

Author Read Alike

Jeff Shaara

Genre: Historical Fiction

Do you like fiction that combines history with action? A good place to start if you would like to explore the genre is with author Jeff Shaara. Shaara has moved through the American experience from the 18th century to WWII. His novels have progressed from the American Revolution and Civil War to WWI and WWII.

The first set fictionalizes the involvements of the British players and the Americans and their allies in a late-eighteenth century montage of radical political change. A colorful cast of fictionalized Founding Fathers, and British politicians populates Shaara's titles *Rise to Rebellion* and *The Glorious*

Cause.

Shaara's Civil War trilogy consists of: *Gods and Generals*, *The Killer Angels* (written by his father, Michael Shaara), and *The Last Full Measure*. These Civil War novels begin with two Union and Confederate generals contemplating their careers before the battles of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. Michael Shaara's follow-up covers the Battle of Gettysburg via the viewpoints of two Union and two Confederate generals. The trilogy rounds out with Jeff Shaara's concluding novel, *The Last Full Measure*, which describes the two sides going to war.

After a stand alone novel, *Gone for Soldiers* about the Mexican -American War of 1846-48, Shaara embarked on a quartet set about the two World Wars: *To the Last Man*, *The Rising Tide*, *The Steel Wave*, and the concluding novel, *No Less Than Victory*.



JEFF SHAARA

Read Alike—Bernard Cornwell

Bernard Cornwell's character Captain Richard Sharpe undergoes many exploits in the Napoleonic Wars (1800-1815). The *Sharpe series* is undoubtedly Cornwell's longest running series. Lieutenant/Captain Sharpe finds himself on missions and

battlefields flung across the map of 19th Century Europe, from Spain and Portugal to France, Italy, and Normandy.

Cornwell's *Grail Quest* novels are Medieval. Thomas of Hookton, an archer joins Edward III's army in the 1343 invasion of

France. He is diverted by a quest for the Holy Grail. This is the first book, *The Archer's Tale*, followed by *Vagabond*, which follows Hookton's search for the Grail. The third book, *Heretic*, chronicles more of Hookton's travails in the Hundred Years' War.

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Read Alike—Jean Auel

Jean Auel is known for her prehistoric series, the *Earth's Children series*. Book 1 begins with *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, in which an orphaned Ayla must join another clan after an earthquake kills her people. With her blonde hair, blue eyes,

and advanced cognition, she stands out in her adopted Neanderthal tribe. This series follows Ayla through a series of adventures in *The Valley of Horses*, *The Mammoth Hunters*, *The Plains of Passage*, and *The Shelters of Stone*. All of these novels

are set in a prehistoric Europe in which Cro-Magnons interact with Neanderthals. Auel has been praised for anthropological authenticity, but recent discoveries in anthropology may contradict earlier information and ideas in her works.

Read Alike—Gingrich & Forstchen

Gingrich and Forstchen have written many military history books together which have been praised by the literary genre. They have written in two subgenres, alternate history and historical fiction. The alternate history stories revolve

around an imagined alternate conclusion to the Civil War and contain the titles *Gettysburg*, *Grant Comes East*, and *Never Call Retreat*. They have also written a WWII series called the *Pacific War series* consisting of *Pearl Harbor* and *Days of Infamy*.

In 2009, wrote a historical fiction about the American Revolutionary War, *To Try Men's Souls*. Their writing approach resembles both Harry Turtledove (Alternate History, which is a subgenre of Science Fiction) and Jeff Shaara (Historical Fiction).

Read Alike—Diana Gabaldon

Diana Gabaldon's popular *Outlander series*, like Shaara and Cornwell contains elements of historical fiction, but also, like Turtledove, Gingrich, and Forstchen, it also contains elements of Science Fiction (in this case, not Alternate History, but rather time

travel). Also, her series has elements of the Romance genre. The series begins with *Outlander*. Claire Randall finds herself flung back into 1743 Scotland in the midst of violent tumultuous times. This series has seven books in it.

Gabaldon has recently begun a new series called the *Lord John Gray series* which embarks on an 18th Century murder mystery in a subgenre of Historical Fiction called Historical Mystery. Book three of this series contains a dash of the supernatural.