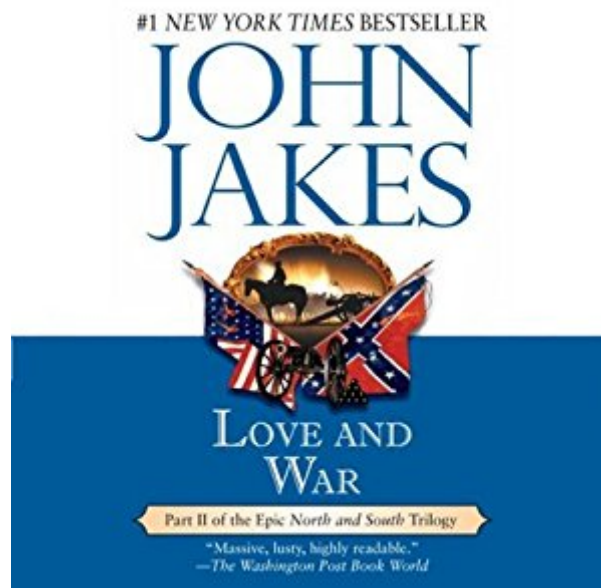




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Love And War: Volume Two Of The North And South Trilogy



Synopsis

The Main and Hazard families clash on and off the Civil War's battlefields as they grapple with the violent realities of a divided nation. America's master storyteller continues his reign with *Love and War*, a story steeped in passion and betrayal. With the Confederate and Union armies furiously fighting, the once-steadfast bond between the Main and Hazard families continues to be tested. From opposite sides of the conflict, they face heartache and triumph on the frontlines as they fight for the future of the nation and their loved ones. With his impeccable research and unfailing devotion to the historical record, John Jakes offers his most enthralling and enduring tale yet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Love and War is an excellent book. It picks up where *North and South* left off. From the moments before the Civil War to the days after the South's surrender this book takes a close look at the Mains and Hazards and their trials throughout the four years. This book, while rather long, is fantastic. It definitely is thought provoking. Mr. Jakes writes from the male standpoint and also the female standpoint. I also thought he conveyed the thoughts and dreams of the slaves in a realistic way. There were characters I loved, such as Billy and Brett and ones I hated, like Ashton and James Huntoon. The ever-evil Bent pops up in the story from time to time wreaking havoc everywhere he goes. While *Gone with the Wind* (one of my all time favorite books) is a great book in itself it romanticizes the Civil War. *Love and War* in absolutely no way romanticizes the events of the war. This is a very realistic book with very believable characters. One can almost believe these two

families did exist. Any fan of North and South will enjoy Love and War. It is a rather long story but well worth the time reading it.

Love and War is just as exciting as North and South, with romance, lust, and amazing action sequences straight out of an old-time movie serial. But compared to North and South, this novel is fresher, more surprising, and much, much darker. The book is massive--over 1000 pages--and includes at least 10 major storylines, almost all of which are skillfully rendered and emotionally compelling. George and Orry are now men in their maturity, grappling with the viciousness and folly of politics in both Richmond and Washington. Other storylines take you inside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wade Hampton's South Carolina cavalry, the C.S.S. Hunley submarine, a Confederate prison, the Union nursing corps, a schoolhouse for black orphans, and even an assassination plot against the president--Jefferson Davis, that is. By ferreting out lesser-known episodes of the war and then peopling them with passionate and realistic characters, Jakes brings the Civil War to life in remarkable degree. The aspect of the book that struck me the most was how unpopular the war was on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. There is no hint here of the idealism of *Glory* or *Gone with the Wind*. Instead, Jakes writes of a cold, hard, brutal slog in the field, terrific blunders, greedy profiteers, and peace-at-any-prices wearing both blue and gray. To the participants in the war, there was no hint that anyone would ever regard it as anything other than a disaster that should have been avoided. Love and War isn't perfect. The book, like the war itself, gets off to a slow start, and a couple of the storylines are clinkers. One of the key villains, an old classmate of Orry and George's, is tiresomely evil, yet seems far too incompetent to pull off the mischief he creates here. And the one major African-American storyline is awkwardly drawn, with a saintly couple squaring off against a slathering villain straight out of *Birth of a Nation*. Overall, though, I was very impressed with Love and War both as an amazing feat of storytelling and as an insightful and original look at the Civil War, with obvious relevance to today's political and military dramas.

This continuation of Jakes' "North and South" is well-done and an absorbing read. The book flings the reader into the Civil War, as seen from various vantage-points: Charles, in the Southern calvary; Billy, a Northern engineer; Orry and George, working desk jobs in their respective capitals; Madeline, Brett, and Constance, as "war widows." Bent continues to wreak havoc in the lives of the Mains and Hazards, but despite him, the war and other trying events, the 2 families remain in contact and even help each other during the war. An excellent follow-up to Jakes' wonderful "North

and South."

While I liked North and South I liked this book so much better. I felt the book was more developed as a whole. As one who did not pay attention in school while studying The Civil War I have really enjoyed reading these books. I never knew how torn people in the country were regarding the war and slavery. I also did not realize that President Lincoln had a darker side to him as well. I'm not going to give a lot away here but I felt this book actually took you through the war itself. You felt the hope, despair, hatred along with all the characters. As far as the Main and Hazard Families I felt a lot more took place between these characters as well as between the families than in North and South. Over all it was a great book. I really could not put it down and when I did I couldn't wait to see what happened next. Looking forward to the last book of the trilogy.

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