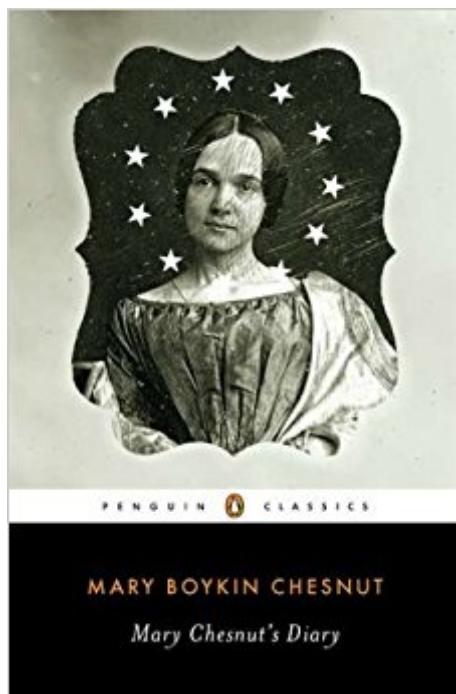


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Mary Chesnut's Diary (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

An unrivalled account of the American Civil War from the Confederate perspective. One of the most compelling personal narratives of the Civil War, Mary Chesnut's Diary was written between 1861 and 1865. As the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner and the wife of an aide to the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, Chesnut was well acquainted with the Confederacy's prominent players and from the very first shots in Charleston, South Carolina-diligently recorded her impressions of the conflict's most significant moments. One of the most frequently cited memoirs of the war, Mary Chesnut's Diary captures the urgency and nuance of the period in an epic rich with commentary on race, status, and power within a nation divided. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Boykin Chesnut (1823-1886) was the daughter of a prominent South Carolina politician and attended private schools in her youth. In 1840 she married James Chesnut, Jr., who would play an important role in the secession movement and the Confederacy. After her husband became an

officer in the Confederate army, she accompanied him on his military missions and recorded her views and observations in her journal. Her *Diary from Dixie*, a perceptive view of Southern life during the American Civil War, was published in 1905.

Excellent insight as to the inner circle of the Chesnut's as her husband was also aide to Jefferson Davis and a Brigadier General plus their relationship with Jefferson Davis, Mrs. Davis and other wives and officer's of the era. Her diaries also clarified the importance of cotton to the south and the error made in not shipping cotton over seas for safe keeping. It is a shame she apparently quit writing or keeping a journal for the remaining some twenty years of her life after the Civil War. I can see where that would ,even though sad, have been very interesting. Also interesting that both Mr and Mrs Chesnut didn't treat their slaves like "slaves" per se and their slaves actually liked and respected both of them and they were treated like family. I almost detected that, had it not been for them being from South Carolina and he in government, that they might have been on the other side.

Great Civil War book. A must for Civil War buffs. A fascinating look into the Civil War from the Confederate side from someone who actually lived through it. A wonderful read.

excellent

Good book for readers who want a more personal account of the war from the civilian side of the battle. Be sure to research the book and possible inaccuracies before reading.

Great book to read

If you want a civilian's view of the War this is the book to get. She and her diary are well known to Civil War buffs. An excellent perspective from a woman who was there.

Takes you back in time like you were there

Hubby loved it!

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