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Second volume in the Civil War Battle Series sees hero Cory Brannon involved in the fight for control of the Mississippi and in love.

Shiloh Details

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From Reader Review Shiloh for online ebook

Mary Mathews says

I highly recommend this series. I am reading them in order but there is enough background to make each a good stand-alone book to read.

I agree with another reviewer that the good characters are sometimes a little too good and the villains seem one dimensional. The one possible exception may be Titus who seems, at present, headed on downward spiral.

Diana Maculan says

2nd book in the Civil War Battle Series. This is a good follow up to the first book Manassas, in which we became familiar with the Brannon family of Culpepper County, Virginia. In that book, at the end eldest son Will joined the Confederate Army. In this 2nd book, we follow the life of youngest son Cory who had gone west, seeking fortune and adventure. Even though, he doesn't achieve the first, he does find the second. While working on the docks of New Madrid, he is helped by Captain Zeke Farrell, later returning the favor and becoming a crewmember aboard the riverboat, the Missouri Zephyr. They sail the Mississippi down to New Orleans, during which time Cory learns how to navigate the river. He also becomes close to the lovely Lucille Farrell. However, adventure turns to trouble as the Cory and the others find themselves in the middle of the Civil War's Western Theatre barely getting through the Union Ironclads, while escaping towards the Confederate Forts Henry and Donelson. Little do they know that Union General Grant has those forts in his sights, and thus the battle quickly reaches them. Even though not enlisted, Cory finds himself fighting at the battles of Forts Henry and Donelson and later further south at Shiloh itself. This book offers a lot of adventure, some romance (Cory and Lucille) and an interesting insight into the feelings of southerners during the Civil War. My only criticism (perhaps too strong of a word) is that (as in the first book), the actual battle being highlighted, in this case Shiloh, is only part of a few chapters- not more than 25 or so pages. In a few chapters, we also follow what is happening with remaining family members back home in Culpepper County and the last chapter sets up the storyline of Mac Brannon with the idea of joining the Cavalry as a lead in to the 3rd book. Enjoying the series and look forward to the next installment.

Victor Vilchiz says

I can see why most people are not fans of this installment; however, i find it to be a good balance between the life of a soldier merchant thorn between the urge to fight for his land and the need to protect those he loves.

Nick says

I really enjoyed this second book in Mr. Reasoner's Civil War historical fiction series. This volume focuses

on Cory and his travails as he encounters the war in the West. I enjoyed this book a bit more than the first. On to the next volume.

Keith says

A decent book, but one poorly named; there isn't much about the two-day Civil War battle in Tennessee.

Good characters, if a bit simplistic. This story is mostly interpersonal and dominated by riverboat culture and pre-Shiloh battle actions (e.g. Fort Henry, Fort Donelson). I probably won't read anymore of this series as I've discovered this formula is oft repeated in the other books.

T.S. Folke says

Another pedestrian offer by Reasoner. The balance between fictional characters and historical event is uneven. Reasoner provides adequate details regarding military realities and movements. Indeed, one can read this book and have a respectable overview of the 2 day Shiloh battle and the fort Donelson and fort Henry episodes that preceded the battle. Reasoner struggles with the fictional realm, most notable dialog. The interplay between Cory and Lucille is derisively laughable from the get go and fails to recover any reputable ground. I will state unequivocally that dialog for all characters suffers and is the most damning aspect of Reasoner's prose.

Dana says

This is the second book in Reasoner's Civil War series. It follows a fictional southern family during the war. I was particularly interested in this book as it is about the Battle of Shiloh where one of my ancestors fought. However, it focused on one of the Brannon brothers who worked on a steamboat. I was amazed when, a few days after finishing this book, I found out the son-in-law of one of my ancestors was on a steamboat in this battle!

I'm really enjoying these books and will soon start #3.

Kenny says

Fantastic Historical fiction book. Best book I have read in a long time.

Josh says

A great second book of the series, this story follows the path chosen by a second brother. Every new book pulls you further into the Brannon family dynamic. Even if you don't believe in the South's cause, you want this family to succeed through their hardships - and even in battle.

Daniel says

It seemed to be historically accurate (based on what I know), and I always like a book about perspectives! However, the battle at Shiloh doesn't take place until the last 10-20 pages of the novel...odd.

Debbie says

Second in the series, this one focuses on Corey, the brother who was barely mentioned in the first book. I didn't like him as much as I did the other brothers at first, but he grew on me. I am enjoying the series so much I started #3 as soon as I finished #2. Book #3 Antietam picks up back in Culpeper at the family farm.

Greg says

Not a bad plotline and liked the characters, but the bad characters were a little too fundamentally "bad", and the main characters a bit too lionized. Real issue with the book is the title, as the scene and setting isn't located at Pittsburg Landing until page 333 of this 360 page book. Was expecting a great deal more account of the actual battle of Shiloh, and this book depicts Fort Henry and Fort Donelson with equal billing. Actually, this book is more characterized as a fiction set in the setting of Mississippi riverboat culture, events and scenery. If it'd been named something else, would be a B.

Hank Pharis says

So far these novels climax with one of the most famous battles of the Civil War. This one was almost as good as the first one.

Mary Ellen Woods says

Better character development on this Brannon Brother.

Porter says

It was a good continuation of Manassas in the fictional Civil War Battle Series by James Reasoner. I had to go check out my geography along the Mississippi River paths though.
