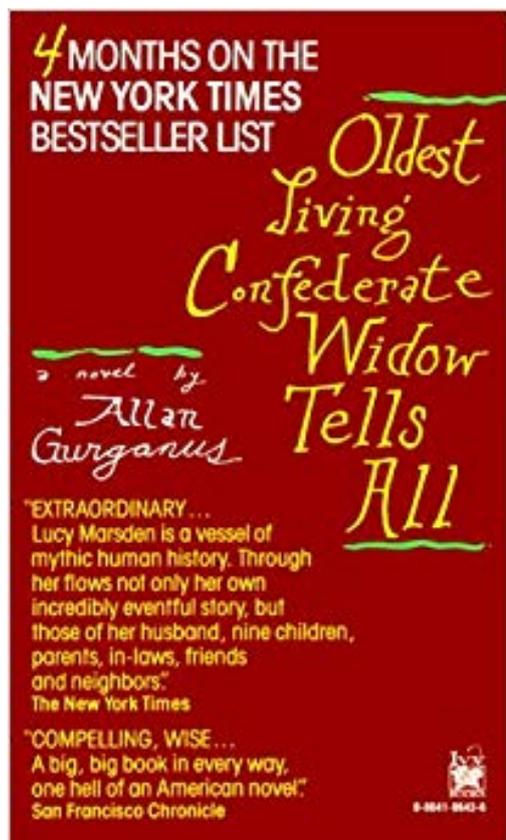


Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All by Allan Gurganus



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"Exuberant...Unforgettable."THE NEW YORK TIMES
BOOK REVIEWLucy Marsden, is narrowing in on her 100th birthday. She had been married to her husband William More Marsden since she was fifteen. But Willie, a veteran of the Civil War, never recovered from his youthful foray into battle, and more importantly, the loss of his closest friend. And the stories Lucy has to tell of the war, Willie, her life with him, and the tales she heard from his one-time slave Castalia, call to mind a time and a place, a history and a legacy that is not soon forgotten, and a call to justice that never should be."An old-fashioned book-lover's novel."CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Reviews of the Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All by Allan Gurganus

Berenn

I have had the paperback book for a long time and it's one of my favorite books. I lent it to a neighbor and as he read, he talked about it with me, as entranced at everything as I had been so I

ordered another copy (a hard cover! woot!)

I love journals and diaries, and I'm not sure how I originally found this book but what captured me at first was the amazing poetry of language it's written in. I vaguely remember my Great Grandpa (born in 1868) and the way people of that day carefully drafted their words and sentences, back when speech was an art form. When people thought before they spoke and painted logical and precise pictures to the listener because it was a badge of Honor, to be able to communicate well. Even if it was interspersed with regional slang or the slightest of bawdy humor. I find myself re-reading sentences over because they are so beautifully put, and whole paragraphs over because of the picture it's given me.

This is not a happy nor warm, fuzzy book, but it can be. Our narrator is an old lady in a Old Person's Home but is full of strength, honesty and wow - what a life she's lead. She tells the story of herself and her role as the young wife (at 15) to a much older man - a returned war hero who on his best day is a shell shocked, clueless wonder. Through the decades we grow as she did, witness history, her growth and enduring an abusive man. There is so much here it's hard to explain. There was no way to predict what was going to happen next, and at the end I was shocked myself, and happy for our heroine Lucy and so impressed at how a woman (and anyone) even carried on in those days. It's a history book, a personal story, a lot of surprises and takes you though a lot of emotion. Good and bad, frightening and laugh-out-loud.

This writing is different and took a lot of work and is worth reading. I've lent it out 3 times recently and everyone still brings up sections of it and talks about it like it was a book club selection we all read together. I'd recommend it. it's a long book but you'll be sorry when it ends.

(I did see the movie, after I read the book. I really disliked the movie but I thought it was too rushed. It could have been a trilogy. And I hate Donald Sutherland's teeth ;))

Xlisiahal

One of my all time favorite books that deserves more notice. Excellent writing.. the story of Lucy Marsden, who married a much older man who had played a pretty minor role in the Civil War.. As he aged, and outlived all the other veterans if the war, his stories got more extravagant and he became much more of a celebrity of sorts. Lucy tells his tale, from the day he marched off as a young kid, with his best friend beside him. Such a GOOD book.

Mr Freeman

an epic novel, covers some of the territory of GWTW, but from a very liberal peace-loving pov. The main character, the oldest living confederate widow, tells many tales to a young reporter with humor, intelligence, and compassion. The 'sex and violence' is in the form of recollecting the past--a Civil War--a 15-year-old bride--a terrible hunting accident-- so it's not shocking at all, but very honest and earthy. Characters black and white, minor and major are deeply and colorfully drawn--unforgettable.

Kirimath

I actually have a hardback. I first became acquainted with this story after spending new years eve with my parents watching the movie . I was home for the holiday after graduating college and was in my first adult job and my mom rented the DVD for me to watch with her and my dad. I've always been a civil war and history buff. 99 year old Lucy Marsden reminded me of Jane Pittman from "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" in a way, which is another favorite of mine. It was comforting.

The book is a must read for anyone who loves a great moving story and history. I read a lot from all genres. This is one of my most favorite books and it touched me and taught me so much. As an adult, the movie is my go to after a rough day and the book just relaxes me and I get lost in the beautiful prose and narrative. I have read this book many times every time it is like reading the diary of an old friend and the Senior Citizens I grew up around and spent time with. This book stirred up many emotions and feelings for me, but also touched me deeply. Those that don't like it or didn't feel anything must be robots. Highly recommended. Wish I had read it sooner in high school, but I think I appreciate it more having found it as an adult.

Bajinn

This is the wittiest, and at times most hysterical, version of history, including national and personal tragedies and triumphs, I have ever run across. The length of the book is epic, but you will be free to sink into and enjoy it, knowing it will not end for a good while. Do not let the first chapter deter you.

Sagda

I first read this book when I was 13 or 14 and felt compelled to purchase and read it again. It is about war and love and family, how one can become a veteran of a veteran of war. It is about how tragedy doesn't end when someone dies but how their tragedy can ripple out into other lives, even those that began long after the death.

Dordred

It was too boring and discombobulated

A wonderful glance at history just passed. Amazing that such a young woman could adapt and to the old veteran.

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