



The Thin Red Line: A Novel

James Jones

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They are the men of C-for-Charlie company—"Mad" 1st Sgt. Eddie Welsh, Pvt. 1st Class Don Doll, Pvt. John Bell, Capt. James Stein, Cpl. Fife, and dozens more just like them—infantrymen who are about to land, grim and white-faced, on an atoll in the Pacific called Guadalcanal. This is their story, a shatteringly realistic walk into hell and back.

In the days ahead, some will earn medals, others will do anything they can dream up to get evacuated before they land in a muddy grave. But they will all discover the thin red line that divides the sane from the mad—and the living from the dead—in this unforgettable portrait that captures for all time the total experience of men at war.

Foreword by Francine Prose

"Brutal, direct, and powerful . . . The men are real, the words are real, death is real, imminent and immediate."—Los Angeles Times

"A rare and splendid accomplishment . . . strong and ambitious, spacious, and as honest as any novel ever written."— Newsweek

"[A] major novel of combat in World War II... reminiscent of Stephen Crane in *The Red Badge of Courage*."—The Christian Science Monitor

"The Thin Red Line moves so intensely and inexorably that it almost seems like the war it is describing."—The New York Times Book Review



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Tina Olsen:

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