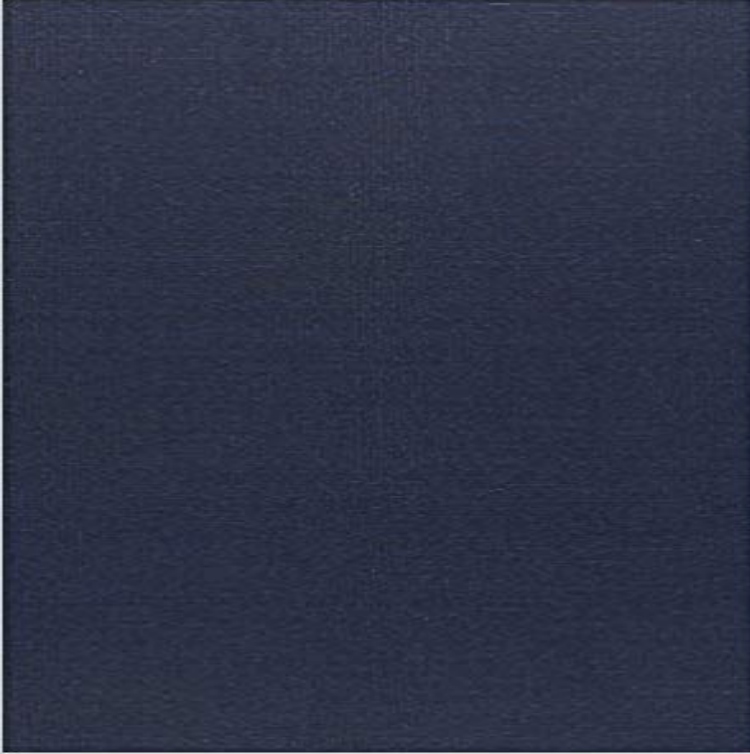


Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, Volume One



Despite suffering from debilitating throat cancer, Grant worked diligently on his memoirs at his home in New York City and then from a cottage on the slopes of Mount McGregor, finishing only days before he died. Grant asked his former staff officer, Adam Badeau, to help edit his work. Grant's son Fred assisted with references and proofreading. Century magazine offered Grant a book contract with a 10 percent royalty but Grant accepted a better offer from his friend, Mark Twain, who proposed a 75 percent royalty. His memoir ends with the Civil War and does not cover the post-war years, including his presidency. The book, *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, was a critical and commercial success. In the end, Julia Grant received about \$450,000 in royalties. The memoir has been highly regarded by the public, military historians and literary critics. Grant portrayed himself in the persona of the honorable Western hero, whose strength lies in his honesty and straightforwardness. He candidly depicted his battles against both the Confederates and internal army foes. Twain called the *Memoirs* a literary masterpiece. Given over a century of favorable literary analysis, reviewer Mark Perry states that the *Memoirs* are the most significant work of American non-fiction. Man proposes and God disposes. There are but few important events in the affairs of men brought about by their own choice. Although frequently urged by friends to write my memoirs I had determined never to do so, nor to write anything for publication. In preparing these volumes for the public, I have entered upon the task with the sincere desire to avoid doing injustice to anyone, whether on the National or Confederate side, other than the unavoidable injustice of not making mention often where special mention is due. Mark Twain writes: I had been comparing the memoirs with Caesars Commentaries... I was able to say in all

sincerity, that the same high merits distinguished both books?clarity of statement, directness, simplicity, unpretentiousness, manifest truthfulness, fairness and justice toward friend and foe alike, soldierly candor and frankness and soldierly avoidance of flowery speech. I placed the two books side by side upon the same high level, and I still think that they belonged there.

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