



The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War

By Howard Bahr

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After returning from the Civil War, Cass Wakefield means to live out the rest of his days in his hometown in Mississippi. But when a childhood friend asks him to accompany her to Franklin, Tennessee, to recover the bodies of her father and brother from the battlefield where they died, Cass cannot refuse. As they make their way north in the company of two of Cass's brothers-in-arms, memories of the war emerge with overwhelming vividness. Before long the group has assembled on the haunted ground of Franklin, where past and present--the legacy of war and the narrow hope of redemption--will draw each of them to a painful reckoning.

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The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War By Howard Bahr Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A middle-aged salesman in 1885 Mississippi, Cass Wakefield is a Civil War veteran of the Army of Tennessee, which saw action far from the leadership of Robert E. Lee, and ended, badly, at the battle of Franklin in 1864. Cass agrees to accompany a neighbor, 54-year-old terminally ill widow Alison Sansing, to Tennessee to recover the bodies of her father and brother, killed at Franklin. As they travel north, Cass's memories return with painful vividness, culminating as he walks over the scene of his army's disastrous defeat. Bahr (*The Black Flower*) moves back and forth between the tattered post-Reconstruction South and the war. He describes the effect of weapons on flesh in gruesome detail and brings to life a long-gone era with its strange smells, foods, fashions and principles. Though his uneducated characters often seem a little too articulate, their insights are excellent. Author of other well-regarded novels on the same period, Bahr treats the war as a natural disaster not unlike a hurricane. (Aug.)

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From [Booklist](#)

In his third Civil War novel (after the highly praised *The Black Flower*, 1997, and *Year of Jubilo*, 2000), Bahr focuses not only on the carnage of battle but its horrible aftermath. Twenty years after the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, in which more than 70 percent of the estimated 8,500-plus casualties were Confederate, Alison Sansing of Cumberland, Mississippi, who's dying of cancer, asks her friend Cass Wakefield, a survivor of the conflict, to help her bring home the remains of her father and brother, who died there. Although reluctant to return to Franklin, Cass refuses the help of fellow veterans--Roger Lewellyn, his "pard," and Lucian Wakefield, a 13-year-old orphan conscript--but both show up at the battlefield, where an encounter with a crazed old man leads to tragedy. Bahr masterfully portrays ordinary men called to war whose belief in courage, honor, pride, and comrades sustains them but leaves them empty but for their terrible memories and grief. A beautifully written portrayal of the price that war exacts. *Michele Leber*
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Review

"Heartbreakingly realistic picture of the madness born of violence and war, and the redemption to be found when the past is finally put to rest." ?*BookPage*

"Re-creates this seminal moment in American history with prose that is vivid, unflinching, and often incantatory. . . . Howard Bahr's accomplishment is magnificent." ?*Jeffrey Lent, The Washington Post Book World*

"Bahr knows how to turn a phrase and tug on the emotions, visceral feelings that we try to keep buried. His descriptions of the carnage of battlefields, of what bullets and bayonets can do to human flesh, will chill you to the bone. . . . His is a rare talent." ?*The Denver Post*

"A beautifully wrought novel that deserves a wide audience." ?*Los Angeles Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alejandro Koenig:

This The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War without we comprehend teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War having good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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