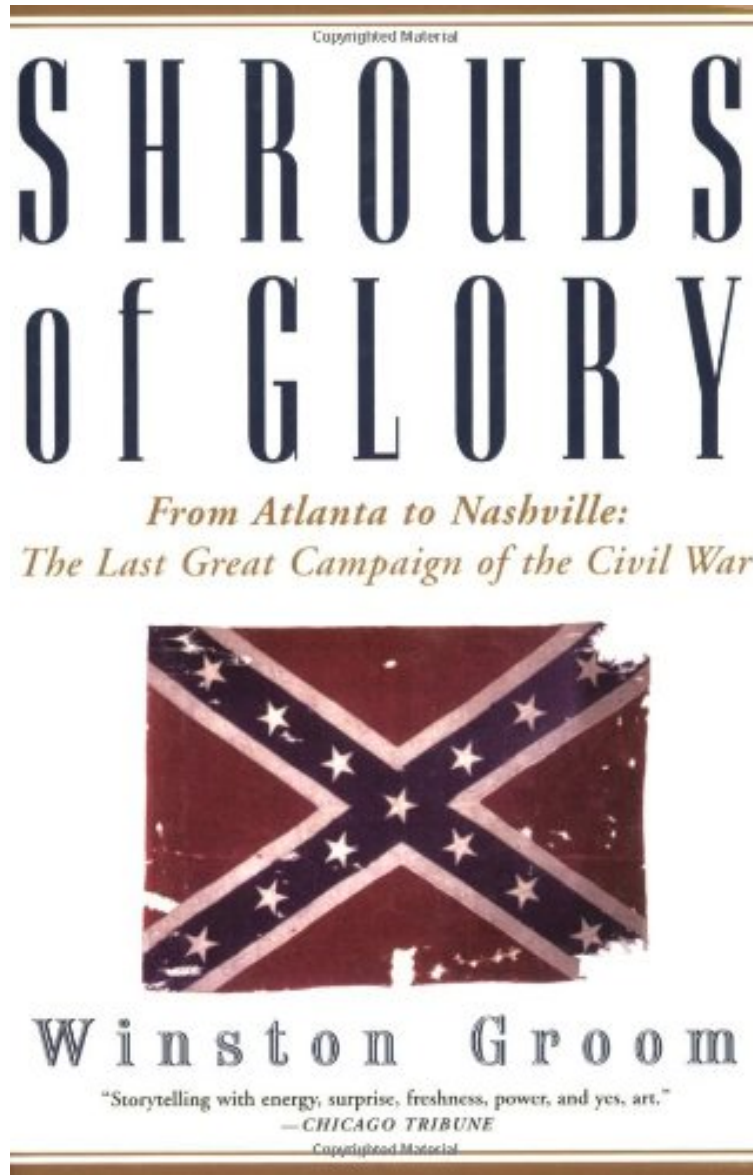


Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War

Winston Groom

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Winston Groom : Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History with context! What a concept!By John FloraI've read several of Winston Groom's histories and really appreciate the way he starts out with detailed biographies of all of the principal characters and puts the pivotal events into historical perspective. His research is exhaustive and leaves the reader with a much deeper understanding of the people and events than they can get from some other authors.I recommend this book without reservation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The South's Last HurrahBy Robert BeasleyI grew up in Nashville and lived (in the early 1940's) on a hill where one of the skirmishes of the battle of Nashville was fought. So this is a subject that has interested me all my life. As kids, we used to find spent minie-balls on vacant land and melt them down to make lead toy soldiers. Winston Groom handles the narrative brilliantly, as usual, on a topic too little recognized by most Civil War writers. Hood's campaign through Tennessee towards the end of the war is wonderfully brought to life in all it's controversy and bloodshed. I would highly recommend the book to anyone who has an interest in the war, but particularly those who may have missed this very important part of it. I got to know John Bell Hood as never before.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Shrouds of GloryBy SeraAvionI will read anything by Winston Groom, but this was exceptional. As I was traveling through that area over Xmas, it became even more alive and poignant to me. I have visited many battle sites and can tell you that going to one of them and not reading about it before is a disservice to yourself and to the memory of those that fought and died there. If you want to get the "Full Monty" of the Civil War, read and then visit the battle site. Winston Groom, along with others will lead you step by step through the history of the battles.As you will learn from this book, and others, it is not the side that wins the battle by being victorious; it is the side that makes more mistakes that loses.

Winston Groom focuses on Confederate General John Bell Hood's decisive actions in the western theater of operations during the final moments of the Civil War. The rich narrative takes us on a journey through the ravaged South to the once-vibrant city of Nashville, where General Hood makes a last, futile attempt to preserve the Confederacy.Shrouds of Glory brings the reader into the general's tent, where Grant, Sherman, Lee, and others plot out their often unorthodox strategies for winning the war. At its center is the courageous but reckless Hood, prematurely thrust into the spotlight by a combination of destiny and fate. We witness the unlikely rise of this young Confederate, who graduated 44th out of a class of 52 at West Point, as he overcomes a nearly fatal amputation of his shattered leg and eventually devises a strategy to turn the tide of the war. From the fall of Atlanta, during which Hood assumed command, to the eventual decimation of his troops on the outskirts of Nashville, Groom presents Gen Hood and his nemeses--Union generals Sherman, Schofield, and Thomas--on their bizarre cat-and-mouse chase through Georgia and Tennessee to the horrors of the heroic charge at Franklin, where five Confederate generals died and the great Confederate army of Tennessee marched into legend.Weaving eyewitness accounts, journal entries, military communiques, and newspaper headlines with his own straightforward narrative style, Groom constructs a meticulous and atmospheric re-creation of the war— especially the charged battlefields where general and foot soldier alike were thrown into the fray. Groom paints vivid portraits of the major players in the conflict, revealing the character, the faults, the emotions, and most of all the doubts that molded the course of the war.

From Publishers WeeklyThis well-written narrative makes a revisionist argument that the Confederacy's desperate offensive against Nashville in the winter of 1864-1865 was more than a manifestation of General John Bell Hood's incompetence. Groom argues that Hood took his Army of Tennessee north because President Jefferson Davis demanded an aggressive military policy to avoid the South's being worn down in stages. Groom's analysis of Union and Confederate strategies is solid, and his sketches of the principal commanders, including less familiar figures like Confederate Frank Chestnam and the Union's John Schofield, are perceptive. His accounts of the slaughter of Hood's men at Franklin and their overrunning at Nashville by the Union forces of George Thomas convey the horror of Civil War battlefields without sacrificing narrative clarity. An excellent introduction to a complex campaign. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalArguably the most interesting campaign of the Civil War is Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood's quixotic invasion of Tennessee in the war's final months. The story is retold here by Groom, author of *Forrest Gump* (LJ 3/1/86) and coauthor with Duncan Spencer of *Conversations with the Enemy: The Story of PFC Robert Garwood* (LJ 7/83). Despite the promising conjunction of author and subject, the product is a bit disappointing. The first half is more a collective biography of the commanders than a narrative of the campaign; since they were mostly in the western theater throughout the war, it reads like a fast-forward history of those events. When the narrative finally begins, Groom is strongest on command decisions, particularly on the Confederate side. The book of choice on this subject remains Wiley Sword's *Embrace an Angry Wind: The Confederacy's Last Hurrah* (LJ 1/92).?Fritz Buckallew, Univ. of Central Oklahoma Lib., EdmondCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistGroom is the author of *Forrest Gump*, which was originally published in 1986 and then recently zoomed up the best-seller lists in the wake of the movie version's great success. In light of that circumstance, many people are going to be seeking his latest work. But--caveat emptor--not all who enjoyed that movie will enjoy this book. It will appeal to a select group: those who are avid readers of military history. Groom spent four years in

research, prompted by personal interest: his great-grandfather's engagement as a soldier in the episode he chronicles here, the Confederacy's "last great offensive." The months between the Battle of Atlanta in July 1864 and the Battle of Nashville in December of that year were witness to the South's final attempt to throw off inexorable strangulation by the North. (This unsuccessful campaign was followed by the Union's coup de *grace*, delivered by Grant shortly afterward in Virginia.) There's lots of battlefield maneuvering of this unit and that brigade, a level of detail that definitely calls for keen readership interest, but the you-are-there atmosphere is faultless. Although some Forrest Gump fans might be disappointed, ardent history buffs most certainly won't be. Brad Hooper