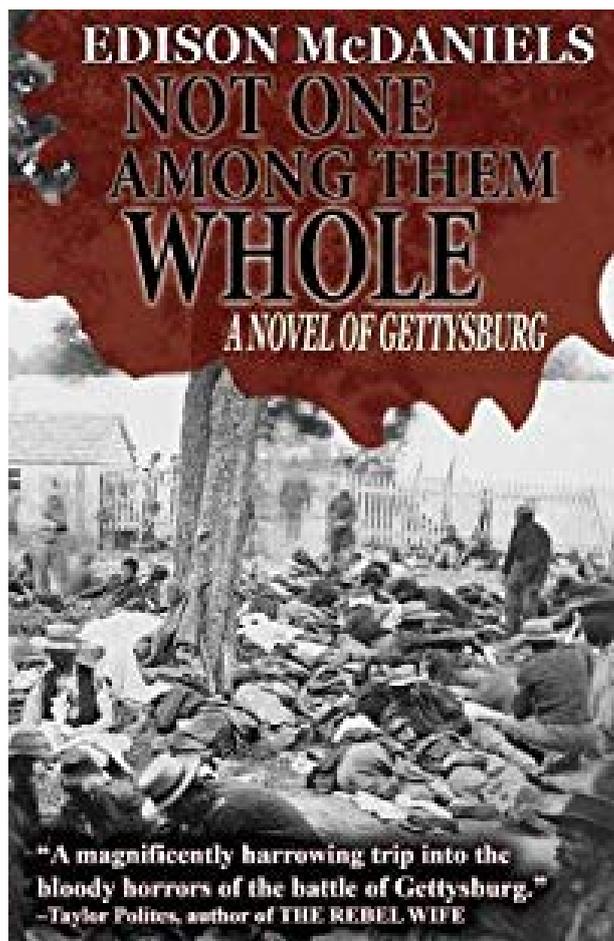


Not One Among Them Whole: A Novel of Gettysburg



Published:	March 19th 2013 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN10:	1482505169
Pages:	332
ISBN13:	9781482505160
Goodreads Rating:	4.49
Author:	Edison McDaniels
Genre:	Nonfiction

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NOT ONE AMONG THEM WHOLE: A Novel of Gettysburg by Edison McDaniels Available in both mass market paperback & eBook (Kindle, Nook, Kobo, etc.) A magnificently harrowing trip through the bloody horrors of the battle of Gettysburg. A group of surgeons struggle amid the chaos and carnage of a battlefield hospital in this epic tale of human grist under the grindstone of the Civil War. Stunningly intense, engaging, heart-breaking—and absolutely fantastic. It is the summer of 1863, and the greatest battle ever fought on American soil is in full tilt. Southern Pennsylvania has become one great grinding stone and thousands of dead or dying are its grist. In this tilted landscape, reputations are made, careers are ruined, and men and women are driven to the brink in the wake of two armies intent on killing one another. Yet opportunity is everywhere... For the privates and officers who fight the battle, it's a kill or be killed world, with salvation or damnation just a bullet away... For the surgeons laboring over the many wounded, opportunity knocks at the bloody tables, where the price of a man's life is all too often an arm or a leg. The cost to the surgeons, however, will be even higher... For one undertaker in particular, the dead are a canvas, and his ability to make a body reflect the living individual is nothing short of uncanny. For Jupiter Jones, the burgeoning dead themselves are the opportunity... And finally, for one teenage former slave, alive only because his father had the courage to bury him, opportunity comes in the form of a ten-year-old boy with a creel and only one shoe, who may or may not be a ghost...

In the summer of 1863, humanity itself is under siege.

What happens amid the carnage and human flotsam of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, will be unholy, unnerving, and all but unbearable, with only this certain: not one among them will escape unscathed. Here, for the living, hell is in session. And for the dead, it's the devil's own day.

THE BUZZ: "At first glance it resembles THE KILLER ANGELS and COLD MOUNTAIN — and its artistry rivals those great novels. But it explores a deeper heart of darkness than even the shambles exhausted surgeons have to deal with after Gettysburg. A terrific achievement . . . but not for anyone who faints at descriptions of the violence of battle or the sufferings of the wounded." David Poyer, author of A COUNTRY OF OUR OWN and THE SHILOH PROJECT "An amazingly talented writer...

NOT ONE AMONG THEM WHOLE is a magnificently harrowing trip into the bloody horrors of the battle of Gettysburg, populated with unforgettable characters and written with stunning precision and beauty." Taylor Polites, author of THE REBEL WIFE And from ONE OF AMAZON'S TOP REVIEWERS: 5.0 out of 5 stars Engaging, Heart-Breaking and Absolutely Fantastic February 13, 2013 By D. Buxman TOP 1000 REVIEWERVINE™ VOICE Format:Kindle Edition I'm not a Civil War buff. I've always enjoyed history, but I've never been crazy about historical fiction.

NOT ONE AMONG THEM WHOLE was the most pleasant surprise I've had in the past year. I was hooked from the first chapter. The writing is crisp, the dialogue is engaging and the plot lines are intricately woven and wonderfully timed. I would give this book 6 stars if I could. Edison McDaniels has a rare gift for honing the experiences of an epic battle into fine points of individual struggle and sacrifice. The descriptions of primitive surgical techniques nearly caused me physical discomfort at times, but I kept coming back for more since I truly cared for the characters. Although I finished the book a few days ago, I still find myself thinking about it. This is a terrific book that I will likely read again. I can think of no higher praise. AND THIS FROM INDIEREADER: 🏆🏆🏆🏆Verdict: A vivid, engrossing story of one battle, told from the perspective of the soldiers that fought it, and the surgeons who tried to patch them up. 4 Stars 🏆🏆 In "Not One Among Them Whole," author Edison McDaniels, takes us by the hand and leads us through the horrors of battle as witnessed by a handful of individuals. It serves as a timely reminder for the video game generation that might see war as a glorious endeavor from which heroes emerge triumphant and whole. There are no heroes in McDaniels' book, only people coping as best they can with desperate situations. There's no black and white, only a grimy grey through which the novel's characters grope for relief from the relent horror that envelops them. The story unfolds during and immediately after the Battle of Gettysburg, which lasted for three long days. The statistics are grim: 8,000 died on the battlefield with another 27,000 wounded. McDaniels set himself a difficult task in attempting to humanize those numbers; he has risen to the occasion. The characters in the novel are individuals with their own stories, brought together through the vagaries of a war that, in its time, was the most destructive the world had seen. Two soldiers—one from each army—introduce us to the battle and it's horrific aftermath.

McDaniels describes, in sometimes gruesome detail, just what it might be like to lie in a field full of dead, wounded, and dying men—not to mention the scavengers (both animal and human).

Even the weather, a supposedly disinterested element, seems to conspire against the soldiers and add to their misery. The book, though, really revolves around those not intimately involved in the fighting, especially the surgeons who do their best to save the wounded. Those wounds are described in clinical detail. And the descriptions of surgery carried out in primitive conditions, before germ theory and universal hand washing, are equally detailed and not for the squeamish. (The surprise is not that so many died, but that anyone survived.) These surgeons are also wounded, by their past and present lives, and their individual tales are woven through and around the story of the two wounded soldiers. This relent misery, one of the book's most salient characteristics, makes it difficult reading at times. Some relief is provided by snake oil salesman Jupiter Jones, who has gathered a crew of misfits to help sell his miracle cure: Jupiter's Oil.

But even that is short lived and the story soon returns to the battlefield. Despite the death and decay that permeate the novel, it is a compelling read, largely because of the skill with which McDaniels unfolds his characters' stories, day by day, minute by minute. Equally skillful is the manner in which he brings together all the characters and crafts dramas within dramas against the backdrop of the American Civil War and this one important battle. So compelling are those stories, the war fades into the background as the fate of individuals hang in the balance. Reviewed by Brid Nowlan for IndieReader