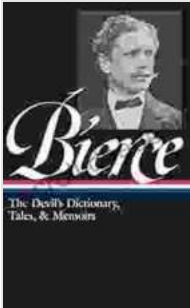


The Devil's Dictionary: Tales, Memoirs, and Loas 219



Ambrose Bierce: The Devil's Dictionary, Tales, & Memoirs (LOA #219): In the Midst of Life (Tales of Soldiers and Civilians) / Can Such Things Be? / The ... / selected stories (Library of America) by Ambrose Bierce

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1312 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 624 pages



Ambrose Bierce's *The Devil's Dictionary* is a satirical dictionary that defines words in a way that exposes the hypocrisy and absurdity of human behavior. First published in 1906, the dictionary has since become a classic of American literature and is still widely read today.

In addition to its definitions, *The Devil's Dictionary* also includes a number of tales, memoirs, and loas 219. These pieces offer a glimpse into Bierce's unique and often pessimistic worldview.

Tales

The tales in *The Devil's Dictionary* are often dark and humorous, and they explore a variety of themes, including war, religion, and the nature of

humanity. In "The Damned Thing," for example, Bierce tells the story of a group of soldiers who are haunted by a mysterious creature. In "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," he tells the story of a man who is hanged for treason and experiences a vivid hallucination of his own execution.

Memoirs

The memoirs in *The Devil's Dictionary* are based on Bierce's own experiences as a soldier in the Civil War. In "What I Saw of Shiloh," he describes the horrors of the battle and the aftermath of the war. In "Chickamauga," he tells the story of a battle in which he was seriously wounded.

Loa 219

Loa 219 is a mysterious figure who appears in several of the tales in *The Devil's Dictionary*. Loa 219 is a Loa, or spirit, from Haitian Vodou, and he is often associated with death and the underworld. In "The Damned Thing," Loa 219 appears as a creature that haunts the soldiers, and in "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," he appears as the executioner.

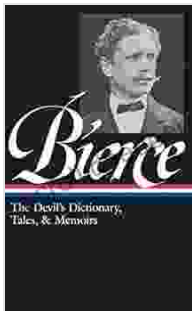
Bierce's Worldview

The tales, memoirs, and loa 219 in *The Devil's Dictionary* provide insight into Bierce's unique and often pessimistic worldview. Bierce was a realist who saw the world as a harsh and unforgiving place. He believed that humans are inherently selfish and destructive, and he had little faith in the possibility of progress or improvement.

Bierce's worldview is evident in his definitions of words in *The Devil's Dictionary*. For example, he defines "war" as "a game played by two sets of

political pawns upon a board which may be either a map or a territory." He defines "religion" as "a daughter of Hope and Fear, explaining to Ignorance the nature of the Unknowable." And he defines "progress" as "the exchange of one set of illusions for another."

The Devil's Dictionary is a complex and challenging work that offers a unique perspective on the human condition. Bierce's tales, memoirs, and loa 219 provide insight into his dark and pessimistic worldview, but they also offer a glimpse of his wit and his ability to see through the hypocrisy and absurdity of human behavior.



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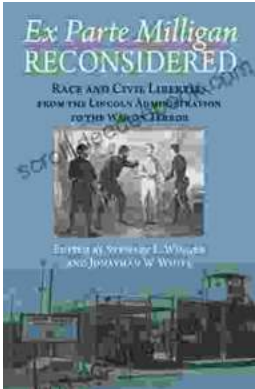
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