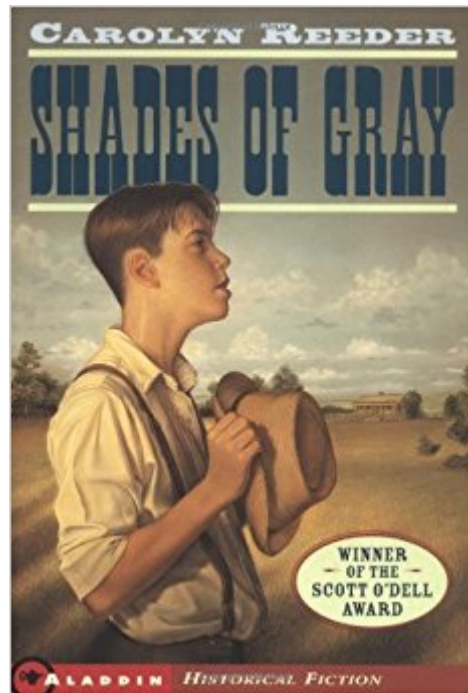




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Shades Of Gray



Synopsis

COURAGE WEARS MANY FACES The Civil War may be over, but for twelve-year-old Will Page, the pain and bitterness haven't ended. How could they have, when the Yankees were responsible for the deaths of everyone in his entire immediate family? And now Will has to leave his comfortable home in the Shenandoah Valley and live with relatives he has never met, people struggling to eke out a living on their farm in the war-torn Virginia Piedmont. But the worst of it is that Will's uncle Jed had refused to fight for the Confederacy. At first, Will regards his uncle as a traitor -- or at least a coward. But as they work side by side, Will begins to respect the man. And when he sees his uncle stand up for what he believes in, Will realizes that he must rethink his definition of honor and courage.

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Customer Reviews

The Civil War has left 12-year-old Will Page an orphan, and he is sent to his mother's relatives in the country in Virginia. Prepared to hate his uncle, a "coward" who refused to fight for either side, Will slowly comes to respect the man's position. And as he fits into the hardworking farm routine, the boy discovers, to his surprise, that physical labor (which his parents' slaves used to do) can be rewarding. Will's coming-of-age story revolves around overcoming his prejudices about Yankees and Confederates. Thoughtfully told, the novel captures the hardships that followed the last war fought on U.S. soil. But Will's maturation feels too carefully mapped out, leaving the impression of didactic lessons learned; he seems less a real person than an example of error rectified. Ages 8-12.

Although perhaps overly simplistic, this book points out the fallacy of thinking in absolutes--the idea is that no one is ever entirely bad (or wrong) or entirely good (and right). Historically, however, it goes a little overboard on the moral equivalency of conducting the war--suggesting that both North and South harmed civilians. This may be true; but there was a substantial difference of intent and degree. For instance, the Confederates burned 1 northern town; the Union burned hundreds. The union policy was of destroy the Souths ability not just for the army to wage war--but for the civilian population to feed itself. By contrast, Confederate armies took only what they needed; it was not done for revenge or to impoverish civilians. Maybe it's a distinction without a difference to some people (and of course now it's popular to say this was to expiate the sin of slavery--although that was not the justification given at the time) but this book glosses over some facts that are pretty relevant to the discussion and would have made for a more nuanced story.

While reading this book I really didn't understand the meaning, perfecting books with adventures and mystery. Though, after I finished, I realized I wouldn't have finished this book in less than two days if it wasn't up to scratch. This is a relatable book about internal struggle, pride, and judgement. Though this book doesn't have mind blowing plot twists, and a fast paced plot, it definitely has the simplicity, emotion, and a good moral that everyone can love. I recommend this to everyone who doesn't need a fast paced plot to keep them happy.

this book starts in a very slow way, but towards the middle of the book, you become engaged in the life Will(the protagonist) leads. At the end of the book, you still want to read more about how Will will continue his life, and when he will meet the twins, and more. This was a great book and it also helped to be able to see the war fem the point of view of someone who had suffered, and their beliefs and values. You also get to learn history as you read.all in all, i loved the book and would defiantly recommend it.

The other reviewers have done an excellent job of describing the book but I will add my review to say that this is a brilliant story and wished that the author would have written more.I've held a fondness for the main characters for years now...Just finished the Kindle edition and am still thrilled although there could've been some better editing, words missing or replaced... how do they transfer a physical book to ebook anyway? The original book did NOT have the same editing errors.There

also appears to be additional text regarding technical issues and every additional detail makes me happy.

This is not the best book I have ever read, but it is certainly a good one. The author does a good job of pointing out that there were good people on either side of the Civil War. This is something that is often glossed over in education. Typically one side is vilified while the other is lauded. The protagonist's journey is relate-able for children who are on their own moral journeys. All people must go through times when they find that they can no longer agree with what they used to believe, and it takes a great deal of strength to encounter it head-on. Helping students/children understand that the world is not made up of white and black hats is vital to their development. From modern issues of immigration and religious fervor, there are many connections that can be made between what the characters in the book experience and what children and adults experience today.

Excellent award-winning juvenile literature story about life for a boy named Will following the Civil War. Gives readers of all ages thoughts to ponder about ones own points of view regarding social justices or injustices on topics such as conscientious objectors, bullying, and caring for others.

Tim O'Neill has written a captivating story that goes well beyond the genre one might expect when beginning the book. With an intriguing and complex cast of characters and over several time periods he paints a vivid picture integrating several seemingly unrelated subcultures. These include the unique lifestyle of the late 20th Century career army officer, the insular, tradition-bound daily life at a major military academy, the often petty politics that exist within any college faculty and the frequently-conflicting opinions within the fields of psychology, psychiatry and medicine. Add in the day-to-day family, romantic and social stories of realistic, engaging characters and a masterfully-crafted plot and you have much more than a believable ghost story. If you enjoy the works of Anton Myrer, Patrick O'Brian, Edgar Allen Poe, and Pat Conroy, you will be captivated by Tim O'Neill's *Shades of Gray*.

I have just finished reading "Shades of Gray", and found it a fascinating, interesting, book that I could not put down until I finished it. In fact, it was so interesting to me that three days later, I read it again. Having grown up in that area (Carbondale) in the 1930-1950's I was very familiar with the incidents surrounding the Herrin Massacre. My father was a regular customer and friend of Charlie Birger at "Shady Rest" and was there the night that the Shelton's dropped a little bomb on the place.

So I repeatedly heard the names of many of the people addressed in this book from my father and thus my interest. I commend the authors on their interesting prose and the smooth mixture of fiction with fact. I am in the process of buying the other books written by Mr. Lockwood and Gary DeNeal and look forward to reading them. I purchased this book from books. H.F.Maze, Las Vegas, Nevada

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