



Dreams of Eli

Van Heerling

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Southern soldier Eli West wakes in a cave and discovers he is held captive by a soldier of the Union. Shot, drugged, and tortured, he descends into the darkness and the beauty of his unconscious, uncovering a time when he was still in love, a time before war, a time before everything fell away.

Dreams of Eli Details

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Author : Van Heerling

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From Reader Review Dreams of Eli for online ebook

J.P. Lane says

This is one of the most beautiful books I've ever read. Storytelling at its best. An unforgettable masterpiece that demonstrates how love can conquer all. Bravo Van Heerling! I'd give this one six stars if that option was available.

Eric says

Dreams Of Eli grants us a detailed retrospective of Eli's life and loves. The story carries you back and forth between the present(which in this novel is 1863)and points in Eli's past ranging from childhood to young adulthood. All of this is done very smoothly despite the challenge of keeping the flow of the story intact when using such a format. It's an excellent story; earthy and visceral as it is thought provoking. This is not to say that it is a dour tale, as there are many charming and humorous moments worked into the narrative, but overall it made me think and reflect upon my own life and what is important. That is the most one can hope to gain from reading a novel in my humble opinion. Anytime that a story can make me immerse myself within it and open my mind then I am happy with the experience.

If you would enjoy something unique and thoughtful to read, I encourage you to pick a copy of this or Malaika which is a novel by the same author. Mr. Heerling is adept at relating some of life's finer struggles in a way that leaves the reader feeling improved for having read his work.

Heidi says

I read this (second novel written by one of my "fav" authors) the day it was first released - in a single (no real choice about it) sitting. I am reviewing it now many, many books after the fact - viscerally and as memory serves. The subject/plot, potentially dark - the period (US Civil War), not really a grabber for me. That said, reading it was a completely (and surprisingly) mesmerizing, compelling, fascinating, thought-provoking, completely absorbing experience. --- It is definitely worthy of a reread, which no doubt will warrant an update to this review. --- I am really quite impressed with this author's old soul (for a young man), not to be pigeon-holed talent. Don't miss him.

Asma says

Loved the book!! =D

Irene says

What a great and moving story!

"Dreams of Eli" is one of those books that stay with you long after you have finished them. The book is set during the Civil War era and describes the slow recovery of a soldier wounded by his enemy's rifle. During his slow and painful recovery he had dreams of his past, flashbacks that took him back to the most beautiful and moving moments of his life. There are a few twists and turns in the plot that really took me by surprise, and the story's unexpected ending left me in tears. It's a great and moving book which I recommend highly!!!

Jenny Karraker says

I really enjoyed this book. The movement back and forth between the present and the past wove in different parts of the story that added more depth as the story progressed and made it more interesting than just a chronological telling of events would have done. His budding friendship and courtship of Cora was touching. The treatment of his friend Ezra was gut-wrenching. The book brought many tears.

George Allen says

Well worth the time. Interesting viewpoint to approach story.

Carol says

Memorable characters

Eli, Ezra, Cora Samantha... they will live in my memory for a while, because of the portraits carefully drawn in this short, tense, tale of adventure.

Susie says

Dreams of Eli is a Civil War story that reunites childhood friends as adults fighting on opposite sides. That sounds like a familiar plot, but in this one Eli is a white Confederate soldier and his friend, Ezra, is a colored Union soldier. I hate people who spoil a book for me so I won't do that, but I will say the ending was not what I expected. This book is full of anguish from battle wounds mixed with dreams that held their own bittersweet pain. Eli's dreams as he lays wounded and fighting for his life had me wishing for a happy ending I knew he would never have. This is a raw story written superbly and well worth the time spent reading it.

Chu-Salyer Sharon says

A beautiful story about the Civil War. When two young boys grow up together and are friends. One boy is black and the other is white. As the two boys grow up the Civil War breaks out and the two boys who are now men has to fight against one another. But something happens, and one brother saves another brother in a time of war. This book was so good that I read the story twice.

Margaret Arvanitis says

Author, Van Heerling gives us a story with a twist .. a sudden happening that wasn't expected. I liked that. I also like the fact that it was written in the time of the Civil War, where unusual friendships between men are formed. The love story between Eli and Cora is deep and tender. The story moves not only in actions but in emotions leaving the reader wanting more at the brave ending.

Karen says

An amazingly, beautiful story that will stay with you for a long time after you have finished reading it. You will fall in love with Eli, Cora & Ezra because they are such great characters. I didn't want the story to end. Great book!

Paul Rega says

Gripping to the end--then it will blow you away!

Sass Cadeaux says

A soldier of the Union confines a Southern soldier named, Eli West. Eli wakes in a cave, and discovers a sinister and twisted enemy holds him captive.

During his imprisonment, Eli teeters in and out of consciousness. Each time he awakes, he is drugged and tortured. In little time, he learns he has been shot, his teeth have been ripped from his mouth and for the life of him, Eli cannot understand his menaces desire to constantly dig into his leg and big toe.

Unconsciousness seems to be his only solace, in which he relives a time when he was in love, a life before war, and fond memories of a time when life was worth living.

Certain, his life would end by the hands of his enemy. Eli wakes in a stupor of pain and heartache. He absorbs the loss of his teeth, his freedom and his will to fight.

After days of torture, Eli recognizes his capture; the man he thought was a sadistic and twisted soul. It was actually his old friend, Ezra, and although they were enemies of war, and Ezra was his capturer, he still felt that old bond. He'd think back to the earlier years, when Ezra was a close childhood friend, and many times, Eli considered Ezra a brother.

Ezra explains how he shot Eli, and when he realized whom he had shot, he dragged him into a cave and tried his best to help save his life.

Throughout it all, Eli longed for the darkness. In his unconscious state, he was happy and able to embrace his one true love.

Nearly three weeks had passed, and in that time, Eli's body became a second warzone. Ezra tried to help Eli

battle the infections. It was a long successful battle, but not without a casualty. Eli had lost his leg. He no longer felt he was a worthy man and heart's desire was impossible to embrace during his waken state. Eli admits the only beauty in his world lies within his unconscious, and wishes to never wake.

Once strong enough to travel, Eli's friend offers to take him home. It is during their travels they meet some interesting characters, and venture through rough terrain. This adventure helps mend their friendship and trust. Eli asks Ezra to help him fulfill his one true desire, to reunite him with his love.

This is civil war tale with some interesting characters. :)

D.G. Torrens says

There should be "SIX STARS" available for beautifully written books such as this. The author captures that rare ability to evoke emotions in a person. The characters are so well developed that you feel for them, sympathize with them and cry for them. Dreams of Eli takes you on an emotional journey with his childhood friend Ezra. The story takes you back and forth through time to Eli's childhood and then to adult years. This is a story that will have you reflecting on your own life and what really is most important. Eli's journey will make you laugh and make you cry. The friendship between himself and Ezra is such a beautiful one a rare and true friendship. This is a story of love and loss and one I urge you to read. This is an original beautiful story that I will re-read again...
