

**NAXOS**
AudioBooks

**CLASSIC
FICTION**



Stephen Crane

The Red Badge of Courage

Read by
Walter Lewis

NA439112D

1	Chapter 1 The cold passed reluctantly from the earth.	7:47
2	He had burned several times to enlist.	7:36
3	On the way to Washington, his spirit had soared.	6:18
4	After a time, the tall soldier slid dexterously through the hole.	5:29
5	Chapter II The next morning, the youth discovered...'	8:38
6	The rushing yellow of the developing day went on behind their backs.	11:38
7	Chapter III When another night came the columns...	9:30
8	A house standing placidly in distant fields had to him an ominous look.	7:16
9	Chapter IV The brigade was halted in the fringe of a grove.	7:52
10	Chapter V There were moments of waiting.	7:09
11	The man at the youth's elbow was babbling.	8:25
12	Chapter VI The youth awakened slowly.	6:01
13	A man near him who up to this time...	9:50
14	Chapter VII The youth cringed as if discovered in a crime.	9:08
15	Chapter VIII The trees began softly to sing a hymn of twilight.	6:53
16	The youth joined this crowd and marched along with it.	5:16
17	Chapter IX The youth fell back in the procession...	6:16
18	Presently, the latter heard a voice talking softly near his shoulders.	7:03
19	Chapter X The tattered man stood musing.	9:42
20	Chapter XI He became aware that the furnace roar of the battle...	10:59
21	Chapter XII The column that had butted stoutly at the obstacles...	5:05

22	He fought an intense battle with his body.	8:24
23	Chapter XIII The youth went slowly toward the fire indicated...	5:24
24	The youth sat down obediently...	8:27
25	Chapter XIV When the youth awoke it seemed to him...	11:57
26	Chapter XV The regiment was standing at order arms...	7:28
27	Chapter XVI A sputtering of musketry was always to be heard.	3:15
28	Before the gray mists had been totally obliterated by the sun rays...	9:08
29	Chapter XVII This advance of the enemy had seemed...	3:44
30	To the youth, the fighters resembled animals...	7:31
31	Chapter XVIII The ragged line had respite for some minutes...	8:59
32	A moment later, the officers began to bustle among the men.	1:44
33	Chapter XIX The youth stared at the land in front of him.	6:51
34	Then, above the sounds of the outside commotion arose...	7:07
35	Chapter XX When the two youths turned with the flag...	6:16
36	The way seemed eternal.	7:13
37	Chapter XXI Presently they knew that no firing threatened them.	13:20
38	Chapter XXII When the woods again began to pour fourth...	6:20
39	His emaciated regiment bustled forth with undiminished fierceness...	5:46
40	Chapter XXIII The colonel came running along the back of the line.	4:38
41	But at one part of the line there was a grim and obdurate group...	7:15
42	Chapter XXIV The roarings that had stretched in a long line of sound...	11:02

Total time: 5:16:01

Stephen Crane

The Red Badge of Courage

What happens when men face combat for the first time? Will the comradeship developed in training combined with experienced leadership provide the stiffening when the attack comes? Or will fear and the desperate instinct to survive overwhelm the individual?

These are the questions raised in this remarkable account by a young writer, who, born six years after the end of the American Civil War, still managed to evoke the reality of what is often described as the first modern war. The Civil War, from 1861-1865, resulted in the deaths of 600,000 people, through the vastly improved armaments on both sides – artillery and hand weapons. The slaughter was unprecedented, though the tactics of warfare had yet to come to terms with the new destructive power.

Crane's intimate account is based, it is thought, on the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1862. It looks at the experience of a young man, Henry Fleming and, through

his eyes, a few friends around him. It was to presage the fate of so many young men in the Great War that followed less than 20 years after its publication.

Its lasting effect is created by the rounded portrait of Fleming himself as he tries to live up to the standards of courage and duty expected of – demanded of – soldiers in war. Unable to express his anxiety, unable to contain his fear, unable to contain his shame, Fleming becomes a man driven by powerful emotions and circumstances. Yet he can only compare himself to what he thinks others are feeling – Crane's natural skill as a psychologist allows Fleming to react as the average man placed in turmoil and dread.

In view of the Great War to come, it was Crane's remarkable prescience that he observes sympathetically rather than criticises and accuses. It was this honesty that made the book so powerful on publication, and makes it a war novel for all time.

The Red Badge of Courage was published in 1895. Crane, a freelance journalist, was forced to publish his first novel, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets, A Story of New York*, at his own expense as the topic and expression proved too honest for contemporary palates. But it was not possible to ignore *The Red Badge of Courage* which followed, though it became popular in the UK, where Crane lived temporarily, before it was widely accepted in his home country.

He went on to gain battle experience as a war correspondent in Mexico and Cuba in 1896.

In 1897, Crane's move to England brought him in close contact with leading writers of the time, and he developed friendships with Joseph Conrad and Henry James; and he met H.G. Wells who admired Crane's short story, *The Open Boat* (1898) – which was based on Crane's personal experience of being shipwrecked.

He wrote other short stories and novels, including *The Bride Comes to a Yellow Sky*, and *The Blue Hotel*; but while respected and read, *The Red Badge of*

Courage remained the work on which his reputation rests.

He died on 5 June 1900 in Baden-Baden, where he had gone in a forlorn attempt to find a cure for advanced tuberculosis.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

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and MARCO POLO Catalogues.**

LISZT A FAUST SYMPHONY Orchestra of the Ferenc Liszt Academy, András Ligeti	8.553304
RUBINSTEIN SYMPHONY NO 1 CSSR State Philharmonic (Kosice), Robert Stankovsky	8.555476
BORODIN SYMPHONIES NOS 1-3 CSR Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava) Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550238
RUBINSTEIN SYMPHONY NO 2 Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.555392
DVORAK SYMPHONY NO 2/LEGENDS Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550267
RUBINSTEIN SYMPHONY NO 5/FAUST George Enescu State Philharmonic Orchestra, Horia Andreescu	8.223320

Cover picture: A Scene from the American Civil War.
Courtesy: The Mary Evans Library, London.

Stephen Crane

The Red Badge of Courage

Read by **Walter Lewis**

One of the great war novels, *The Red Badge of Courage* describes the first experience of front-line combat through the eyes of a young recruit, Henry Fleming, in one of the battles of the American Civil War. Under the stress of battle, Fleming is forced to face strong, conflicting emotions, ranging from bravado to terror, as the conflict ebbs and flows. Written some thirty years after the War, when Stephen Crane was still only in his mid-twenties, its inimitable truth makes it just as relevant now. A powerful, but very human account.



Walter Lewis graduated from Washington University in his home town of St Louis, Missouri and then moved to England to train at the London Studio Centre. He has worked in TV, film and theatre on both sides of the Atlantic. He has recorded many dramas for BBC Radio, including *Hackers*, *Over Here*, *Auntie Mame* and *East of Eden*.

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