



The Armies of the Night: History as a Novel, the Novel as History

By Norman Mailer

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Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

Winner of the National Book Award

This classic of "new journalism" daringly combines reportage with a novelistic style.

Armies of the Night centers on the March on the Pentagon, the most famous anti-Vietnam War rally in Washington DC, and the characters that occupy this opposition—the intellectuals, students, African Americans, liberals, and marching women. Mailer, a novelist-as-character, sculpts this impressionably fragile world of the Left versus Authority and Peace versus War, prodding at the Vietnam generation's deepest anxieties.

In the same way Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* introduced the "non-fiction novel," *Armies of the Night* renders this form, with turns historical and fictional.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Some time in 1969 in Paris, I first read *Armies of the Night*, Norman Mailer's account of the anti-Vietnam war march on the Pentagon... It was mesmerising, and to re-read it today is to experience an additional punch: the one that verifies that history repeats itself as (malignant) farce. Page after page you have the impression that he is commenting not on Lyndon Johnson's shameful war, but George Bush's corporate-powered skulking towards another self-serving war... supports the theory—more resonant now than then—that perhaps the most ruthless and prolonged jihad in history has been that of the American fundamentalist Christians, which began towards the end of the second world war.”—**Peter Lennon, *The Guardian***

“Just as brilliant a personal testimony as Whitman's diary of the Civil War, *Specimen Days*, and Whitman's great essay on the crisis of the Republic during the Gilded Age, *Democratic Vistas*. I believe that it is a work of personal and political reportage that brings to the inner and developing crisis of the United States at this moment admirable sensibilities, candid intelligence, the most moving concern for America itself. Mailer's intuition in this book is that the times demand a new form. He has found it.”—**Alfred Kazin, *New York Times***

“Mailer's feints and bell-donging around his fellow ‘Notables’ is a late night popcorn joy, and there is much that is stylish and shrewd... this is an important and passionate pilgrimage.”—**Kirkus**

About the Author

Born in 1923 in Long Branch, New Jersey, and raised in Brooklyn, New York, **Norman Mailer** was one of the most influential writers of the second half of the twentieth century and a leading public intellectual for nearly sixty years. He is the author of more than thirty books. *The Castle in the Forest*, his last novel, was his eleventh *New York Times* bestseller. His first novel, *The Naked and the Dead*, has never gone out of print. His 1968 nonfiction narrative, *The Armies of the Night*, won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. He won a second Pulitzer for *The Executioner's Song* and is the only person to date to have won Pulitzers in both fiction and nonfiction. Five of his books were nominated for National Book Awards, and he won a lifetime achievement award from the National Book Foundation in 2005. Norman Mailer died in 2007 in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carlos Terrill:

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Dedra Clark:

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Ian Hall:

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Donald Vermillion:

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