

Civil War Stories (Dover Thrift Editions: Short Stories)

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Newspaperman, short-story writer, poet, and satirist, Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914) is one of the most striking and unusual literary figures America has produced. Dubbed "Bitter Bierce" for his vitriolic wit and biting satire, his fame rests largely on a celebrated compilation of barbed epigrams, *The Devil's Dictionary*, and a book of short stories (*Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*, 1891). Most of the 16 selections in this volume have been taken from the latter collection.

The stories in this edition include: "What I Saw at Shiloh," "A Son of the Gods," "Four Days in Dixie," "One of the Missing," "A Horseman in the Sky," "The Coup de Grace," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "The Story of Conscience," "One Kind of Officer," "Chickamauga," and five more.

Bierce's stories employ a buildup of suggestive realistic detail to produce grim and vivid tales often disturbing in their mood of fatalism and impending calamity. Hauntingly suggestive, they offer excellent examples of the author's dark pessimism and storytelling power.

Journalist, short story writer, and satirist Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914) was equally adept in a variety of genres, from ghost stories to poetry to political commentary. Bierce's fiction is particularly distinguished by its realistic depictions of the author's Civil War experiences. "He will remain one of our greatest wits, one of our most uncompromising satirists, the perfecter of two or three new genres."-Clifton Fadiman (Clifton Fadiman)

"Bierce's war stories are. . .arresting, often shocking accounts of the incivilities perpetrated by and on men suddenly confronting their own mortality."-Cathy N. Davidson, author of *The Experimental Fictions of Ambrose Bierce* (Cathy N. Davidson)

"[These] striking stories center on subject matter virtually unique in fiction: the awareness of imminent violent death. Perhaps borrowing from his experience of being gravely wounded in the Civil War, [Bierce] wrote upward of a dozen stories in which the protagonist knows he is about to die, usually by hanging or firing squad-or, in a variation, recovers consciousness after being pronounced dead."-Dennis Drabelle, *Smithsonian* (Dennis Drabelle *Smithsonian*)

Other Books

At Fault, Set in the rural post-Reconstruction South against a backdrop of economic devastation and simmering racial tension, Chopin's first novel explores two of the era's taboo subjects, divorce and alcoholism.

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