



## **A Fierce Glory: Antietam--The Desperate Battle That Saved Lincoln and Doomed Slavery**

*Justin Martin*

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**From an acclaimed author and historian, the dramatic, character-rich story of Antietam--the high-stakes battle Lincoln needed to win to save the Union and free the slaves**

September 17, 1862, was America's bloodiest day. When it ended, 3,654 soldiers lay dead on the land surrounding Antietam Creek in Western Maryland. The battle fought there was as deadly as the stakes were high.

For the first time, the Rebels had taken the war into Union territory. A Southern victory would have ended the war and split the nation in two. Instead, the North managed to drive the Confederate army back into Virginia. Emboldened by victory, albeit by the thinnest of margins, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves and investing the war with a new, higher purpose.

In this vivid, character-rich narrative, acclaimed author Justin Martin reveals why this battle was the Civil War's tipping point. The battle featured an unusually rich cast of characters and witnessed important advances in medicine and communications. But the impact of the battle on politics and society was its most important legacy. Had the outcome been different, Martin argues, critical might-have-beens would have rippled forward to the present, creating a different society and two nations.

*A Fierce Glory* is an engaging account of the Civil War's most important battle.

## **A Fierce Glory: Antietam--The Desperate Battle That Saved Lincoln and Doomed Slavery Details**

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Author : Justin Martin

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## **From Reader Review A Fierce Glory: Antietam--The Desperate Battle That Saved Lincoln and Doomed Slavery for online ebook**

### **Bobbie67 says**

Fast-paced narrative of the Battle of Antietam and its political consequences. Author's style is a bit informal at times, so this might put some readers off (conversational tone at times seemed a bit irreverent to me). Good first book about the battle.

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### **Rouven Cyncynatus says**

#### **Antietam**

Nothing new from a historical perspective. However, the writing style made me feel like I was right there on the battlefield. I look forward to reading other or future books written by Justin Martin.

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### **Jim Ogle says**

Wonderful storytelling and history. A great slice of time recounting of Antietam and its aftermath. It contains the added bonus of a suggested tour and tips.

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### **Luna Bookish says**

\* I received this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

#### **What I Liked**

Having lived in the U.S. I have been hearing about this battle from a young age and how it is the bloodiest of our history. Even moving on to University I learned even more and I thought I had a very good grasp on the events of this battle. I am happy to say that this novel has shed some fresh light on aspects of the battle I did not previously know or fully understand. Martin has done a great job in creating this unique and very well informed account.

One thing I look at while reading a non-fiction novel is I am very mindful of the footnotes/end notes. For me this can either make a nonfiction book or break it. When writing about nonfiction these authors need to cite a lot of documents and other articles to come across as legitimate and essentially prove that they did their due diligence while researching. It is apparent here that he has done just that. I also appreciated the mention of women dressing up in men's clothing so they too can fight.

Another thing I really enjoyed about A Fierce Glory was how the author showed how the soldiers and leaders lived and were affected. Additionally, the narrative benefited greatly by the author showing the battle in a large scope instead of focusing on the movements of soldiers. Often while reading a something about the

battle you hear something along the lines of, so and so did this and then this happened. What was done with this account is very unique. Not only does the author NOT show you what happened, the historical figures do. This is something I think will benefit a lot of readers who normally would not pick up this genre.

### What I Didn't Like

While the author mentioned women taking part in the fighting, such as Barton, I just wanted to hear more. Now this is a person want and does not mean the book is not good in anyway. In fact, I am happy the author talked about women roles during the civil war. I just wish I could learn even more about it.

### Overall Thoughts

Overall, I would say this is a very solid look at Antietam and the bloodiest day in U.S. history. The way the author conveys the information give it a more human feeling instead of the others I have read that keep the readers at a distance from the people who fought by hiding behind troop movements. I really think this book would be well recommended for those who are interested in the battle, U.S. History, and want to get into reading nonfiction. The way in which this is written makes it very accessible.

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### David says

I'm conflicted on this book. While I was initially pleased with how the narrative concentrates less on the overall battle strategy and more on the human stories of the participants (including Lincoln and McLellan and Lee), as I moved more into the book, I found it difficult to stay interested. The whole middle of the book was page after page of "This group of guys crept up, charged and got slaughtered," and then "This other group of guys crept up, charged and got slaughtered." After awhile I became inured to the slaughter, and pretty much stopped caring who I was even reading about at any given point. Since the book seemed intent on putting a more human face on the participants, I found this to be a strange consequence. It was like reading about two kids playing with little green army men.

I've read "The Killer Angels" multiple times, which is heralded to be the last word on Antietam, and had a difficult time following the flow of the battle at times. The diagrams didn't always seem to tally with the narrative, and the sheer number of names made it difficult to keep track of everything. Every time I sit down to read that book, I always tell myself I should have a notebook nearby to jot notes to help, but I never do.

KA and 'A Fierce Glory' are on opposite sides of the problem for me. I would have preferred MORE discussion about the battle sequence and troop movements in AFG, so when my interest in each individual company of men being currently slaughtered waned, I could at least back out to the overall strategic picture. Maybe just the addition of some well-designed troop movement diagrams would give me what I needed. Instead it was 200 pages of, "Some guys climbed a hill and ran into a hailstorm of bullets and it really sucked to be them."

On the other hand, maybe Martin was trying to make you feel like one of those soldiers...they wouldn't have had any concept why they were doing what they did at any given moment, nor would they have known how their actions affected the overall battle. This is how I felt as a reader, and I didn't much care for it.

I very much appreciated Martin's choice to explain the backgrounds and motivations of the main characters. This was what made the book worth reading, to me. His Lincoln, McLellan and Lee really came to life for

me, and I learned many things I hadn't known before.

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### **Alan Wolk says**

Excellent description of this crucial battle. Martin does not resort to the usual inside baseball format so many battlefield histories rely on, but rather allows the reader to follow along with first person accounts from actual participants. He uses language artfully to paint the scene and also ties in what was happening in Washington at the time to what was happening on the battlefield, to give a bigger picture view of the battle.

Highly recommended.

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### **Dale Bentz says**

Concise but comprehensive summary of the Battle at Antietam creek, it's immediate impact, and it's implications for Lincoln's subsequent actions.

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### **Cristie Underwood says**

The author did extensive research on a battle that many have never heard of and wrote this book highlighting the significance of the Battle of Antietam. This is one of the best books that I have read about Lincoln and this time period, as there were a lot of facts I had not heard before.

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### **Bevan says**

A fast-paced account of the crucial battle of the Civil War. A great read, and vastly informative.

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### **Craig Pearson says**

Thank you to NetGalley for the opportunity to read and review this book. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest battle ever on American soil. I was hoping for a greater development of the background story leading to the battle. The author has primarily spent the majority of his thesis tying the battle to the Emancipation Proclamation issued as a result of the tactical but bloody Union victory. This battle occurred just a few days after Second Bull Run and Lee invaded the North with the thought that bringing the horror of war to the Union states there would be a better chance that Lincoln could be pressured to end the war in favor of the South. This could have, should have, but wasn't developed by the author.

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### **Bonnye Reed says**

GNab Fierce Glory covers one battle - Antietam beginning on September, 17, 1862. Unlike a number of books covering this three day battle, this one stands alone. The step by step actions and movements of the troops have been well covered by many authors. Justin Martin chooses to tackle this historical battle from the aspects of General George McClellan commanding the Union Troops, General Robert Lee guiding the Confederate Troops, and the actions and reactions of Abraham Lincoln as he absorbs the slowly arriving news of this battle, taking place only 55 miles from D.C. Antietam has been the most lethal battle in our history. With the yank and rebel loses combined, 3,650 died on 9.17.1862. Another 2,000 would later die of their wounds.

Justin Martin did a LOT of research before writing A Fierce Glory. The reactions included here are gleaned from many journals and letters of the participants of the Antietam battle. Twenty-one percent of this history is comprised of notes and the bibliography. Many of the volumes Martin used while blocking out the background and research in this history are available at my little library. I am hoping you can find them at yours, as well.

I found it very interesting that the heart of the division between the north and south is very clear in A Fierce Glory. The Civil War began on April 12, 1861. Both England and France who depended on imports of cotton and grains from the US were on the verge of recognizing the South as a separate entity until the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. A battle over States Rights and Federal interference were one thing, and having the USA split in two would be advantageous to Europe. Dealing directly with the south on important imports would be cheaper if they cut out the middle man - exporters in the north who purchased the crops to forward them to Europe. But both England and France had already abolished slavery in their own colonies. They could not continue aiding the Confederates with the issue of slavery so prominently labeled as a major cause of this civil conflict. Many histories continue to state that slavery was the hiccup that started the Civil War rather than standing up to the industrialized Northern states who used their power in Washington DC to keep the South hamstrung by Federal controls, restrictions and laws.

I received a free electronic copy of this history from Netgalley, Justin Martin, and Da Capo Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me. Netgalley  
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Da Capo Press

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## **Martin says**

This book was a delightful surprise. I am far from a Civil War buff and have read very little on the subject. The author summarized his extensive research in such a way that the battle and its participants came alive. His descriptions of the personalities of the generals and President Lincoln were both incisive and helped me follow their actions in an incisive manner.

I realize that there are probably many other books written about Antietam but this is the one that you should read because the author focuses on the big picture and not just troop movements and weaponry.

I would have to compare the scope of this wonderful book to that of "A Night to Remember" by Walter Lord. Justin Martin does for Antietam what Lord did for the Titanic.

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### **Suzanne Schafer says**

Loved this book! The author creates a fascinating story of the day of battle with each hour unfolding with the ever changing strategy of the military units and their commanders. The research that went into this book is astounding.

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### **Patricia Kitto says**

I've read several books about the Civil War and while I've enjoyed them, I've often found them too heavy on troop movements and too light on historical context. *A Fierce Glory* is the exception. An excellent book for Civil War history enthusiasts or for those wanting to dip their toe into the subject. While its focus is the battle of Antietam, its tangents provide background that not only kept the narrative interesting but also piqued my interest to find out more about the myriad cast of characters and the surrounding events. As a result, I am planning a trip to the battlefield and several other sites mentioned in the book (the author provides a helpful list at the end of the book of places to visit). Highly recommend.

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