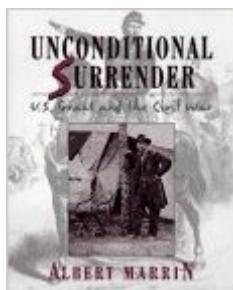


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# Unconditional Surrender: U. S. Grant And The Civil War



## **Synopsis**

When the small, stoop-shouldered man in a rumpled uniform and scuffed boots, accompanied by a thirteen-year-old boy, asked for a room at Willard's Hotel in Washington, D.C., he was offered a small room on the top floor. But when the clerk saw the man's signature, suddenly a suite was found for him. The man was Ulysses S. Grant, and President Lincoln recently had appointed him commander in chief of the Union forces. Noted historian Albert Marrin tells how this reluctant soldier became the leader who was able to bring final victory to the Union after years of bloody, wrenching civil war. Along the way he describes how soldiers lived in army camps: their food, their recreation, their thoughts, taken from diaries and letters home, and brings to the reader the experience of war: the fear, the deadly mistakes, the early medical services to the wounded, and always the heroism. Dr. Marrin re-creates the battles of Grant's campaigns and puts them in historical perspective. He makes it clear to his readers why both Abraham Lincoln and the ordinary Yankee soldier were willing to trust the outcome of the war and the future of the country to this unlikely hero.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 5 Up-Marrin gives an interesting overview of the many phases of history through which Grant lived and places him within the context of his time. He presents the paradoxical aspects of his subject's life and is unflinching in recounting Grant's failures as a civilian and as president. The

rumors of his drinking are fully disclosed, as are his triumphs in battle. Well-chosen and informative black-and-white photographs and reproductions add to the appeal of this handsome, oversized volume. An excellent bibliography is appended, as are detailed notes. A well-written, lively, and informative biography that fills a real need, and will be much appreciated by both history students and Civil War buffs. Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 6-12. Part history, part biography, this is a fine study of Grant and his pivotal role in the Civil War. Marrin points out the many ironies of Grant's life: educated at West Point and a soldier by trade, he hated war; he seemed a failure until the war drew him from obscurity and brought his best qualities into prominence; repelled by the sight of blood since childhood, he led forces into the Battle of Shiloh, still remembered as a bloodbath; the leader of the Union army and a man who had freed his slaves, he once said he was not an abolitionist or even antislavery; anything but a politician, he became president of the U.S. Using these paradoxes to explore who Grant was and how he shaped events, Marrin creates a detailed and lively picture of the man and those who fought under him throughout the war. Well researched and vividly written, the book includes many quotations as well as photographs from the period. Source notes and a bibliography round out this very readable biography. Carolyn Phelan

A pretty good description of Grant and why Lincoln liked him.

Albert Marrin does a masterful job at making nonfiction as exciting as possible. His voice is not dry or overly detailed like a textbook; rather he tells true stories in an interesting way, and makes you want to keep reading. I read this book after reading Virginia's General: Robert E. Lee and the Civil War, also by Albert Marrin. This book was an excellent way to get another angle on the Civil War, following Union General Grant instead of Lee. I learned things about the battles Grant was involved in that I'd never read anywhere else. Albert Marrin brings interesting and sometimes obscure details to light in a fascinating way while also giving a good overall picture of the war. I highly recommend this book and would suggest it be read along with Virginia's General.

One of the first biographies I read on US Grant, I remember reading it as I was driving into Salt Lake for chemotherapy as a child over a decade ago. I was fascinated by the Civil War and all things military, but this was a great introduction to a simple man who by force of personality and a

no-nonsense demeanor led the drive that staked the heart of the Confederacy. I recommend this book to any young Civil War buffs on their path to understanding one of the great men of the Civil War.

If you have a child or young teen who wants to explore the fascinating and misunderstood General Grant, then this is the premiere offering. Marrin has done an excellent job in illuminating Grant's complex life, but he does it in an interesting and understated way. The text is basically error-free and is enlivened with numerous photographs of Grant throughout his life. The choice of photographs is excellent. The book is also conducive to reading out loud and that is an option if your child is still struggling with learning to read. Adults can also read and enjoy the text which is never condescending or hokey. Though the words are simple, the ultimate effect is highly competent. This is the best juvenile biography on Ulysses S. Grant by a wide margin. Marrin has done an excellent job in introducing Grant to a young audience. I highly recommend it.

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