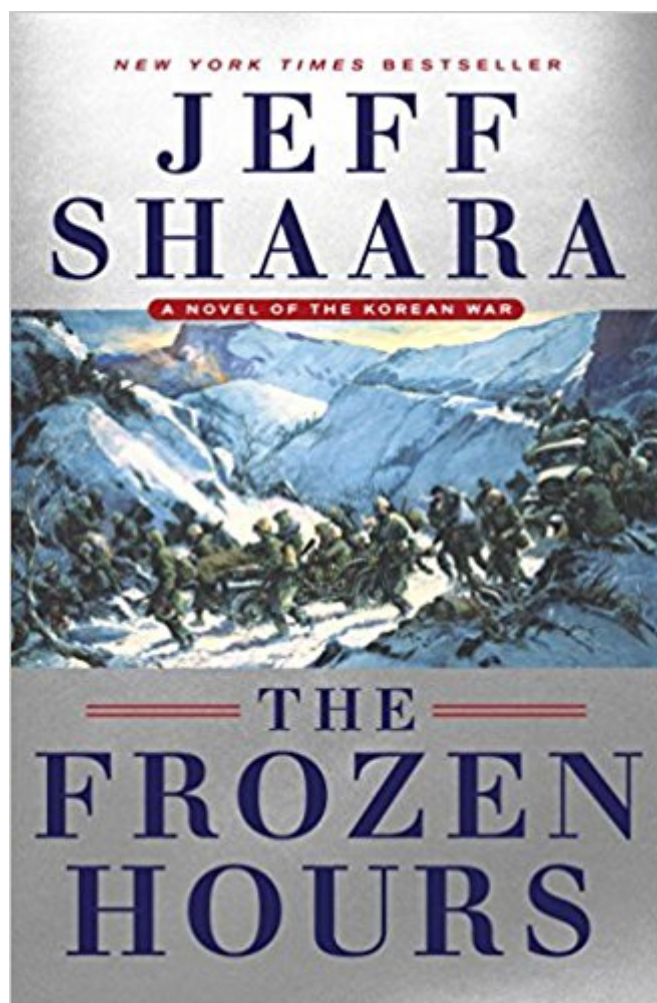


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# The Frozen Hours: A Novel Of The Korean War



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER — The master of military historical fiction turns his discerning eye to the Korean War in this riveting new novel, which tells the dramatic story of the Americans and the Chinese who squared off in one of the deadliest campaigns in the annals of combat: the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, also known as Frozen Chosin. June 1950. The North Korean army invades South Korea, intent on uniting the country under Communist rule. In response, the United States mobilizes a force to defend the overmatched South Korean troops, and together they drive the North Koreans back to their border with China. But several hundred thousand Chinese troops have entered Korea, laying massive traps for the Allies. In November 1950, the Chinese spring those traps. Allied forces, already battling stunningly cold weather, find themselves caught completely off guard as the Chinese advance around the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. A force that once stood on the precipice of victory now finds itself on the brink of annihilation. Assured by General Douglas MacArthur that they would be home by Christmas, the soldiers and Marines fight for their lives against the most brutal weather conditions imaginable—and an enemy that outnumbers them more than six to one. The Frozen Hours tells the story of Frozen Chosin from multiple points of view: Oliver P. Smith, the commanding general of the American 1st Marine Division, who famously redefined retreat as “advancing in a different direction”; Marine Private Pete Riley, a World War II veteran who now faces the greatest fight of his life; and the Chinese commander Sung Shi-Lun, charged with destroying the Americans he has so completely surrounded, ever aware that above him, Chairman Mao Tse-Tung watches his every move. — Written with the propulsive force Shaara brings to all his novels of combat and courage, The Frozen Hours transports us to the critical moment in the history of America’s “Forgotten War,” when the fate of the Korean peninsula lay in the hands of a brave band of brothers battling both the elements and a determined, implacable foe. PRAISE FOR JEFF SHAARA’S RECENT CIVIL WAR SERIES A Blaze of Glory “[An] exciting read . . . This novel is meticulously researched and brings a vivid reality to the historical events depicted.” —Library Journal “Dynamic portrayals [of] Johnston, Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman.” —The Wall Street Journal A Chain of Thunder “Shaara continues to draw powerful novels from the bloody history of the Civil War.” —Kirkus Reviews “The voices of these people come across to the reader as poignantly clear as they did 150 years ago.” —Historical Novels Review The Smoke at Dawn “Beautifully written . . . Shaara once again elevates history from mere rote fact to explosive and engaging drama.” —Bookreporter

“Shaara’s mastery of military tactics, his intimate grasp of history, and his ability to interweave several supporting narratives into a cohesive and digestible whole . . . will appeal to a broad range of historical and military fiction fans.” •Booklist The Fateful Lightning “Powerful and emotional . . . highly recommended.” •Historical Novels Review “Readers . . . looking for an absorbing novel will be well rewarded.” •The Clarion-Ledger

## Book Information

Hardcover: 560 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; 1st Edition edition (May 23, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345549228

ISBN-13: 978-0345549228

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.8 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 387 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,101 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Military #162 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War #181 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > War & Military

## Customer Reviews

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recommended. **•Historical Novels Review** “Readers . . . looking for an absorbing novel will be well rewarded. **The Clarion-Ledger**

Jeff Shaara is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Fateful Lightning*, *The Smoke at Dawn*, *A Chain of Thunder*, *A Blaze of Glory*, *The Final Storm*, *No Less Than Victory*, *The Steel Wave*, *The Rising Tide*, *To the Last Man*, *The Glorious Cause*, *Rise to Rebellion*, and *Gone for Soldiers*, as well as *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*—two novels that complete the Civil War trilogy that began with his father’s Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, *The Killer Angels*. Shaara was born into a family of Italian immigrants in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He grew up in Tallahassee, Florida, and graduated from Florida State University. He lives in Gettysburg.

I have read all of Jeff Shaara’s historical military fiction. *THE FROZEN HOURS* in my opinion ranks in the top two of my favorites, along with *GONE FOR SOLDIERS*, Shaara’s novel of the Mexican War. This is historically very accurate, and really makes this history of the “Forgotten War” come alive. This book definitely makes clear the dysfunction of marines fighting under army commanders who didn’t have a clue. Fortunately, the Joint operations of present day operations are indeed better coordinated. But this incredible story of one of the coldest winters ever for US fighting men (even worse than the Argonne forest of WWII Battle of the Bulge) should be read by ALL of our current serving military who might have to follow in the snow prints of these incredible Korean War veterans. And Shaara is very skilled in describing the effects of the EXTREME cold on the infantry, the physicians, the medics, the engineers, and helicopter pilots and flight mechanics. I have talked to at least five triple veterans - WWII, Korea, and Vietnam during my early career as a military physician, and they ALL uniformly said that they didn’t think that they would “make it home” from Korea. This certainly could claim the prize as the best historical fiction of the Korean War ever. The story of Fox company and also Chesty Puller’s trip “down from the Chosin reservoir - completely surrounded, he is quoted as saying: “Great. Now we can shoot at those bastards from every direction.” This is a MUST READ for all military history buffs, and for everyone who had a father or uncle who served in Korea.

Considering the news of today, this timely and riveting tale of the Korean conflict is a must read for those who may have forgotten. Jeff Sharra is a master historian that not only brings the reader into actual events, but gives voice to those who suffer, endure, and live through battles. The conflict at the Chosin Reservoir should serve as a firm reminder and respect for those who survived this

horrid event.

Ok Summer reading. Somewhat repetitive like most of his novels. There is a lack of McArthur's insight, with Ten Corp being solely represented by clownish depiction of Gen. Almond. Lost is the godlike status of McArthur after Inchon. The Corps performance at Chosin is depicted in some detail. Although the explanation of why ammo is dropped but no rations screams out. The Chinese insight is dubious at best.

A very good read. It's too bad the Korean problem is still with us today. SNAFU!

Interesting, well-written in a unique style, and well balanced. Although it is written in novel form, the historical information is consistent with that presented in other books about the siege of Fox Hill. The novel format is an excellent way to learn history. I found the information about the effectiveness of various types of cold weather clothing to be very informative.

Jeff Shaara has done a superb job once again. Have read all of his previous works on: Civil War, WWI, WWII. And this book should take its place among his best efforts. Excellent research. You feel as if you are with the troops as they battle the freezing elements and the enemy soldiers. A true sense of the differing perspectives from the commanders in the field and the ones back in Japan. A must read about America's forgotten war, even though it only deals with the Chosin campaigns. Perhaps other books will follow documenting the remaining years of the conflict.

Stilted dialog. No apparent knowledge of USMC organization, tactics or weapons. Still, based on history, outlines 1st MARDIV outstanding performance on the way to Chosin and back.

Great book, as are all of Shaara's works. Mr. Shaara really does his homework to create an authentic look into the past. The book is sound historic fiction, he doesn't sway far from the true events. He adds a few fictional characters, but keeps the historical facts intact as well as the keeping true to the feel of the period.

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