

Andersonville Mackinlay Kantor

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In January of 1956, Prince Rainer III stopped in sunny Sarasota for a few days of relaxation. The “debonair young monarch” was on his way to California and would soon marry Grace Kelly, transforming ...

Real History by Jeff LaHurd: Sarasota's brushes with fame go back to early days

MacKinlay Kantor knew how to evoke the senses. In an essay for the New York Times Book Review in October 1955, Kantor described how he had “relived the tragedy” of Andersonville in the form of a ...

“The greatest of our Civil War novels” (New York Times) reissued for a new generation As the United States prepares to commemorate the Civil War’s 150th anniversary, Plume reissues the Pulitzer Prize–winning novel widely regarded as the most powerful ever written about our nation’s bloodiest conflict. MacKinlay Kantor’s Andersonville tells the story of the notorious Confederate Prisoner of War camp, where fifty thousand Union soldiers were held captive—and fourteen thousand died—under inhumane conditions. This new edition will be widely read and talked about by Civil War buffs and readers of gripping historical fiction.

In 1864, thirty-three thousand Yankee prisoners of war suffer the horrors of imprisonment at the Confederate prison of Andersonville

MACKINLAY KANTOR Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Andersonville GLORY FOR ME A Novel in Verse By MacKinlay Kantor BASIS FOR THE MOVIE THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES It is seldom in time of war that an author, no matter how emotionally aware of what it all means, can write a book which expresses the feeling that motivates fighting men. Why did it happen this way, why is it ending this way— what are we now that it is done with, now that we are home? Indeed, are we home, or are we in a boarding-house of confusion and wretchedly defeated purposes and understandings? MacKinlay Kantor is one of America's best-known novelists. It might be said that if any author could write that book Kantor would be the one for the job, but it takes more than mere professional writing skill to achieve such a major accomplishment. It takes awareness born of action and danger and keenly felt knowledge. Such knowledge MacKinlay Kantor has found, and in his novel of war and its men, Glory for Me, he has wholly expressed it. Well above the draft age, and physically unacceptable to the armed forces, Kantor intensely felt the need to join his younger fellows in some way; in some way he had to be a part of the danger, the horror, the glory of this war. He found his opportunity as a war correspondent. As such, based in England, he flew in combat with the U. S. Air Forces and the R.A.F. over enemy territory into flak and fire. As such he learned to know the fighting men whose constant companion, friend and fellow-in-war he was for many months. For the equivalent of a leave Kantor came back to the United States, and what filled his mind and his heart and his thoughts had to find expression in a book, which is Glory for Me. Glory for Me is a simple novel—about three service men, honorably discharged for medical causes, who return home to the same town where in peacetime they had not known one another, and through them we know them and their town and our country and war and peace and man. Glory for Me is a national epic, told in language of the common man, in language of the poet: told as only an American could tell it.

MACKINLAY KANTOR Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Andersonville GOD AND MY COUNTRY A Novel By MacKinlay Kantor BASIS FOR THE MOVIE FOLLOW ME, BOYS MacKinlay Kantor, the master of the warm and human story, the writer who can make us believe the good in the worst of us, has woven a compelling, appealing novel about the life of a simple American man who held in his care the destinies of hundreds of boys. Here for the first time a major writer portrays the Scoutmaster in a small town in a role as vital as the greatest of schoolmasters, doctors, priests, or ministers. With rare insight and sympathy, MacKinlay Kantor has created the memorable Lem Siddons, who gave forty years of his wisdom, the fund of his laughter, the knowledgeable touch, the sweetness and love that were his, to generations of Boy Scouts. Not every boy who passed khaki-clothed along his life won the world's respect or the Scoutmaster's pride. There were some misfits, fallers-by-the-wayside . . . sure. But Lem Siddons knew his reward every waking moment of his life and in his dreams as well. His story is one you will remember as that of the closest of your friends: his love for the delicate and freckled Vida that grew with a lifetime, his son Downey who wanted to crowd the years. All the good Kantor writing is here, the lucid and homespun prose that makes tears well in your eyes even as a song rises in your heart. MacKinlay Kantor has set the scene for God and My Country in a small town very much like Webster City, Iowa, where he was born, and has dedicated the book to his Scoutmaster of those days. It is a perfect example of MacKinlay Kantor's special genius for capturing the full flavor of a small American town, and of its people. "There's a Mr. Chips' quality to this deceptively simple story. MacKinlay Kantor has told quietly, in realistic terms, the story of one man whose influence permeate a whole Iowa town and rural area. No drum heating for the American vision here, but true democracy emerges in boys at every social and human level. A microcosm of America that strengthens one's faith." —Virginia Kirkus "God and My Country is a song from the heart of America which I would love to sing." —Burl Ives

Long Remember is the first realistic novel about the Civil War. Originally published in 1934, this book received rave reviews from the NY Times Book Review, and was a main selection of the Literary Guild. It is the account of the Battle of Gettysburg, as viewed by a pacifist who comes to accept the nasty necessity of combat. Kantor has also interwoven love and lust into this remarkable tale of passion, heroes, and a bloody battle. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The Washington Post Book Club's October Pick One of Washington Independent Review of Book's Favorite Books of 2016 “A grandson of writer MacKinlay Kantor unravels the tangles of his grandfather's life and finds many of those same threads (the good, the bad, the ugly) in his own...A compelling account, suffused with both sympathy and sharpness, of a writer who's mostly forgotten and of a grandson who's grateful.”—Kirkus Reviews An award-winning veteran of The Washington Post and The Miami Herald, Tom Shroder has made a career of investigative journalism and human-interest stories, from those of children who claim to have memories of past lives, in his book Old Souls, to that of a former Marine suffering from debilitating PTSD and his doctor pioneering a successful psychedelic drug treatment in Acid Test. Shroder's most fascinating subject, however, comes from within his own family: his grandfather MacKinlay Kantor was the world-famous author of Andersonville, the seminal novel about the Civil War. As a child, Shroder was in awe of his grandfather's larger-than-life character. Kantor's friends included Ernest Hemingway, Carl Sandburg, Gregory Peck, and James Cagney. He was an early mentor to the novelist John D. MacDonald and is credited with discovering the singer Burl Ives. Kantor wrote the novel Glory for Me, which became the multi-Oscar-winning film The Best Years of Our Lives. He ghostwrote General Curtis LeMay's memoirs, penning the infamous words “We're going to bomb them back into the Stone Age,” referring to North Vietnam. Kantor also suffered from alcoholism, an outside ego, and an abusive and publicly embarrassing personality where his family was concerned; he blew through several small fortunes in his lifetime, and died nearly destitute. In The Most Famous Writer Who Ever Lived, Shroder revisits the past—Kantor's upbringing, his early life, his career trajectory—and writes not just the life story of one man but a meditation on fame, family secrets and legacies, and what is remembered after we are gone.

In The Children Sing MacKinlay Kantor—winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel Andersonville—ventures into the field of the parading mural, taking a colorful group of people through Eastern Asia into a crucible of challenge and excitement. Don Lundin and his wife, July, are in Bangkok with other members of Graduate Tours Incorporated. Lundin, a wealthy land speculator, had served with the U.S. Air Force in the bombing of Japan and also during the Korean War. He has harbored within himself an abusive hatred for the scrambling millions of the brown and yellow nations who are, to him, a disquieting threat. Despite the gentle example of Mr. Wye Rabarti Wong, a tour conductor who tends his flock with saintly fortitude, and Lundin's rescue of a drowning child in Thailand, his prejudice persists. Meanwhile, his beautiful July meets in Singapore an officer who has long been seeking an opportunity to demonstrate his passion for her—and they meet again in a Kowloon hotel. Perhaps Chaucer was not the first writer to present a group of people on a pilgrimage, but resourceful authors have been gathering their throngs together in such pageantry ever since Chaucer's time. The results, as far as MacKinlay Kantor is concerned, add up to a charming and memorable novel. The retired surgeon and his veteran actress wife; a quavering spinster clinging to false and profitless recollections; a quiet woman filled with death-dealing hatred for her bullying husband; the brave old Jew whose heart and soul are set on an intimate view of Mount Fuji-no-Yama; and the sign manufacturer drinking his life away even while he crouches at the Red Chinese border—we come to know these travelers and others intimately before we return to Japan with Don Lundin and see him overwhelmed by a startling revelation of his own past and a kinship with the East affirmed in the very flesh.