Louisiana Almanac

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david huddle s latest collection blacksnake at the family reunion shares intimate and amusing stories as if told by a quirky usually reticent great uncle in boy story a teenage romantic meeting ends abruptly when the boy s sweetheart realizes they have parked near her grandmother s grave the poem aloft recalls a widowed mother s indignation after she receives a marriage proposal in a hot air balloon haunted by the words on his older sister s tombstone born died then a single date in november the speaker in one poem struggles to understand a tragic loss the ampersand tells the whole truth and nothing but so help me god whose divine shrug is expressed so eloquently by that grave mark blacksnake at the family reunion continues huddle s poetic inquiry into the power of early childhood and family to infuse adulthood with sadness and despair an inquiry conducted with profound empathy for the fragility

of humankind

fully illustrated including with battle maps this account of the battle of chancellorsville features detailed coverage from experienced military writer carl smith following the debacle of the battle of fredericksburg in december 1862 burnside was replaced as commander of the army of the potomac by general joseph hooker having reorganised the army and improved morale he planned an attack that would take his army to richmond and end the war although faced by an army twice his size the confederate commander robert e lee split his forces jubal early was left to hold off sedgwick s fredericksburg attack and stonewall jackson was sent with 26 000 men in a wide envelopment around hooker s right flank this title details how at dusk on may 2 jackson s men crashed into the federal right flank and how stiffening federal resistance slowed the confederate advance the next day

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