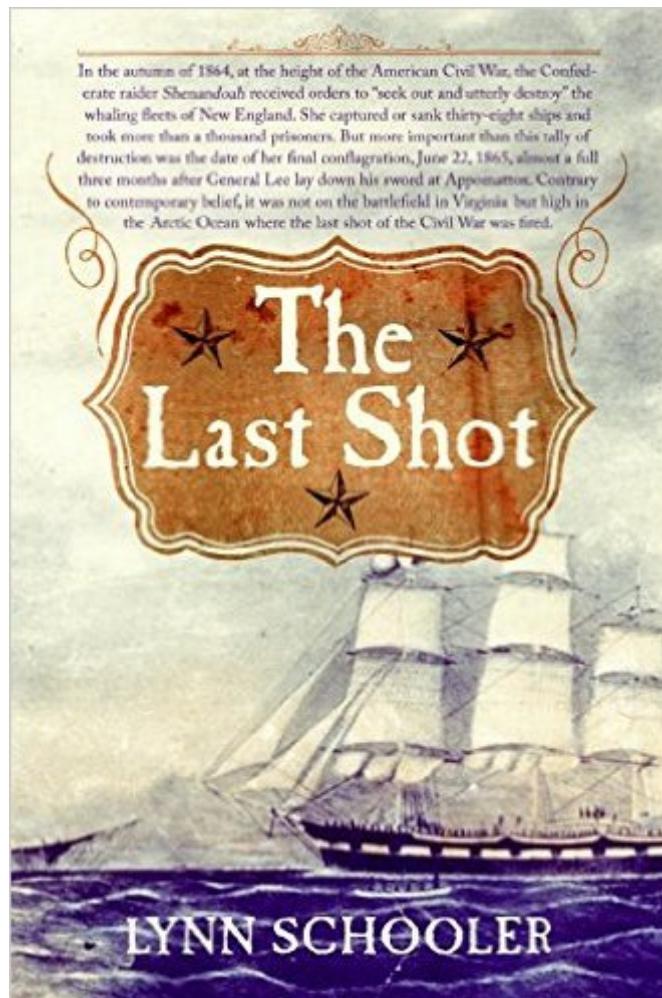


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The Last Shot



Synopsis

Blending high-seas adventure and first-rate research, *The Last Shot* is naval history of the very first order, offering a riveting account of the last Southern military force to lay down its arms in June 1865. Following orders received the previous autumn, the Confederate raider *Shenandoah* fell upon a fleet of whalers out of New England working the waters near Alaska's Little Diomede Island. More than two dozen ships went down in a frenzy of destruction that occurred three months after the South's official surrender. In breathtaking detail, author Lynn Schooler re-creates one of the most astonishing events in American military history—a final act of war that brought about the near-demise of the New England whaling industry and effectively ended America's growing hegemony over worldwide shipping for the next eighty years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just finished reading *The Last Shot* by Lynn Schooler, the fascinating story of the Confederate raider CSS *Shenandoah*. Schooler gets the title from the fact that it was the *Shenandoah* that fired "the last shot" of the American Civil War (ACW). First sampling of why history fascinates: Where was the last shot of the ACW fired? Not in ole Dixie, not in any northern state, neither on American soil, nor in American waters. The last shot of the ACW was fired by a ship from the hot humid South in the icy waters of the North Pacific while she was in either international or Russian waters, surrounded by ice flows. Here's another sample of why history fascinates. Many historians speak and write about the many firsts of the ACW; railroads, telegraph, modern, i.e. non Napoleon tactics, etc. The U.S. and Britain were in danger of going to war because of reparations demanded by the

U.S. from Britain because of her support of the Confederacy. That war was avoided because the two countries agreed to be bound by a "court" of foreign diplomats who would decide the issue. Thus, the ACW brought about the first ever international dispute to be settled in court, not in war. Fascinating!!History connects history to history and yesterday to tomorrow.

Schooler's account of a little known aspect of the Civil War makes for a very interesting read. If you're a fan of Schooler's other works ("Walking Home" or "The Blue Bear") I will caution that this book is a bit more academic and not the same type of personalized tale as those but it's still a well written book.

This book picks a little remembered story of history and brings it to life. Entertaining and readable to the end. The only criticism I have is that Lynn Schooler is too harsh on Waddle's leadership, anyone who could keep a crew together and circumnavigate the globe under those circumstances deserves a place among the greatest Commanding Officers in history.

This book is well researched and written, and a highly entertaining read. You will learn things about the Civil War you did not know.

Wonderful description of true civil war action

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