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978-1-107-10983-4 - Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War

Cody Marrs

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## NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THE LONG CIVIL WAR

American literature in the nineteenth century is often divided into two halves, neatly separated by the Civil War. In *Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War*, Cody Marrs argues that the war is a far more elastic boundary for literary history than has frequently been assumed. Focusing on the later writings of Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, and Emily Dickinson, this book shows how the war took imaginative shape across, and even beyond, the nineteenth century, inflecting literary forms and expressions for decades after 1865. These writers, Marrs demonstrates, are best understood not as antebellum or postbellum figures but as transbellum authors who cipher their later experiences through their wartime impressions and prewar ideals. This book is a bold, revisionary contribution to debates about temporality, periodization, and the shape of American literary history.

CODY MARRS teaches English at the University of Georgia.

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*For Kristin, Harper, and Caleb*

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Latencies: Hegel and the Politics of Time in *Leaves of Grass*.” It is reprinted here by permission of the Regents of The University of Arizona. Parts of Chapter 3 first appeared in *American Literature* 82.1 (March 2010), pgs. 91–119, under the title “A Wayward Art: *Battle-Pieces* and Melville’s Poetic Turn.” It is reprinted here by permission of the publisher, Duke University Press.

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