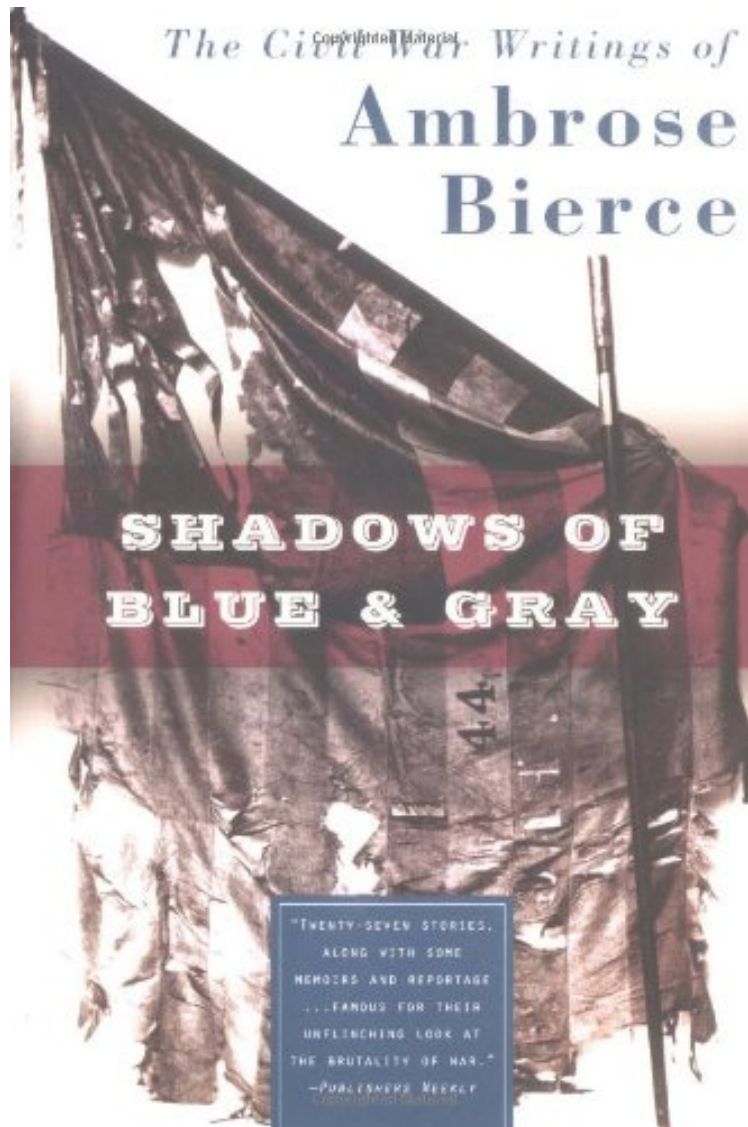


(Pdf free) Shadows of Blue Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce

Shadows of Blue Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce

Ambrose Bierce

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Ambrose Bierce : Shadows of Blue Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadows of Blue Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. About Time for this writer's orks to be published again!!By Gregory J. BaumbachI've read some three hundred books and reference books on the Civil War, but Ambrose Bierce's works

always fascinated me for their gritty, and almost mystic qualities! The problem was, I only read about a half dozen of his works, mostly in summary books of several Civil War authors and stories. What this book presents is the complete works of Bierce, taken from his initial publication in 1909, but lost shortly afterward due to critical reviews by other writers who disdained his style. So if you haven't read this book, you've hardly touched the works of the actual Civil War Union soldier, who fought in the Western Theater of the War, and related how it looked to him, how it felt to him, and areas of supernatural thoughts that came to him over the tragedy of what he experienced! Most of the works concern the Civil War, but some are from time periods afterward, and they all evoke the style that made his works so different than most other authors of the time! This is not a reference book by any means, but more like a diary of a highly influenced young soldier during the most trying period of his life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In honesty, this is a very mixed bag. ...By John L. Leland In honesty, this is a very mixed bag. It is essentially all Bierce's writings about the Civil War, including vividly accurate straight reporting of major battles he was in, and of his later experience in the south as a Union agent in the early days of Reconstruction, gruesome horror fiction based on his experiences, and some rather feeble comic pieces, such as "Jupiter Dokes," a parody of the career of U.S. Grant, whom he does not seem to have admired. I give it five stars chiefly for the straight battle reports. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Different Perspective By Eileen H. The book was in wonderful condition when I received it. The content of the book was wonderful. Ambrose Bierce not only knew how to write, he was writing from first hand knowledge, having been a participant in the war at many locations. The book was fascinating, especially since you we're getting a view of the war from a very participatory perspective.

Ambrose Bierce didn't just write about the Civil War, he lived through it--on the battlefields and over the graves--and in doing so gave birth to a literary chronicle of men at war previously unseen in the American literary canon. The fact that some of these stories verged on the supernatural, others on factual reporting, and others on the fine line between humor and morbidity in no way detracts from their resonance to both the history of the war between the states and the imaginative historical literature in the tradition of Washington Irving. *Shadows of Blue Gray* collects all of Bierce's Civil War stories (twenty-seven in total) with six of his memoir pieces on his own experiences on the front lines. This collection includes such classics as "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "A Horseman in the Sky," "Parker Addison, Philosopher", and "A Bivouac of the Dead"; as well as lesser known stories and sketches such as "The Mockingbird" and "Two Military Executions" and memoirs of his experiences at Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Franklin.

From Publishers Weekly Thomsen is also the editor of *Shadows of Blue Gray: The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce*, which collects 27 stories along with some memoirs and reportage by the journalist, writer, literary critic and former Union Army soldier. Famous for their unflinching look at the brutality of the war, the pieces include "Two Military Executions," about the execution and revenge of a young soldier sentenced to death for striking an officer; "Bivouac of the Dead," the classic plea for the recognition of unknown Confederate soldiers in a West Virginia hillside; and "Four Days in Dixie," Bierce's account of his own imprisonment and escape from Confederates in Alabama. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In calling Stephen Crane and Walt Whitman our poets of the American Civil War, we unfairly neglect the Ohio-born Bierce, who, unlike the first two authors, actually fought for the Union army, at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Bloody Shiloh, and elsewhere. If the average reader is at all aware of Bierce, it is probably from a few choice definitions from *The Devil's Dictionary*, the phantasmagoric story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," and the author's mysterious disappearance in Mexico in 1913. However, Bierce, whose nastiness toward contemporary writers and critics came home to roost when his own reputation had to be decided, deserves to be better known. His war experience gives the 27 brief war stories in *Shadows of Blue Gray* the ring of authenticity. In a sometimes turgid writing style (slaves are once described, for example, as "sons and daughters of Ham"), Bierce depicts a war that is at once horrifying, pointless, and supernatural the stuff of *The Twilight Zone*. The nine pieces in "Memoirs and Chronicles" and "Reminiscence and Memoria," with which editor Thomsen fittingly rounds out this volume, are as artful as the fictions. Recommended for all libraries. Despite the strengths of Thomsen's collection, *Phantoms of a Blood-Stained Period* is a superior work, for it includes not only all of Bierce's short fiction and nonfiction about the Civil War but a detailed 25-page introduction that is invaluable in placing Bierce in historical context and thus helping to explain his stance as a realist about the war and a satirist about post-Civil War American self-congratulation and heroic myth-making. Duncan (American history, Univ. of Copenhagen) and Klooster (English, Hope Coll.) wisely organize Bierce's myriad stories, memoirs, letters, newspaper columns, and even war poems around the war's five-year duration. Instead of a curmudgeon who happened to write war stories, this volume portrays a man who joined the Union army at age 20, fought in the bloodiest battles until a Confederate bullet in the head took him out of combat, and revisited the battlefields and retrieved the experience in memory until his disappearance. Highly recommended for all libraries. Charles C. Nash, Cottey Coll., Nevada, MO Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Twenty-seven stories, along with some memoirs and reportage ... famous for their unflinching look at the brutality of war" ?Publishers Weekly "The most important

American writer who served as a combat soldier in the Civil War” ?Booklist