

THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

GODS AND GENERALS



JEFF SHAARA

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Jeff Shaara

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

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**"JEFF SHAARA HAS SUCCEEDED
BRILLIANTLY. GODS AND GENERALS
IS EVERY OUNCE AS FINE A WORK
AS HIS FATHER'S WAS."**

—*Detroit Free Press*

"The battle of Gettysburg featured a cast of characters dramatically and poignantly portrayed in Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*. This new novel by his son Jeff Shaara describes the interconnected paths that brought these men together at this crossroads of our history. Readers of *The Killer Angels* won't want to miss **GODS AND GENERALS**."

—JAMES MCPHERSON

Author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*

"**GODS AND GENERALS** is an honorable, readable sprawl of a book. . . . Shaara's best service in **GODS AND GENERALS** is to take men who now stand as unnoticed monuments outside courthouses and humanize them."

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Compelling . . . A work of vivid drama and skill. The strength of this work is its personalization of the struggle. The action both draws in the reader and illustrates the gravity of each situation. . . . There is also a certain poetry to Mr. Shaara's introspections and narrative."

—*The Dallas Morning News*

**WINNER OF THE ALA AWARD
FOR BEST MILITARY NOVEL**

Please turn the page for more reviews. . . .

“VERGES ON THE MIRACULOUS . . .

Against all odds Jeff Shaara's *GODS AND GENERALS* succeeds in leading you back to *The Killer Angels*.”

—GABOR BORITT

Director of the Civil War Institute
Gettysburg, PA

“In *GODS AND GENERALS* [Shaara] writes in the same spare but elegant prose style his father did and measures up to Michael's genius for crafting exciting fiction against a historically accurate backdrop. He conveys to the reader the same vivid sense of battle as his father did and builds characterization with wonderfully believable dialogue.”

—*Houston Chronicle*

“Civil war buffs and fans of the hefty historical novel will find plenty to enjoy in *GODS AND GENERALS*. . . . Historical detail and depth of character carry the book, which examines the viewpoints and vulnerabilities of one of the most fascinating collections of military minds ever assembled on a single battlefield.”

—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“This heartbreaking story offers understanding of man's fascination with battle and made me marvel at how wave after wave of soldiers marched into sure death, driven there by generals who deeply believed in causes that to them were perhaps greater than any we hold to today. The portraits of the battlefield are vividly horrid, of the men profoundly emotional, and of the war, intense. I wept as I turned the pages.”

—*Anniston Star*

**"AN HONORABLE EFFORT
AND A CLEAR INSIGHT INTO
U. S. HISTORY."**

—Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"Shaara hits his stride as the political debate turns to armed conflict. The early days of war and the epic battles at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville come to life on the pages of *GODS AND GENERALS*. Not only the main characters in the novel, but the secondary and subsidiary ones contribute to a fine portrait of a people and a nation in conflict."

—The Chattanooga Times

"A robust portrait of the early years of the war . . . Like *The Killer Angels*, this novel displays an impressive grasp of the particulars of the conflict. . . . Shaara's wonderful command of detail and his generally shrewd depiction of character make for an impressive debut."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Pick up and read *GODS AND GENERALS*. . . . The pen of Shaara has put life into Lee, Jackson, Hancock, and Chamberlain. We almost get to know them personally through their thoughts and feelings as they lived through our great American tragedy."

—Civil War News

"Shaara has created human beings of the myths and cold facts."

—St. Petersburg Times

Please turn the page for more reviews. . . .

“A HIGHLY ENGAGING BOOK . . .

Shaara weaves together a coherent battle narrative, conveying the difficulties of moving troops and the near-chaos of fighting in the days before modern communications.”

—*The Commercial Appeal*

“[GODS AND GENERALS] did something *The Killer Angels* did not; it made me cry.”

—*Nashville Banner*

“Writers, like athletes, from time to time find themselves in that elusive ‘zone’ where everything seems to go right, and they surpass their greatest expectations. . . . In writing his bestselling Civil War novel GODS AND GENERALS, author Jeff Shaara often found himself in that zone.”

—*Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*

“In every sense, even when compared with the father’s celebrated work, the son’s uncommon skill has produced a Civil War novel that stands out among all others. . . . GODS AND GENERALS is truly more epic in scope than *The Killer Angels*.”

—*BookPage*

**“SHAARA IS AN EXCELLENT WRITER
who pays tribute to his father with a fine
first novel.”**

—*The Orlando Sentinel*

“Shaara treats his material with the kind of respect it deserves and does not try to remake his characters to appeal to modern sensibilities. . . . He is, in every sense, faithful to his material and to the legacy of his father.”

—*American Way*

“Jeff Shaara does shine when he writes about Jackson, and the general’s death is the most moving part of the novel.”

—*Indianapolis Star*

“The battle scenes are remarkably easy to visualize and haunting in their ability to stay with you long after you have put down the book.”

—*Highlands Ranch Herald*

“Shaara tells a tale impressive in its sweep, depth of character, and historic verisimilitude. . . . Like his father, Shaara gets deeply into the minds of his protagonists. . . . The Shaara genes, it seems, are in fine shape.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Please turn the page for more reviews. . . .

“A DELIGHT TO READ . . .

If you are interested in the Civil War and have a hankering for trying to understand the psyches of the major players, I highly recommend you go out and buy the book and keep it next to *The Killer Angels* on your shelf.”

—COL. JOHN P. GLASGOW, USMC (Ret)
Marine Corps Gazette

“I truly enjoyed this fictitious but historically accurate work by the son of one of my favorite authors. Jeff’s style is much like that of his father, and for that I was pleased; it was like visiting with an old friend again. I only hope young Shaara finishes this trilogy of America’s great conflict.”

—JAMES N. VOGLER, JR.
Confederate Veteran

“The Civil War has been a popular subject for novelists virtually ever since the guns fell silent. Only a partial list of titles would include such highly acclaimed works as: Stephen Crane’s classic *The Red Badge of Courage*, Shelby Foote’s *Shiloh*, Tom Wicker’s *Unto This Hour*, Gore Vidal’s *Lincoln*, and William Safire’s *Freedom*. Jeff Shaara’s *GODS AND GENERALS* belongs in the company of these other masterful novels. It’s fascinating reading that brings the heart of the war closer to you.”

—*Shelby Star* (NC)

**"GODS AND GENERALS WILL
DELIGHT AND ENTERTAIN."**

—Savanna News-Press

"GODS AND GENERALS is a very fine book that will lead many readers to Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*. The two books belong together, and father and son, though years apart, reveal the consistency of their vision and expression and relation."

—The Stars and Stripes

"Whereas historians can only recite their actions, skilled novelists like Michael and Jeff Shaara can re-create—with surprising empathy and acceptable accuracy—their moods and emotions, their feelings, and their faith."

—Newport News Press

"His writing style is a lot like his old man's—soft but direct, cotton-wrapped iron. . . . GODS AND GENERALS can stand on its own . . . as a very good historical novel packed with vivid word pictures."

—Palm Beach Post

"GODS AND GENERALS is as good as *The Killer Angels*, maybe better. Jeff Shaara has written a masterpiece."

—MORT KÜNTSLER
Historical Artist

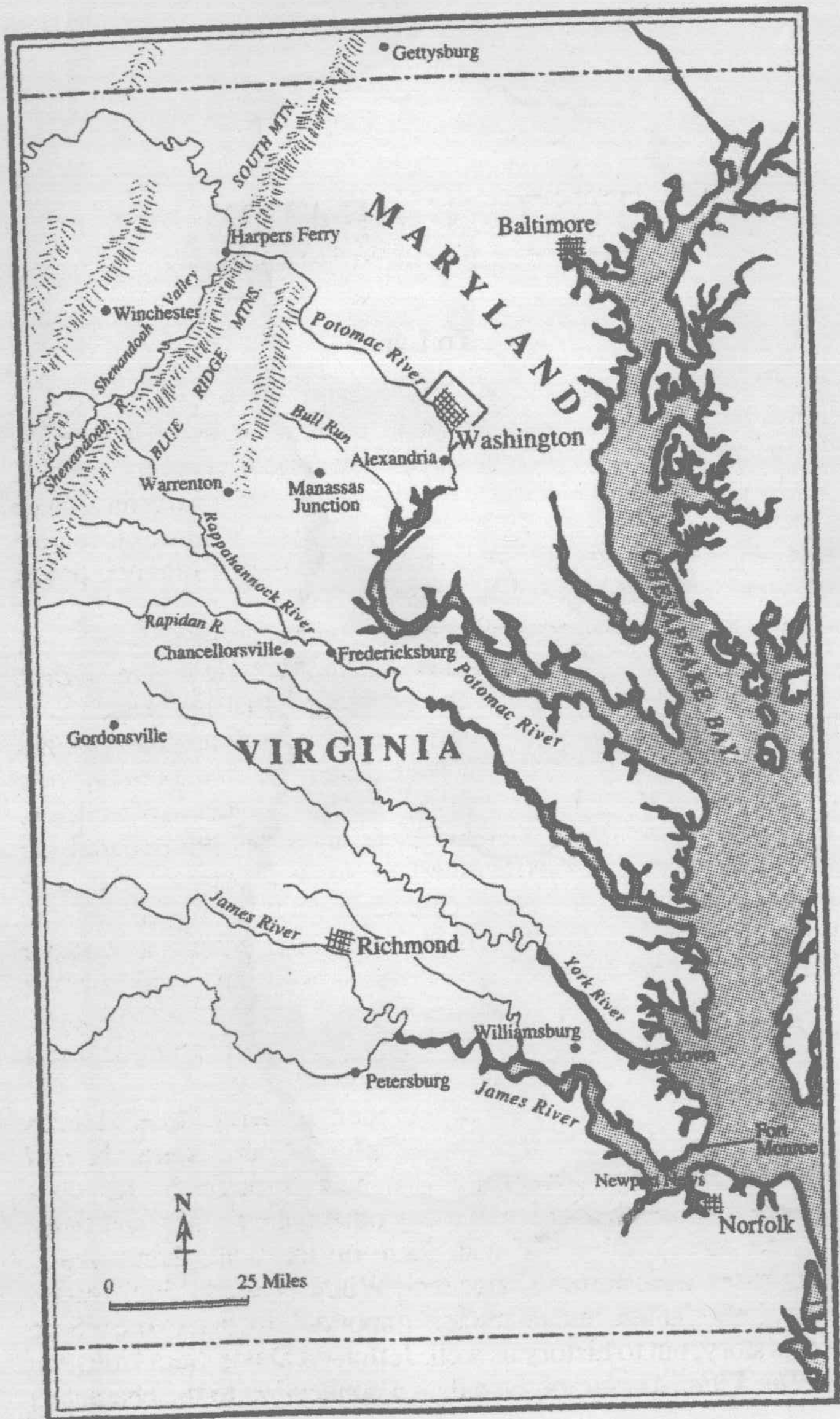
By Jeff Shaara

Published by Ballantine Books

GODS AND GENERALS
THE LAST FULL MEASURE
GONE FOR SOLDIERS
RISE TO REBELLION
THE GLORIOUS CAUSE

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To Lynne



TO THE READER

IN 1974, MICHAEL SHAARA PUBLISHED *THE KILLER ANGELS*, A novel about the men who led the fight at the Battle of Gettysburg. It was not an attempt to document the history of the event, nor was it a biography of the characters who fought there. Both have been done, many times, before. What Michael Shaara did was to tell the story of the battle by telling the story of the men, from their points of view, their thoughts, their feelings. It was a very different approach, and it was possibly the first novel of its kind. It also won the Pulitzer Prize. Michael Shaara died in 1988. He was my father.

The impact of his approach, the feeling that the reader truly *knows* these characters, has drawn an emotional response from a great many people. Over the years, many have expressed their appreciation for my father's work, whether in letters or in person. They continue to do so. Some have ancestors who shared the battlefields with Lee or Chamberlain, some are people who have simply come to know these characters well, to understand the impact that these men had on the history of this country and on our lives today. And there have been others who have said "I never liked history, but I loved these characters." It is to all these people, but especially those who learned their American history in often impersonal textbooks, that this story is written.

This is primarily the story of four men: Robert E. Lee, Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock, and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Woven throughout the story of these men are the stories of many others, their wives and families, the men who served with them on the field, names many of us know well: James Longstreet, Winfield Scott, "Jeb" Stuart, George McClellan, and characters important not just to the telling of this story, but to history as well: Jefferson Davis, Sam Houston. As *The Killer Angels* gave readers a connection to the characters

at Gettysburg, this story takes them further back, to the first rumblings of the Civil War, the tragedies and successes of their personal lives, and their experiences as soldiers, to paint a picture of each character as he might have understood his own world. In 1861 every American was faced with the horror of watching their young nation divide, and every soldier—and a great number of civilians—had to make an extraordinary decision, a question of loyalty, of principles, of duty. Those individual decisions in many ways changed our history as a nation. Each character in this book is faced with the same choice, and each makes his decision for different reasons.

This story begins in late 1858 and concludes in June 1863, just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. I have tried to follow a time line that accurately describes the history as it follows each character. That history and the events that propel this story are true. Most of the dialogue, the thoughts, the characterizations of the men and women, are my offering, my gift to the memory of these extraordinary individuals.

Jeff Shaara

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INSPIRATION FOR A WORK SUCH AS THIS IS A DEEPLY INDIVIDUAL experience, yet my own adventure in bringing this story from some unknown and unexplainable place to the printed page suggests that there is much more to be said.

I am deeply indebted to Ronald Maxwell, who was the first to suggest that I could, and should, continue the story that my father began. Ron held the torch high for *The Killer Angels* for fifteen years, until his own dream of bringing that story to film was realized. His screenplay and his directing talents gave the world the film *Gettysburg*, and so he too is continuing my father's legacy.

For assistance with the considerable research for this project, I must thank the following:

Patrick Falci, of the Civil War Round Table of New York, who is a tireless source of information and materials, and whose willingness to open doors for this project is most appreciated.

Lieutenant Colonel Keith Gibson, of the Virginia Military Institute, and his wife, Pat Gibson, who opened up their home and allowed me to explore their considerable insight into these characters.

Ms. Michael Anne Lynn, of the Stonewall Jackson House, in Lexington, Virginia, for her gracious hospitality, and her willingness to impart her own suggestions for research materials.

Dr. Jeffrey Pasley, Department of History, Florida State University, for his enthusiastic assistance in providing valued sources of reference.

Ms. Clare Ferraro, publisher, Ballantine Books, for her extraordinary support, and her belief that this book could stand beside *The Killer Angels*.

Mr. Doug Grad, editor, Ballantine Books, who has listened

with much patience and has lent a skilled hand to guiding a first-time author through this process.

I give most special thanks to my wife, Lynne, who proofread my hasty typing, and always, *always* gave me unqualified support throughout this often unnerving process.

Finally, there can be no greater acknowledgment than to my father, Michael Shaara. His long career as an accomplished writer, the highs and lows, are strong memories from my earliest years. Ultimately, his greatest achievement, *The Killer Angels*, opened an enormous door for me, allowed my apprehensions to be set aside, and brought forth the first words of this book. His greatest wish, what drove him through a difficult career all his life, was the desire to leave something behind, a legacy to be remembered. Dad, you succeeded.