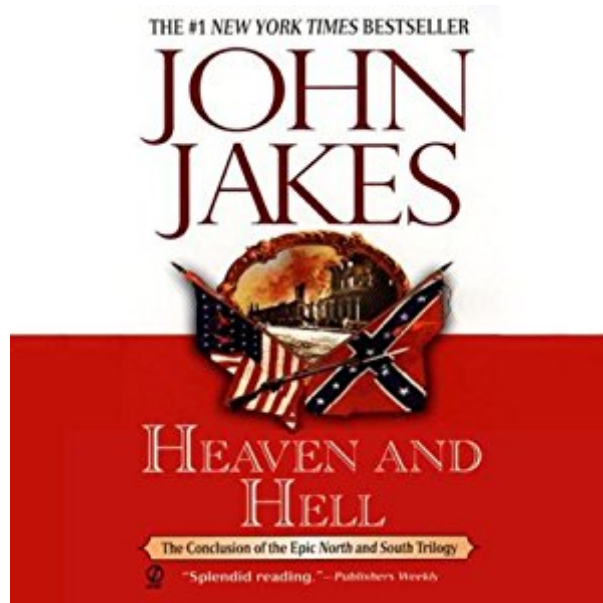


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Heaven And Hell: Volume Three Of The North And South Trilogy



Synopsis

From America's master storyteller and writer of historical fiction comes the dramatic conclusion to the North and South saga. The Civil War has ended, but the Hazards and Mains have yet to face their greatest struggles. Even as the embers of old hatreds continue to burn in the heart of a nation torn apart by war, a new future in the West awaits a new generation of Americans seeking a life of their own - and a place to call their own. Filled with all of the vivid drama, passion, and action that have made John Jakes the acclaimed master of historical fiction, Heaven and Hell is the tumultuous final chapter in one of the greatest epics of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Heaven and Hell, the last book in the North and South trilogy was absolutely wonderful. This book is mainly about Charles and his life in the West. And also his trying to find a place in the world after the war. Madeline is also a major character in this book with her journal entries to Orry. And the evil Bent has to make his appearance throughout. (I could have done without Bent!!) The lives of Stanley, Virgilia, Billie, Brett, and the love-to-hate-her Aston aren't covered as much in this book. I would have loved to learn more about Billie and Brett. Also would have liked to read more about Marie-Louise and her Yankee husband Theo. I found the parts of the book about them to be very touching. If you've already read the other two books you must read this one to find out what happens. You will be in for quite a few surprises. This book is definitely worth reading. A classic!!!

I can't believe this series is out of print! When I was in high school, I encountered these in my mom's book collection, and thought the whole series was just great. "Heaven and Hell" is definitely the weakest of the three, but it's still pretty good. A few points stand out...Wished that Cooper's character could have mellowed a bit, his transformation from "North and South" to this book seemed fairly unbelievable. Maybe that was the point though, that sometimes people react very differently than you might expect. Since I always liked Billy and Brett, I wished I had known more about their life in CA. And finally, the last time we see Ashton (wishing she was a little girl again), it is the first time we ever saw her acting like a human. After you read that line, any re-reading of the series will be tempered by the knowledge of her last scene. A good read!

I have read all three books in this series and re-read it many times. It is one of the most fair of any portraits of the old south. More believable than romanticized. In fact, I have all 3 books as well as the first two installments of the mini-series. Unfortunately, Due to a really severe snow storm in 1993 I was unable to get the final third installment, "Heaven & Hell" taped. Video clubs or ABC or any other affiliates swear it never aired. So, if any of you fans have it please e-mail me & we'll get something done. I was surprised this is out of print as well. It should be required reading for all history classes.

I spent this summer of 2014 reading John Jake's trilogy. I just finished the last in the series and I closed the book with a sigh. I did not want it all to end. This book concludes the saga of the two families, one from the north and the other from the south. It deals with the aftermath of the war and how the two families have lost much and how they cope and begin the long journey back to heal a nation that has fought and lost so very much. The Main family legacy is carried on through cousin Charles who has fought in the Civil War and has lost the love of his life but gained a family nevertheless. However, because he needs to keep moving and to stay employed he signs on with a man who buys ponies from the Indians. In some of the saddest scenes of the trilogy, Charles will lose this friend at the hands of the Indians. This part of the story was so violent and so sad that I was crying at the end. Charles will pick himself up and try again to make a life for himself by joining up with a band of men who are being led by General Custer to round up Indians and keep the men who are building railroads safe from the Indians. Again a truly sad and very violent part of the entire trilogy is one that I have still not stopped thinking about. Charles is on his last stand at this point and returns to his family and to the woman he loves. All three books are just superb. The violence in all three of the books, but particularly the last one, can be upsetting. The violent scenes are not for the fainthearted. John Jakes attention to detail and his amazing ability to bring the past to life are really

unequaled. I was interested to read at the end that he took certain liberties with General Custer's personality. I did not know that Custer was such an awful man. I am going to try and find out more about him after reading this book. One thing is for certain, John Jakes has a great antipathy for him! Do yourself a favor. Look up these books at the library or purchase from any of the used book seller's here on and read them now. You are in for a real treat!

Heaven and Hell was an interesting read at times, but it was not nearly as engaging as the first two novels. I think there was not enough balance with the time spent on certain characters. The book mainly focuses on Charles and Madeline with small interludes focusing on other characters. George is basically nonexistent through the novel. Several hundred pages separate sequences with Ashton, who I think is one of the most fun characters throughout the trilogy. Jakes definitely demonstrated more balance in North and South. A strength of the novel is how the reader is made to feel some of the frustrations of time period, disgust at gruesome battle scenes or the injustice and hatred which was so pervasive at that time in our history.

The Hazards and Mains attempt to survive in the Reconstruction era in this the final book of the North and South Trilogy. Charles Main--the focus of the book--must deal with his status as traitor, as well as the death of his lover and raising his infant son, while he tries to find a place in the American West. Madeleine, Orry's widow, tries to fight racism and provide for the freedmen of her plantation. Meanwhile, Bent and Ashton are still looking for revenge, which is the running theme of the novel. Revenge against the North, against other races, against each other; the horrible feelings of a defeated and broken world. John Jakes concludes his fascinating historical/sociological trilogy with great changes and complications and eventual conclusion for his characters that span almost every aspect of America at the time. Grade: A-

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