charming, penetrating and lucid . . . On every page, his narrative has the simple directness of the finest English prose, inspired by the King James Bible on which he had been raised. The overall effect is both intimate and majestic.” —The Guardian

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