



Time and Tide

Thomas J. Fleming

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Here is an epic of World War II --- the story of men and passion, of great love and tragic loss, and of two proud military families caught in a crucible of honor and betrayal...

Captain Arthur McKay - Given command of the USS Jefferson City after its desertion at the Battle of Savo - -- the worst naval defeat in United States history --- he must choose between loyalty to his best friend, the disgraced Captain Winfield Kemble, and his own duty as an officer. McKay is torn as well between his wife, Rita McKay - who once loved Kemble and now longs to see him destroyed - and Lucy Kemble, Rita's sister and Kemble's wife, who is the secret rule of his tormented soul.

From the Solomon Islands to the Aleutians, from liberty ports in Australia to the deadly skies over Okinawa, 'Time and Tide' is a spellbinding wartime voyage into the darkest hours of our century... a masterwork of action and human drama.

Time and Tide Details

Date : Published December 1st 1988 by Bantam (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9780553274561

Author : Thomas J. Fleming

Format : Mass Market Paperback 626 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, War, Fiction, World War II

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From Reader Review Time and Tide for online ebook

Don Halpert says

This book tells the story of the fictional USS Jefferson City. The crew are humiliated by the seeming cowardice of their Captain. When he is replaced by Capt. McKay the challenges become more apparent. The interaction of the crew, the constant fighting with both the Japanese and the inflexible Navy traditions provide a complex and fascinating look at the sailors fighting in the Pacific.

Although fiction, the stories ring true and the outcome is not quite what we were led to believe.

Good story, well written. A good read for anyone interested in Navel history.

Indymoff says

Very good read, even better if one has a military background but not necessary. At the risk of being sexist, probably more of a guys book than gals. Having said that, both sisters, and wife enjoyed it immensely. Might be a good idea to keep a log of characters as there are quite a few & do become intertwined.

Robin Smith says

I'm not sure how to rate this book. It's historical fiction and involves a navy cruiser during WWII. The weird part is that the author modeled the ship's story after not just one but two real ships, switching from one to the second late in the book.

I found the switch to the story of the second ship (the USS Indianapolis) rather gratuitous given that ship's history. The earlier part of the book centered around another real ship (the USS Chicago) disgraced during the Battle of Savo Island - the US Navy's worst defeat in history - and it's fight (literal and figurative) to regain it's honor under a new captain.

It's mostly a compelling narrative with lots of historically correct action and the stories of the individual crewmen and officers are complex. Maybe a little too much so. The author devotes a lot of words to the sailor's ongoing backstories, some of which I frankly lost interest in.

Overall, a good read for naval history buffs.

Johnny says

Sounds vaguely like all tales I've heard of the fateful last voyage of the USS indionapolis

Still an interesting story of seamanship, courage, warcraft, and persavance to duty and honor. maybe the names have been changed, maybe just a good tale.

Tom Hooker says

A story of World War II.

Ben says

Remember the old novel (and then a movie) " Battle Cry" about young Marines from boot camp to the horrors of the war against the Japanese ? That was a timeless classic compared to this hapless book.

I bought the Kindle version of the book after reading the sample chapters. It seemed right for my interests: a novel of the Navy in WWII. It began with the hero being ordered to relieve the captain of USN ship that had run from a fight while other ships were taking a beating from the Japanese navy off Savo Island. Moreover , the captain being relieved was the former Annapolis roommate and best friend of the man sent to relieve him. It sounded like a great story coming my way.

It was not.

Not unless you think that a book that spends most of its pages relating the bedroom, barroom, and back room sexual adventures, hetero- and homosexual- of the officers, their women and the crew's whoring ,boozing and " wham, bam, thankye ma'am" adventures has the making for a good novel.

Every time it seemed that the author was gating on track, it was back to " Sex on the Sea." Worse the author conflated the ship in the book with the USS Indianapolis, the cruiser which had carried the a-bomb to its airbase destination and was then torpedoed on its way home. This is the wartime tragedy in which hundreds of sailors were left to the Sharks for days before rescue craft were sent out to the proper area. (Remember the fishing boat captain from " Jaws"?)

I found myself flipping past a lot of the book. No doubt that cost me in following the plot and characters, but too bad.

A waste of ink worth a lot less than the \$1.99 paid for it.

Notes: crudity, sex, brawling .

Sharon says

I gave up, unfinished: got bored with it.

Robert M. Roth MD says

Excellent read

A well written historical drama which is accurate to the period and an interesting account about life aboard a WW II cruiser in the Pacific. Characters are well developed. Highly recommend if you are a fan of this genre and time period.

Cyndy says

A page turner. Not my favorite sort of story but interesting.

David says

Great book. Large cast of complex characters. An unvarnished portrait of men at war. Lots of action as well. GAME OF THRONES like in the way main characters are killed. A masterpiece.

Ginny says

Loved it! Great historical fiction of WWII in the Pacific. I learned a lot; there is so much to learn! My main struggle was keeping the characters straight. I actually opened a Word document to help me. If I thought anyone else would ever need it, I'd put it online.

Mike Briggs says

strikes me as an epic novel along the lines of War and Remembrance. It's very long and detailed. I now feel like I have a good understanding of life around a heavy cruiser in the Navy during World War 2.
