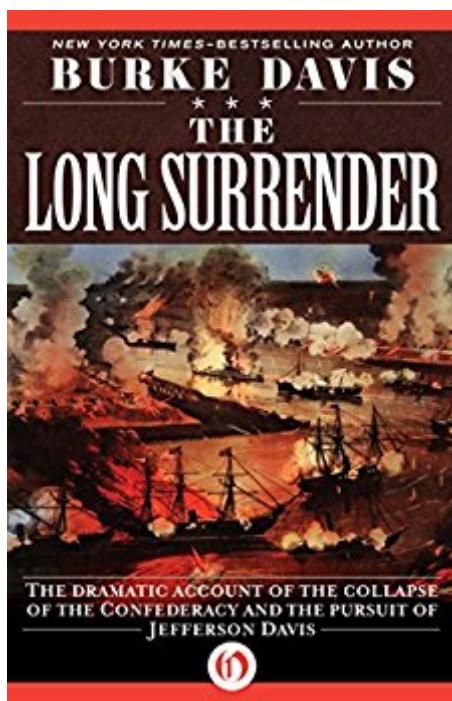


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The Long Surrender



Synopsis

A panoramic and spellbinding history of the last days of the Confederacy and the flight, capture, and imprisonment of Jefferson Davis. In April 1865, Richmond fell to the Union army and Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to his Northern counterpart, Ulysses S. Grant, at the Appomattox Court House. But the Civil War was far from over. Determined to keep Confederate dreams of secession alive, President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet fled the burning capital city. With Union troops in pursuit, the fugitives rallied loyalists across the South and made plans to escape to Cuba. In the aftermath of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, a \$100,000 bounty was placed on Davis's head. Finally captured in Irwinville, Georgia, the former US senator and secretary of war became a prisoner of the American government. The harsh treatment he received would inflame tensions between North and South for years to come. Meticulously researched and brilliantly told, *The Long Surrender* brings these dramatic events to vivid, unforgettable life and paints a fascinating portrait of Davis, one of history's most enigmatic figures. By shining a light on this forgotten chapter of the Civil War, bestselling author Burke Davis examines the lasting impact of America's bloodiest conflict on the national character.

Book Information

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State

Customer Reviews

I'm a longtime fan of Burke Davis' narrative histories of the Civil War (although I must admit that all such histories--including Shelby Foote's--drive me up the wall with their total or near lack of endnotes!). He was a fantastic writer with a storyteller's ability to keep a reader spellbound. *The Long Surrender* is, I think, one of his very best. The first 170-odd pages of the book are devoted to the southward flight of Jeff Davis, his family, and a handful of Confederate cabinet members, soldiers, and sailors from Richmond. Jeff Davis comes across pretty well in these pages. Although his belief that the Confederate government was still intact seems, in hindsight, hopelessly delusional, one has to admire his courage and apparent lack of regard for his own safety during the flight. The cabinet members that accompanied him, as well as the small unit of soldiers guarding them, also come across as brave and loyal. But the part of the book that I found most captivating was the last 100 pages that deal primarily with Davis' imprisonment in Fortress Monroe. Brig. General Nelson Miles, who would go on to become Sitting Bull's nemesis and General in Chief of the entire U.S. Army, was Davis' jailer, and treated him so harshly--partly on the orders of Stanton, partly on his own initiative--that similar treatment in our day would likely generate charges of human rights abuse. On the one hand, one winces at the treatment of Davis. On the other, given the heated times, one wonders that he wasn't executed as summarily as the assassins of Lincoln. And this in turn prompts the question of what might've happened had the North turned to executing as traitors the leaders of the late Confederacy.

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