

**RHETT BUTLERS PEOPLE : THE AUTHORIZED NOVEL
BASED ON MARGARET MITCHELLS GONE WITH THE
WIND PDF, EPUB, EBOOK**



Donald McCaig | 500 pages | 07 Oct 2014 | St. Martins Griffin | 9781250065308 | English | New York, United States

Read Rhett Butler's People Online by Donald McCaig | Books

If you loved *Gone with the Wind*, particularly Margaret Mitchell's stunning novel, you will not be able to put this accompanying volume down. I did not read the sequel *Scarlett* because the reviews indicated it wasn't worth the effort; I did read *The Wind Done Gone*, supposedly told by Prissy,

but it was too silly to take seriously. Rhett Butler was a man ahead of his time and culture, a man who saw Negroes as people, who understood the power of the North's economy and who pierced the romance and glamour of the Old South as it went to war. Thus, this retelling from his perspective is set to our sensibilities. It doesn't always focus on Butler; his sister is a major character giving balance to "a man's story. Short shrift is still given to Mammy and Prissy but this is not their story. Dramatically, we see the seeds of the failure of Reconstruction: the nostalgia, the hatred, the need to settle "old scores", and the rush of northerners to take advantage.

Yet we also see the determination that will allow the South to rise again. And, unlike Mitchell, McCaig does not lament the passing of what is gone with the wind, perhaps because he has seen what had replaced it. I inhaled this book in one day. It's that good! I admit I approached it cautiously, since I had been burned by the book "Scarlett" horrible book, but that's another review. But I checked it out of the library and devoted my day off to RBP today. I liked the descriptions of Charleston and the Low Country. I also liked the backstory of how and why Rhett became the person he did. Reading those scenes were like revisiting old friends. I've missed them! Nothing could be. GWTW was one of a kind. But this book stands on its own as an enjoyable story. It also gives a guys point of view to the Scarlett and Rhett love story.

Overall, I enjoyed reading this book. Being a dedicated "Winnie" I never pass up a chance to read someone else's take on the characters I love so much. I think McCaig is a talented writer. A lot of the "back story" was quite satisfying, if a little too convenient now and then. To be honest, I didn't really need a lot of development for Scarlett. She's already developed in my mind, and the little discrepancies concerning minor characters really didn't bother me. But what in the name of all that is holy was he thinking when he decided to write Melanie? Hasn't he read the book? Can we not write a character that we like who's not concerned about sex?

I'll never figure that one out. I bought this book for about a dollar, and I consider it a dollar well spent. While nothing can compare with Margaret Mitchell's iconic novel, I do not think McCaig was trying to. And while there were times I could not imagine McCaig's Rhett in the film, there were other times where I could imagine Clark Gable perfectly fulfilling some of the scenes in the novel.

My biggest disagreement, as someone has said before me, is his interpretation of the beloved, good-hearted Melly. She is the personification of pure selflessness. I believe it was said in the film that she cannot think badly of anyone that she loves, and she certainly would not have thought so ill of Scarlett or Ashley, for that matter. I read it as fan fiction and nothing more - it is not flesh and blood Rhett Butler, but simply one man's interpretation of him and what may have made him who he was in Mitchell's novel. I picked up Rhett Butler's People with little expectation. I would have read it in one sitting if at all possible. Margaret Mitchell created enduring characters, and Donald Craig gave them new life and depth. We learned why these people became who they were.

By beginning the book prior to the beginning of GWTW, and ending it quite a while after, Donald McCaig had the scope to provide a rich, full panorama we had previously missed. Throughout the book, I felt like I was visiting with family and friends I had long been missing. The author was slightly cruel to us in parts, and kind in others. The final page, which ends with, and this is not a spoiler, "Which wasn't nearly: The End, gives me hope that there will be more about these brave, fascinating people. The "filling out" of Rhett's background made you understand how he could have turned into the sometimes hard and unbending man of Margaret Mitchell's imagination.

I began reading the book with judgment held fully in reserve but then, like a snowball, the book began rolling downhill, gaining speed and weight as it went. Melly, the constant in GWTW, who was naive, trusting, believing the best of all around her, shy, unconfident, unknowing and selfless to a fault. McCaig's Melly became a scheming woman who knew all about Ashley and Scarlett and made sure they were never alone. McCaig's Melly didn't trust Scarlett as far as she could throw her. McCaig's Melly became a woman who could write about lovemaking with Ashley in letters to Rosemary Butler. Not only would that NEVER have happened in the day and age Melly "lived" in, Mitchell's Melanie Hamilton Wilkes was no more able to put pen to page to write about sexual relations than she was able to commit adultery against Ashley.

Not only did McCaig not understand one cell of Melly's character, he slandered it in the process of completing this joke of an "authorized sequel". After choking down this horrible version of Melly for chapter after chapter, Rhett Butler started growing odd himself. The character the book was supposed to be about in the first place was twisted into some soft, depressed man who wouldn't be recognized by Mitchell or her followers. To top it all off, after all of the characters basically lost their minds, lives or personalities in the last few chapters, not only did McCaig burn Scarlett's tacky Atlanta house to the ground, he burned Tara.

He burned Tara. Donald McCaig is an idiot. There are some things you don't do, even for money. Absolutely violating, raping and pillaging a classic and iconic piece of American Literature is one of them. As a writer himself, you would have thought he could figure that on his own. You would be wrong. I, like most of the other reviewers here, loved GWTW. I plodded through this book, hoping that the next page was going to be the page that would draw me into this book; make me feel like I WAS Rhett Butler; but, no, that never happened. As Mrs. Olsen, another reviewer, stated there were parts of this book where the conversation would literally hop to another conversation and I had to read them over again thinking I had missed out on something. I, too, was disappointed that the author didn't hold true to the story: Scarlett's miscarriage, Rhett's trip with Bonnie and Belle, and even the death of Bonnie Blue.

That was the most glazed-over part of the whole book and one that I consider one of the most important parts! I had a difficult time getting used to the author's style of writing - the jumpy paragraphs and dialogue had me confused. Although it isn't my favorite book of all time, it did make me think about life during the war and even though I don't really believe the author's view of poor, pitiful-me, Rhett is correct, it is a book I will not forget. I would give 0 stars if possible. Donald McCaig obviously never bothered to read *Gone with the Wind*. If Margaret Mitchell read this pig crap she would have sued him for what a disgrace his "authorized novel" is. I've honestly just been appalled at how he ruined the beautiful story that Ms Mitchell wrote. Seriously Donald, you should recall every copy and have them burned.

I'm throwing mine away. As I have never read any of McCaig's works, I was not sure what to expect. I found it took me a few chapters to catch on to the non-linear storyline presented early in the book. However, it was very descriptive and engaging, and I found it was hard to put the book down. Rhett's history, and the characters involved with this history, were very vivid and interesting. I did find that there were some changes to

timeline to "GWTW," and changes to characters from "Scarlett," which caused me to refer back to the previous 2 books several times just to clarify. However it wasn't descriptive graphic violence without purpose, which I found consistently throughout McCaig's story, and seemed to tarnish many of the situations both original and previously presented by Mitchell.

I sense this may just be a male's perspective of the story Either way, I found it was disturbing and often taken to an unnecessary extent in the story. I did not like the characterization of Scarlett. She was watered down and weak-- very disappointing compared to the strong woman previously presented by Mitchell. Generally, it was a very strong book, and a worthy read The climax and ending were abysmal-- definitely not in line with Mitchell's image!

It seems McCaig was grasping to keep the reader entertained? If he was so short on direction and with obviously poor guidance from his editors , he should have ended while he was ahead, instead of trying to create his own, very poor, ending to Mitchell's masterpiece. Honestly, I was so disappointed, if I knew the book would end in such a way, I think I would have stopped reading at Part Three and called it done. I would hate to think my review would prevent someone from reading anything that they may enjoy, so I would say give it a try.

However, I would first check it out at your local library before you decide to add it to your own collection. Several people have commented that "Rhett Butler's People" can never be like the original story of "Gone With the Wind" and I agree with that. But, this book was excellent. I could not put it down. Plausible plots and characters throughout. The only reason I didn't give the book five stars is because the character of Melanie Hamilton just did not work. Melanie Hamilton was a good and loyal woman, who loved her husband and Scarlett to the point that she was blind to their flaws. McCaig turned Melanie into a disloyal, gossiping penpal to Rhett's sister, Rosemary that just is not believable. Melanie would never have talked and gossiped about anyone, much less put it all in writing. She would never have voiced her suspicions of Ashley and Scarlett, nor blabbed about everyone's business so freely. I don't understand why the writer went that route, but it just isn't possible or true to the real character of Melanie Hamilton.

However, other than that serious misstep, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and recommend it to others. Everyone involved in this book should be ashamed, as it is so obviously intended solely to make money off of GWTW fans. I fail to understand why the Mitchell estate selected this writer, who did not even bother to do a close reading of the original. And where was the editor?! There are so many errors in timing and details, I can't believe they weren't corrected. Everything from the color of Ashley's eyes grey, not brown! It's insulting to those of us who love GWTW, and the author and editor if there actually was one! And don't get me started on the anachronistic speech and utterly ridiculous interpretation of Melanie's character.

Awful, awful, awful. I'm sure that, like me, fans of GWTW will feel they have to read this book, but just be prepared to feel some righteous indignation. I'm tempted to write my own book! I had a hard time finishing this I wanted to finish it, wanting to be fair and hoping to change my mind. I am thoroughly convinced that, although he claims to have taken 12 years to write his novel, the author never took the time to read GWTW at all or if he did, he certainly didn't know the characters of this classic story.

It didn't have to be that way. He could have written a back story for Rhett and even a forward story for all the characters after Melanie dies that could be feasibly interesting and believable. Anything could have been better than Scarlett. But instead, he twists the characters around and turns them into people other than they were. Melanie, Scarlett, Suellen, Especially St. Melanie who turns out to be, in author McCaig's view, a gossiping shrew. Even Rhett was someone unrecognizable, and again, it didn't have to be that way. How anyone could think this books adds to the legacy of Gone with the Wind I'll never know; this book stunk so bad I was unable to finish it. Rhett Butler's People is better off ignored; the story line is ridiculous and choppy, and the writing is just awful, with no grace at all. Do not waste your time and money on this book; I am glad I did not pay money for it.

Although I do admit that it is fascinating to follow his long history with Belle Watling, among others, I am once again grossly disappointed. I cannot figure out who his target audience is. From a woman's perspective, too much of what I was reading for and hoping for was glossed over and other areas were too tedious and inconsequential for me to care about. It was interesting and at the same time a heart break. Particularly sad is the fact that it is very clear that a sequel is quite possible with his ending. Why mess with a good thing over and over again? Read GWTW. The pages of that are worth far more than Scarlett and Rhett Butler's People combined. A sequel to GWTW, penned almost a century later by a male author who is a Montana-born historian, who admitted he'd never read the original and when he finally did so reacted with, "Oh dear!

Come on, people--what did you expect? What did the Mitchell estate expect? Many novels have been written about the War Between the States, including an award-winning one by Mr. None, including Mr. Mitchell tells the story of the murder of a gracious, elegant way of life by the horrific realities of war. That we care about these characters to the point of buying "sequels" in best-selling numbers eighty years after the original was published is a tribute to Ms. Mitchell's skill. Let us not forget that Margaret Mitchell was first and foremost a Southerner whose family lived through the War and who grew up with first-hand stories of the death of antebellum life at the hands of the brutal hardships of war and its aftermath. She was a journalist with a talent for making interview subjects come alive for the reader.

A novelist writing many years later, dependent on secondary sources, will not achieve the response in a reader as a journalist in conveying the horror experienced by Great Aunt So and So in her tightlipped description of the facial expressions on the Yankees burning her home down around her after ransacking and looting everything of value. Such was Ms. Mitchell's gift. How lucky we are that she was born when and where she was, and had the inclination and ability to record these stories through the eyes of characters like Scarlett and Rhett, Ashley and Melanie in such a memorable way that it is now embedded in English-speaking culture.

No one else could have told this story with the same mix of passion, agonizing detail and journalistic detachment. A sequel to GWTW is asking too much of any author. GWTW was a magnificent accident of circumstance and talent, and should be left alone for generations of readers to enjoy. All this commotion over sequels is ridiculous and distracts from the power of the original. The Mitchell estate should be ashamed of itself. I'll say of RBP, just as I say of 'Scarlett', it's a great story involving characters whose names just happen to be the same as those in another, much greater

novel.

There are some really fine things in RBP--several loose ends tied up like the story of Belle Watling's son; some nice touches such as the origin of Ashley's yellow silk sash--that make for very satisfying reading. No, the Scarlett, Rhett, Melanie, Ashley, et al. How can we possibly expect an author of Mr. McCaig's background and sensibilities to truly understand, let alone extrapolate, the feelings and actions of characters about whom he said, "Oh dear Oh, the author is a fine writer and while he may have some small understanding of Rhett, he totally drops the ball on every other characterization. No idea what the Stephens Mitchell Foundation was thinking when they commissioned this novel.

Again, it was terrible! Such a waste of time and talent. I adored *Gone with the Wind*. In fact, I had to buy another copy because the ink was smeared and there were pages missing in my original. I didn't like it at all. It should have focused a lot more on Rhett, rather than Rhett and Rosemary. I didn't like the fact that the author added things that didn't happen in GWTW and glossed over things that did. I would have liked to see Rhett's breakdown. And what happened to Scarlett's miscarriage?! Those were all events that shaped Rhett's decision to leave Scarlett and they were basically ignored in favor of some stupid storyline involving Belle's son I don't care! It would have been nice to see his reaction, instead of two pages about it.

And he murdered Melanie! Melanie wasn't much of a gossip and she certainly wouldn't have even considered the idea that Scarlett loved Ashley. All in all, I wouldn't recommend it. Go read the original GWTW. I actually enjoyed this book. A lot. I went into it not expecting much after reading reviews on the store. I don't think Rhett is as different in this book as some of the reviewers would lead you to believe. He is lovesick, but I think he was always lovesick and he put on a show with his indifference.

Since this book is told more from his vantage point, you are going to see more of the heartache he felt than in other books such as *Gone with the Wind* or *Ripley's Scarlett*. I did not like the fleeing Atlanta sequence. I do feel Rhett was a little weak in this rewrite of that scene. I also want to know how the author felt he could skim over Bonnie's death and leave out the miscarriage all together. Everything that happened after *Gone with the Wind* was completely unnecessary. Whether or not there should have been, there is already a sequel written and the author should not have taken it upon himself to rewrite what Mitchell herself never wrote.

It definitely had it's flaws, but I think some don't give the author credit for his attempt to "explain" the softer side of Rhett - which I believe always existed. I think it was done in poor taste. That being said, I think if you have some time on your hands you should form your own opinions about this one. It was a quick read and a nice little book if you think of it as its own book and not a sequel to GWTW.

I rented this book from the library and I have mixed reviews that I wanted to add to the reviews. SO like my "title" if you haven't read GWTW it's a good read, slow at times but all in all a good read. The Author made Rhett seem like a love sick puppy - which I thought he was in my mind with Scarlett. Read the book and make your own mind up I, like many reviewing here, love GWTW. I like Scarlett as well, have read them both several times. So, I admit I was expecting RBP to keep to the plot as outlined in those books, which was probably not fair at least for the events of Scarlett.

But in the back of my mind as I read was the thought "But that's not what happened" and it was distracting. I really liked the idea of a book that explained Rhett further, and had it been more about him, and less about other characters I think it might have worked. I was looking forward to seeing things from his point-of-view, because we all see things differently.

But too much was different, characters not acting as we had learned to expect, Melly Wilkes is a glaring example. I think Mr. McCraig took on a very hard job, but I think in doing so he needed to understand the characters better. Was the book a good read? Yes, if you haven't read GWTW. Belle and Scarlett friends? Melanie overhearing how Scarlett truly felt about Charles? Not to mention what happens to Tara in the end, are you kidding? While in the book "Scarlett" there were many things I didn't agree with When they finally did reunite it was a great thing!

In this book, it was merely a flirty coming to terms! Basically, if you're a die hard GWTW fan, as I am, you'll read the book regardless, but I feel that it just would have been better letting our own imaginations tell us how our favorite hero and heroine ends up. Donald McCraig, with the Mitchell estate's blessing, has penned a novel that tells the story of Rhett Butler. Starting at Butler's childhood, we meet the people who shaped his life, getting to know the ones we knew better and the getting acquainted with the likes of his parents and his younger sister, Rosemary. What's wrong with this book, to borrow from a previous reviewer, is that many of those people whom we did not know, we simply do not care about them. What's really wrong with this book is that I liked Rhett being mysterious! I really do not want to see the underbelly and humanity of this swashbuckling hero of *Gone With the Wind*.

It was a labor of love to finish this book! I first read *Gone with the Wind* at 13, and immediately fell in love with it. Rhett always intrigued me because he didn't care what others thought and I found that so refreshing. I was elated when I found out that they were writing a sequel focusing on him. Once I started reading it I was disappointed. The writing was good but what disappointed me was I couldn't get through a section of the book without having to hear about prostitutes and death. I kept reading hoping that at some point the topic would change but it was the same over and over.

Donald McCraig presents a detailed portrait of those individuals who knew Rhett Butler both before and after Scarlett. If you are expecting a story retelling Margaret Mitchell's novel from Rhett Butler's point of view, you will be disappointed because this focuses more on Butler's family and acquaintances who influenced his life in the early years and after his marriage to Scarlett. McCraig cleverly weaves Mitchell's story through his, but he is careful not to become too repetitive, for, after all we've already "been there, done that. What an incredible disappointment this book is! Characterization is shallow and highly inconsistent with Mitchell's presentation of the dashing Rhett Butler. If you loved GWTW, don't bother with this story--it wouldn't be worth the price even if it was free! I really loved this book. I enjoyed seeing the events from *Gone With the Wind* as it pertained to Rhett's life and point of view.

I haven't read *Gone With the Wind* for a long time so the discrepancies people discussed really didn't stick out for me as I read the book. I remember really disliking the sequel "Scarlett" and was worried that I might not enjoy this one either. But this was so well-written. I loved Rhett Butler even more the more I read his thoughts and feelings and all his ways of helping other people. He is brought out as a fully rounded character in this book whereas in *Gone With the Wind* we don't get to see as much of him since the book is mostly about Scarlett.

I also enjoyed reading more about his sister and his relationship with her and her marital relationships. Someone complained about Melanie's character not being as steel-spined as she was in the original but I think perhaps it's because this book was not about Melanie and Scarlett so much as it was about Rhett and his life. Therefore he didn't spend as much time with Melanie's character as he might have if it had been called "Melanie Wilkes' People". Taking on a classic like *Gone With the Wind* must have been a daunting project for the author but I think he did an excellent job and I could hardly put it down. As a fan of GWTW this was a highly anticipated novel but it failed to deliver. There was no charm in this character and the timing, scenes, and characters didn't play out believably as a follow-up to GWTW.

The book was lukewarm in the romance dept and didn't provide enough historical detail to draw in the reader like Mitchell achieved in her novel. We deserved better. However, I decided to give Rhett a chance, and I'm glad I did. We are taken into battle, pushed through blockades, and cornered by a lynch mob. He also presents an entrancing view of the Low Country and spreads out an array of intriguing characters. Like GWTW, his time frame covers before the war, during, and after.

I confess I was initially a little startled when he depicted certain scenes from GWTW in Rhett's perspective, but it linked the books together. Like another reviewer, I don't think McCaig was at his best with Melanie, but I believe this book needs to be considered on its own merits for what it accomplishes: a big, sweeping story of courage, heartbreak, brutality, compassion, and hope. It made me like Rhett more than I already did. Even better, it kept me engrossed from start to finish, and what more do I need from a book? My recommendation is to stop pecking it to death with comparisons to GWTW, and just enjoy the good read. The story is told alongside the familiar tale of Scarlett and Tara, but from the perspective of Rhett Butler and those who knew him well.

We get to know Rhett as a boy and learn about his family, his struggles with his father, and the challenges that shaped his dark, mysterious character. Many questions are answered, from the reasoning behind Rhett's renegade reputation to the truth about the misunderstood Belle Watling. The reader gets a closer look at the heartache he experienced at the hands of his beloved Scarlett, from the barbecue at Twelve Oaks to the night he walked out of her life.

And to the delight of *Gone with the Wind* fans, McCaig takes the story a bit further to give readers the ending we've always imagined. Years ago, another novel, *Scarlett*, was written in an attempt to carry the story to a conclusion. I read the book immediately after I finished *Gone with the Wind* and I was sorely disappointed. The story seemed far-fetched, contrived, and untrue to the original characters. I couldn't ever imagine the story going in that direction. There are numerous parts of GWTW where I would like to see Rhett's psyche examined, like when he decides to leave Scarlett on the road to Tara, and numerous details of Rhett's history like what was the prank that got him expelled from West Point, and in my opinion none of the fascinating areas I thought would be expounded in this book were. I was also excited to see details on what was going on in Rhett's mind when he first sees Scarlett and why he falls for her, and this book gives such a superficial view of these events it is actually insulting, these details are glossed over with a couple of sentences I am not kidding.

There is no depth given to one of the greatest love stories in fiction. A travesty. What this book does is retells GWTW in numerous perspectives, but does not tell the same story. I mean literally essential details are completely changed, this is not new perspectives this is a different story! I did enjoy *Scarlett*, but any aftermath of the original story I will give the author some room for their own perspective and characterization and enjoy their thoughts, but Craig is actually going back into Mitchell's story and not even keeping the details or the characters true to the original.

I am appalled. No to mention this book does not hold your attention, I kept reading hoping for even a pale imitation of the excitement I got when I read GWTW or even *Scarlett* for that matter and by the time I turned the last page I was left unsatisfied. In these past 51 years I have re-read it at the very least 51 times. When *Scarlett* came out I immediately bought the book and loved how it seamlessly continued the great novel. It too left me wanting more of this great love story between Rhett and Scarlett and their passionate, all consuming love story. I was not long into reading it when I realized why it was being sold for less than the paper it was printed on. That was more than it was worth. McCaig's Rhett, Scarlett and the other characters of GWTW and *Scarlett* are deeply watered down versions of the bold, proud and passionate people of the first two novels of this great story.

Many of us have thirsted for more of what Rhett was up to during the time when he was absent in GWTW and *Scarlett* but this book did not even give us a drop on our parched tongues to satisfy that thirst. Rhett is reduced to a despondent, depressed, love sick traveler. He is nothing more than a drunk who cares little of where he is until the magic moment when the telegram arrives from Scarlett and suddenly he is rushing to her side. McCaig paints him as someone suffering from depression similar to bi-polar disorder. Scarlett tucks her tail behind her and runs for the country and allows herself and her family to be bullied and taken advantage of. The original *Scarlett* would have loaded a gun and sat in the yard waiting for the night raiders who were out to destroy the world she had clawed and dug her way back to after the war.

Even Miss Melly stands out as nothing more than a whining wife who has no back bone at all when in GWTW her spine was made of steel in spite of her genteel front. Ashley has been reduced to pudding and in the end nothing more than an absent minded old fool trying to cover the ruins of his past life with flowers. This book should never have been released.

It in everyway tries to re-write what McCaig apparently felt was a novel that needed changing. GWTW and *Scarlett* are two novels that can never be changed and McCaig is presumptuous in thinking that loyal readers would think his book any less than the rag it is for trying. My hope is if another writer decides to tell the stand alone story of Rhett Butler that they at least take the time to read GWTW and *Scarlett* to write a novel that can at least be connected to those two great novels. This novel has no connection to anything but McCaig's idea perhaps that his story was better than the original. He shows himself to be a fool. I have now read two sequels to GWTW I much prefer the way Rhett is depicted in this book. But

in this book, McCaig says, Rhett is a lover but tries to disguise this by acting the roles of adventurer and rogue. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this and felt it did a good job of bringing history alive. Definitely would recommend. She gets the majority share to pass to Wade Hampton.

At anyrate, this is a review for Rhett Butler's people. I think the names in *Scarlett* - Eleanor for Rhett's mother, not Elizabeth, Ross for his younger brother, not Julian - suit those character's much better, and having read *Scarlett*, naming the old place Broughton was very confusing for me. And Rosemary married?? I really wanted this book to dovetail into both *GWTW* and *Scarlett* somehow and it failed in that miserably.

I don't think it's very well written. I'm not finished yet, and if these reviews are anything to go by, I don't know that I'm looking forward to it. I find it horrible that thus far Belle Watling is more developed character wise than *Scarlett*. Where is the green Parisian bonnet? I'm pretty sure Pauline was supposed to be a spinster too. I don't think this author understood any of the original characters at all except for Rhett. Very disappointing. Then again, leaving out so many parts as he did, I'm not sure he even understood Rhett all that well either.

As if. Good luck to those who've not read it yet. If you've read *Scarlett* and liked it at all, you probably won't like this. If you hated *Scarlett*, I don't think you'll like it much either. BTW the *Scarlett* movie was horrendous. I can't believe I watched it. Those of us who are *Gone With the Wind* fans, junkies-whatever, crave the need for more. Of course I purchased this book the minute I saw it. I have to say as disappointing as it was to me-I really couldn't put it down. Obviously that book wasn't taken into consideration in this one, no problem. Really-we should all write our own endings, after all that is the beauty of not knowing what Margaret Mitchell would have wanted.

I thought a lot of the detail was plodgy and I found I really didn't care. A fun read yes, but much substance no. I will write my own ending. This is the first and only time I have written a review. I have never been inspired to do so until now because this book was so disappointing in so many ways. The writing is mediocre at best and the characters feel foreign. The title and concept suggest we will get to know Rhett and his background but that is hardly the focus of the novel. The characters feel flat and uninspired and the writing style is maddening at times. Instead of wasting your time with this, go read *Gone With the Wind* again. I have read *GWTW* many times and the sequel *Scarlett*, which is my favorite book many more times, I was sadly disappointed with Rhett Butler's People, while it was a good read, it did not collaborate with the already written sequel, don't you think Margaret Mitchell's Estate would of at least wanted the books to match somewhat?

One time to Ashley Wilkes. Belle Watling's character dies in *RBP*, but not in *Scarlett*, as does Will Bentin, in a foolish scene where *Scarlett* and Rosemary, go into town to stop the people who have been vandalizing Tara. Tara and the Peachtree house both are burnt down in acts of Arson. Rhett goes to England after he left *Scarlett* in *RBP*, but comes back when she needs him, part of the glory of *Scarlett* was that the story of her growing up and realizing love, and then Rhett's torn heart of wanting her, and not wanting her. I bought this book immediately, because I have always thought that Rhett's story should have been told, but not like this, this book ruined the integrity of so many characters, and was such a disappointment to me. I seldom read fiction don't have the time, but found this book at my dad's house while on vacation for a week. Thoroughly enjoyable. My only difficulty was remembering all the characters woven into this story, but that is my failing First of all, Mr.

McCaig has done a good job on several points with this novel. He elicits a very real sense of historical time and place. Most memorable here was the retreat of the Confederate troops from Atlanta. It was done pretty well visually in the *GWTW* film, but very well verbally here, without an excess of words. McCaig's own characters are interesting. Tunis Bonneau, Rhett's childhood friend and a freed slave's son, gives a perspective Margaret Mitchell wouldn't have conceived of. In addition, Rhett's sister Rosemary is very well developed here.

One gets the feeling that she is who *Scarlett* might have been if a man had written the character. There are a few negatives, though. I felt like some of Margaret Mitchell's characters got less care than then did in the original. Ashley and Melanie especially seemed out of character, a lot less dignified or genteel than they were in *GWTW*. Miss Melly writing about sex and seduction in a letter to a friend?

God forbid! And at times I found myself wishing for a clearer understanding of Rhett as there was of *Scarlett* in *GWTW*, and less so of his "people". If you loved *GWTW*, this is worth reading just to get a fix. I mean really, what can we expect? The reason we still care about them is because they were so skillfully wrought. It was like being invited to dinner at the home of some long lost friends. Both this and "*Scarlett*" were fun to read. Of course, some parts were real bad. I mean, why burn Tara?? Tara survived the Civil War, for God's sake! That really disgusted me. And the romance at the end was so forced, almost like the author's editor was screaming over his shoulder and he ran out of time.

But if you've ever enjoyed Twinkies or Ding Dongs, this is the just the literary version of such junk food. I guess my expectations weren't very high to begin with. It was entertaining in a tabloid-like way. For the past 24 hours I have been immersed in this fantastic book. It would be incorrect to call this a "sequel" for it is not. It is better than some sequel.

Instead it is a retelling of the same story we all know and love but from a new point of view We learn who Rhett was. Where he came from. The novel begins when Rhett is a boy. We learn about his family, both current and the scandals of the past that led to who he became. We learn all about the Watling family and how Belle Watling came to be a part of Rhett's life and why he was involved with her. We learn how and why Rhett came to be at Twelve Oaks that day, how he fell in love with *Scarlett* on first sight, before he even knew who she was. We learn why he was in the library, "hiding", when *Scarlett* begged Ashley to love her. And we learn about others too. We learn of Ashley's motivations -- did he ever love *Scarlett*? And why did Melanie always defend *Scarlett*?

Was she just stupid? The Wilkes family plays a big role in this novel. We learn of Rhett's enduring love for his sister Rosemary. We learn about Aunt Pittypat, we learn about the Watling family, and more. Best of all We learn what happened to Rhett, where he goes and what he does. We learn about *Scarlett*, going back to Tara, and what happens there. This novel is not written by some hack. The author has written other novels on the Civil War and won awards for these. He was chosen by the Margaret Mitchell Estate to write Rhett's story. I've only read *Gone With the Wind* once, but this novel fleshes out so many incidents not fully explained in the book.

I've seen the movie so very many times, like many American women, northern and southern. I felt like I knew every bit of it. This book makes me

want to see it again. It would be like a whole new movie, and I would know all the secret bits not explained. Though I read a lot, I am very picky about books. It's hard for me to find a book that I think is really good, especially in fiction. It's been so long since I picked up a book and fell into it and barely come up for air. I stayed up all night reading, then fell asleep most of the day, woke up this evening, picked it back up and read until I was done.

If you are a huge fan of the novel *Gone With the Wind*, you may find much to dislike here. But I found it a fascinating read and very well written. I really enjoyed reading it. I'm thinking maybe this should be a blog, not a review, but here goes. I passed the book up several times before buying it. I should have passed it up totally. There will be spoilers in this review because they are part of my problem with the book. First I started the book in the frame of mind that it was a sequel, or prequel. When the characters lacked depth and continuity to the first book, I tried to read it for its own merit.

The characters were shallow. The events that were important in *GWTW* were glossed over quickly and poorly written. Ashley the dreamer became Ashley the wimp. I did think that Rhett's sister Rosemary made a good match for him eventually. Mitchell said that *GWTW* was about survival. This book lost that quality and the characters had no mystery, in many cases their whole personality changed. I was totally disgusted by the senseless death of Will Banteen and the burning of Tara.

After all of the misery and tragedy faced by every single character, this author had the gall to write a happily ever after ending. Go figure? I was disappointed in the book, but something drew me to finish it. I think I kept looking for redemption. I did enjoy "Scarlett" although it certainly wasn't as good as Margaret Mitchell's writing. At least Ripley made an attempt to preserve the original characters and the style of writing. I managed to suffer through pages of "Rhett Butler's People" but I can't take anymore.

The writing style is crude and the dialogue is awful - nothing like Margaret Mitchell's writing at all. McCaig has completely destroyed the original characters and added a few whom I don't find remotely interesting. I'm throwing this book in the garbage. I listened to this book on audio cd's that I checked out from the library. Fourteen cd's are an awful lot to listen too. They became tedious after a while. But I finished it because I only leave absolutely rotten books unfinished. While the narrator, John Bedford Lloyd, did a nice job with the men's voices, I found it funny when he did the women's voices. Overall it was an okay companion book to *GWTW* but not great. Rhett Butler should challenge the Margaret Mitchell estate to a duel for the insult of this book! The best thing about that novel was its length short. He delivered the chapters to his editors as he finished them. The lawyers for the Mitchell estate were then invited to weigh in with criticism.

McCaig said with understatement. It's a much more complex environment than most novels are written in. The book begins with the most stereotypical scene in all antebellum fiction - the duel at dawn, two men meeting on the field of honor. That is as creative as the novel gets. The narration of the first chapters is confusing. Several characters are introduced quickly and the author offers little help for the reader to identify the speakers in long sections of dialogue. McCaig was not the Mitchell's estate first choice as author. As a Southern writer who is based in the Charleston area, Conroy would have been an intriguing choice. However, Mr. Conroy had reservations about the authorial freedom that the estate's lawyers would give him and withdrew from negotiations.

It is still great. I was so pleased to see *Rhett Butler's People* in the store last week. Then I read it. I'm all for fan fiction but you need to be true to the original characters. Miss Melly in this book was a totally different person than in Margaret Mitchell's book that it totally ruined the book for me. Was there a reason in the plot that she had to be so terribly different - no, I saw no reason for it. It made Scarlett's and Melly's friendship totally unbelievable.

There were some enjoyable parts and that is why I give it two stars. I did enjoy Rhett's friendship with Tunis and was brought close to tears with them. It could have been so much better. It starts out ok and gives a decent explanation as to Rhett not being welcome at home, but after that it is a travesty. Don't get me wrong, I love *GWTW* and Ripley did a very nice follow up with *Scarlett* but McCaig didn't really stick with either one and both are way older books than his is. At least he should have bothered with consistency! *Rhett Butler's People* is one of the most enjoyable books I've read in some time.

McCaig creates a tale that complements as well as adds new dimensions to the classic on which it is based. While it starts off a bit slow, it then grabs a hold of your attention and never lets go. The author makes you feel that you are right there with Rhett, Scarlett, Melanie, Ashley and several other multidimensional characters throughout all of their good times and bad times. Please don't be turned off from reading this memorable book because of the many mixed reader reviews. If you judge *Rhett Butler's People* strictly on its own merits I'm confident you will enjoy it like I did. However, if, like many other reviewers on the store, you pick it up because you expect it to be as good as *Gone With The Wind*, you'll likely be disappointed. *Gone With The Wind* is a classic and one of the biggest sellers of all time; and if this is your measuring stick against which you'll judge other Civil War novels, you'll continuously be disappointed. Do yourself a favor and read *Rhett Butler's People*.

It is obvious this man only gave the original story a cursory glance. His timelines which should mirror the original cannot even do that. I had such high hopes since I was one of the many who wasn't happy with the "other" sequel. And how many authorized sequels can you have anyways? Case in point, Mr. McCaig has Rhett's trip with Bonnie lasting over a year and in the company with Belle. The whole miscarriage, falling down the stairs is never mentioned. That was a major piece of important storyline that is missing. And after Rhett has gone to all the trouble to win over the "Old Guard" for Bonnie's sake, he would never risk that for her to be traveling with Belle. For me, this book did not show the least amount of respect to the original, much less even attempt to do it justice. To say something positive, I was able to read it all in a little over a day. I truly can't put in to words how far from good this book was.

It was as if *Gone with the Wind* was written for a man so he could "get through it" There are no romantic scenes, The author skips over most of the emotional points of the book in which I wanted to know how Rhett would feel. It was simply a book written about the civil war incorrectly at that and should not be allowed to be described as part of the *Gone With the Wind* Legacy. I was bitterly disappointed. The title alone was enough to entice me. Reading the negative reviews others had posted could not dissuade me. I just had to see for myself. My curiosity about the book is now

satisfied, but I'm not sure it was worth it.

The first part of the book about Rhett's childhood and young adulthood was by far the best part of the book. By the time the book crossed into the same timeframe already covered by GWTW and was retelling some of the same scenes, inaccurately, I might add, I had already invested too much time in the book to just stop reading, so I continued no matter how much it disturbed me that Margaret Mitchell's story and characters were being portrayed "differently". In my opinion, McCaig should have written this either as a prequel or as a parallel story, meaning same timeframe, but without retelling anything that was in the original book. The thing that I dislike the most about this book is that it retells scenes from GWTW, supposedly from Rhett's perspective, but does not bother to get the facts of the scene correct. Sometimes, the rewritten scene uses GWTW dialogue, sometimes not. Sometimes it uses the exact same characters as in the original scene, sometimes not.

It contradicts both the original and the sequel *Scarlett*. You can either believe the story as told in this book or you can believe the one told by GWTW and *Scarlett*, but you cannot believe all three books. They are mutually exclusive. A couple of other dislikes are the fact that he unnecessarily kills off way too many characters and the fact that some of what is written does not fit the time period the book is set in. Ladies of that day and time did not write about intimate marital relations or the lack thereof, and their sexual desires in letters to friends. Through Rhett's eyes we meet the people who shaped his larger than life personality as it sprang from Margaret Mitchell's unforgettable pages: Langston Butler, Rhett's unyielding father; Rosemary his steadfast sister; Tunis Bonneau, Rhett's best friend and a onetime slave; Belle Watling, the woman for whom Rhett cared long before he met Scarlett O'Hara at Twelve Oaks Plantation, on the fateful eve of the Civil War.

Of course there is *Scarlett*. Katie Scarlett O'Hara, the headstrong, passionate woman whose life is inextricably entwined with Rhett's: more like him than she cares to admit; more in love with him than she'll ever know. ... Brought to vivid and authentic life by the hand of a master, Rhett Butler's *People* fulfills the dreams of those whose imaginations have been indelibly marked by *Gone With The Wind*. Look on Amazon. View *Gone with the Wind* on Reading Length. Reading Length. Search for any book Search!

Rhett Butler's People | Anne Arundel County Public Library

His father often punished Rhett due to his lack of cooperative skills as his eldest son. Instead, Rhett spends time in the slaves quarters where he enjoys his time with Will a slave. One day, Will gets firmly punished due to disobedience towards a white overseer. Rhett, unable to see his friend getting whipped continuously and having no power to stop it, takes the boat to escape the chaos, and vows to grow up and never be helpless again. The novel continues through the time covered by *Gone with the Wind* and retells the story. The story is not told solely from Rhett's perspective. It proceeds to relate other moments from the time during the original novel and then adds a new ending. The book only goes a short way past the timeline of *Gone with the Wind* unlike the sequel *Scarlett*, which travels several years further.

However, he stated that the novel transformed Rhett from the man of mystery that drew readers to him into "a version of the angst-ridden, on-the-make, love-struck antihero of modern fiction: Rhett Butler as channeled by Rabbit Angstrom [of *Rabbit, Run*] or T. Garp [of *The World According to Garp*]. This article on a novel about the American Civil War is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it. See guidelines for writing about novels. Further suggestions might be found on the article's talk page. This article about a war novel of the s is a stub. This article about a romance novel of the s is a stub. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Book by Donald McCaig. This section needs expansion. You can help by adding to it. November Yahoo News. October 28, Archived from the original on Retrieved The New York Times. The Washington Post. Overall I thought that this book did a good job at staying true to the characters and spirit of GWTW, with a few exceptions. McCaig did a great job at not making anything be too over-the-top.

I look forward to reading McCaig's book on Mammy. What happened after Rhett left *Scarlett*? Who was he before *Scarlett*? All these questions and more are answered in this exciting novel that merges scenes from "*Gone with the Wind*" with Rhett's story. An excellent addition to one of the best novels written. Margaret Mitchell would've been pleased. Overall, I liked the story. Unfortunately I didn't really care for the writing style. It seemed choppy, and jumped around. Personally, I didn't like the new ending. It seemed too wrapped up. Almost like it was thrown in to say, "see it did end happily! I did. In the romance department, it was lacking that "woman's touch". This book had too much of the war detail for my taste, however, I did enjoy reading more about Rhett. Fanfic by someone not a fan. Fairly interesting, fairly well-done. I couldn't not read it, somehow. I haven't read GWTW in ages and frankly my dear, it didn't knock me out the last time I assayed it, so I was not particularly bugged by the disconnects I noticed between it and this.

Another authorized sequel from the Margaret Mitchell estate. Apparently, they went through more than a few writers before settling on McCaig, and I have to say he does a pretty good job with a nearly impossible task. I like McCaig's writing style and I enjoyed seeing the familiar characters live again, as well as finding out more about Rhett's origins. Still, I have to wonder, as I did when I read "*Scarlett*" back in , is this really what would have happened in the tomorrow that *Scarlett* always talked about. This was a good book. It was a little confusing at times because it jumped around quit a bit. As a massive fan of *Gone with the Wind*, and as someone who genuinely enjoyed *Scarlett*, I thought this book was extremely disappointing. It reads as if the author had perhaps skimmed the original *Gone with the Wind*, or watched the movie without paying much attention. Details such as Rhett's mothers name are wrong - inexcusable! The characterization of *Scarlett* in particular is abhorrent..

I would not recommend this book to anyone. I acknowledge that there are probably significant differences between the book and movie but in a way it worked in my favor. It allowed there to be a number of surprises in *Rhett Butler's People*. Somewhat to my surprise, I really enjoyed *Rhett Butler's People*! It was cool to gain insights as to Rhett's youth. At certain points, familiar events would pop up that would make me smile. For example, Rhett is waiting on a train and has a conversation with a friend: "Have you anything on this afternoon? Wouldn't you like a day in the country?"

John Wilkes's son is getting engaged and John is hosting a barbeque. Everyone is invited. Twelve Oaks hospitality The story was both romantic and thought-provoking. Not only do you follow along with Rhett, but anyone who is part of his life, ranging from his younger sister to his lady friend Belle Watling. Following the highs and the lows of Rhett's life, one can't help but become emotionally attached to the characters! I learned

things about characters that I would never have expected, and developed a whole new appreciation for some of the characters. After Rhett Butler's People, I really feel for the woman! If you enjoyed either the book or the movie *Gone With the Wind*, I highly recommend this book! I thought it would seem a bit redundant, but it was actually a lot of fun to read! I won't give away the end, but I personally thought it was well written. Check it out some time! If you like "Gone with the Wind" then you will like this novel. This story tells where he went and what he did.

It has the rich detail and character of Margaret Mitchell's Book and it rounds out the story nicely. It's a true love story of bygone times. I have been an enormous fan of *Gone with the Wind* since I first saw the movie and then realized after reading the book how much had been missing, so when I saw this book on the Library shelves, and saw that it was authorized by the Margaret Mitchell estate, I had to read it. I'm certainly glad I did. All those nagging questions that made me read and re-read GWTW, were finally answered to my satisfaction and delight. This is the story based on the character Rhett Butler from *Gone of the Wind*. Rhett is the same dashing, witty, rogue who scandalizes Atlanta and yet manages to win every lady's heart. This book which runs concurrently with GWTW answers all the behind the scenes questions that are just innuendos there.

Why was Rhett at the BBQ, how did he know the Wilkes', why was he 'not received' in Charleston homes even his own, what's his relationship with Belle Watling? All these questions and so many more are detailed and explained through a riveting and poignant love story that is seen in a new light. McCaig amazing that a man can write with such feeling manages to tell the tales of not just Scarlett and Rhett, but his sister Rosemary, his friends, Melanie and Ashley, and even Belle Watling. I can understand if some Southerners do not feel that their area came off in a good light in this book, however, since Mr.

McCaig was dealing with pre-existing characters and events, it would have been extremely bad form to try to change them beyond how they were originally written. I have read other sequels and they did not appear to be as well researched or written as this book when laid alongside of Margaret Mitchell's original masterpiece. Obviously, Donald McCaig studied and I definitely mean studied GWTW to find all the tiny incidents that reference Rhett, his family and his character so that he could expound on them and broaden Rhett's persona to where it would rival Scarlett. They truly were a pair that belonged together. Whenever I read a book I often wonder about the characters own history.

What has brought this character to this moment? So when I saw this book I thought who wouldn't want to know more about the rogue Rhett Butler. I wasn't as thrilled with the story as I wanted to be. It skipped around a lot and each story was interesting but I was expecting more information on Rhett and not on everyone else too. I was surprised when I saw this on the library shelf. I found out soon enough when I listened to it. It's bad. Go to the bottom of this review, though, for some things I liked. I'm not a "Windy," although I know sorta-"Windies," and have seen the movies and listened to the audio books.

Explanations: "Windies" are like "Trekkies" only mostly female and, of course, better dressed. The other movie is "Scarlett". So, I wanted to like "Rhett Butler's People" but couldn't. It shares the same problems "Scarlett" does. It fluctuates between continuing the story and starting all over again. It views the South critically and then sympathetically. The plot works and then blows up and then works and then blows up It's a historical novel, no it's a romance, no it's an apology, it's antireligious, no it's not, it's unbelievable, it's only a story You know how in the slasher movies you cringe when you hear "let's split up. Well there are dozens of those situations here. Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara. Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. What wonderful, larger-than-life, amazing characters. Handsome and beautiful. Tough and competent. Shrewd and conniving. Hateful and loving.

What I liked: At the end of the printed version, the author admits his inaccuracies. I like to think he was jerked around by editors and the estate to explain the other problems with quality and plotting. Some of the descriptive scenes are marvelous. So much so in the beginning of the book, I was enthralled. I liked Tunis and Tazewell. Most of all I liked the narrator's "Clark Gable" voice. This novel can't be called a sequel to "Gone With the Wind," because it occupies the same space in time. It is more like a parallel novel, fleshing out the character of Rhett Butler and following the course of HIS life, filling in all the gaps and answering all the questions Margaret Mitchell left dangling in her famous book. This story is rich and deep, filled with many of the same characters from Ms.

Rhett Butler's People by Donald McCaig | Books, Rhett butler, Margaret mitchell

November Yahoo News. October 28, Archived from the original on Retrieved The New York Times. The Washington Post. The Daily Telegraph. Archived from the original on November 21, November 4, Novels portal United States portal. *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. Houghton Mifflin Co. Authority control. WorldCat via Library of Congress. United States. Namespaces Article Talk. Views Read Edit View history. Released: Nov 6, ISBN: Format: Book. About the author DM. Read more. Reviews What people think about Rhett Butler's People 3. Rate as 1 out of 5, I didn't like it at all. Rate as 2 out of 5, I didn't like it that much. Rate as 3 out of 5, I thought it was OK. Rate as 4 out of 5, I liked it.

Rate as 5 out of 5, I loved it. Rating: 0 out of 5 stars. Write a review optional. What happened after Rhett told her he did not give a damn? Rhett Butler always was one to speak his mind, even to his father which did not make for an easy childhood but he learned to stand on his own two feet. A lesson that was invaluable throughout his life, especially during the war. Yet it was those two feet that kept coming back to Scarlett, for better or worse. In business, he knows when to fight and when to cut his losses but how does that translate to his personal life? Yes, a bit long but it kept me entertained. This gem gives us unknown insight into Rhett's past and we discover connections we could only have guessed at.

I mean who could have known that Rhett is essentially the reason that Belle Watling became a fallen woman? Then there is the story that continues after where the original left off. Mrs Sahuna Imran. Cathcarte Puryear blinked. I'm a renegade. I wasn't a big fan of Scarlett by Alexandra Ripley but I did end up enjoying this book much more than Scarlett. This book shows vastly different sides to some of the characters of GWTW. While I didn't quite agree with McCaig's portrayals of certain characters mostly Melanie I did understand why he portrayed them as he did and didn't think that they were too outlandish. I loved the mix between old and new characters and found the plot lines regarding both as equally interesting. Personally, I enjoyed getting to see a different and softer side to Rhett. I liked getting to read McCaig's version of Rhett's childhood and seeing how McCaig thought Rhett was driven to become the man he was.

Overall I thought that this book did a good job at staying true to the characters and spirit of GWTW, with a few exceptions. McCaig did a great job at not making anything be too over-the-top. I look forward to reading McCaig's book on Mammy. What happened after Rhett left Scarlett? Who was he before Scarlett? All these questions and more are answered in this exciting novel that merges scenes from "Gone with the Wind" with Rhett's story. An excellent addition to one of the best novels written.

Margaret Mitchell would've been pleased. Overall, I liked the story. Unfortunately I didn't really care for the writing style. It seemed choppy, and jumped around. Personally, I didn't like the new ending. It seemed too wrapped up. Almost like it was thrown in to say, "see it did end happily! I did. In the romance department, it was lacking that "woman's touch". This book had too much of the war detail for my taste, however, I did enjoy reading more about Rhett. Fanfic by someone not a fan. Fairly interesting, fairly well-done.

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Check Availability. Add a Review. Add To List. The bestseller now in trade paperback for the first time to coincide with the publication of the author's new book. Twelve years in the making, the publication of Rhett Butler's People marks a major and historic cultural event. Through the storytelling mastery of award-winning writer Donald McCaig, the life and times of the dashing Rhett Butler unfolds. Through Rhett's eyes we meet the people who shaped his larger than life personality as it sprang from Margaret Mitchell's unforgettable pages: Langston Butler, Rhett's unyielding father; Rosemary his steadfast sister; Tunis Bonneau, Rhett's best friend and a onetime slave; Belle Watling, the woman for whom Rhett cared long before he met Scarlett O'Hara at Twelve Oaks Plantation, on the fateful eve of the Civil War.

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I learned things about characters that I would never have expected, and developed a whole new appreciation for some of the characters. After Rhett Butler's People, I really feel for the woman! If you enjoyed either the book or the movie *Gone With the Wind*, I highly recommend this book! I thought it would seem a bit redundant, but it was actually a lot of fun to read! I won't give away the end, but I personally thought it was well written. Check it out some time! If you like "Gone with the Wind" then you will like this novel.

This story tells where he went and what he did. It has the rich detail and character of Margaret Mitchell's Book and it rounds out the story nicely. It's a true love story of bygone times. I have been an enormous fan of *Gone with the Wind* since I first saw the movie and then realized after reading the book how much had been missing, so when I saw this book on the Library shelves, and saw that it was authorized by the Margaret Mitchell estate, I had to read it.

I'm certainly glad I did. All those nagging questions that made me read and re-read GWTW, were finally answered to my satisfaction and delight. This is the story based on the character Rhett Butler from *Gone of the Wind*. Rhett is the same dashing, witty, rogue who scandalizes Atlanta and yet manages to win every lady's heart. This book which runs concurrently with GWTW answers all the behind the scenes questions that are just innuendos there.

Why was Rhett at the BBQ, how did he know the Wilkes', why was he 'not received' in Charleston homes even his own, what's his relationship with Belle Watling? All these questions and so many more are detailed and explained through a riveting and poignant love story that is seen in a new light. McCaig amazing that a man can write with such feeling manages to tell the tales of not just Scarlett and Rhett, but his sister Rosemary, his friends, Melanie and Ashley, and even Belle Watling. I can understand if some Southerners do not feel that their area came off in a good light in this book, however, since Mr. McCaig was dealing with pre-existing characters and events, it would have been extremely bad form to try to change them beyond how they were originally written. I have read other sequels and they did not appear to be as well researched or written as this book when laid alongside of Margaret Mitchell's original masterpiece.

Obviously, Donald McCaig studied and I definitely mean studied GWTW to find all the tiny incidents that reference Rhett, his family and his character so that he could expound on them and broaden Rhett's persona to where it would rival *Scarlett*. They truly were a pair that belonged together. Whenever I read a book I often wonder about the characters own history. What has brought this character to this moment? So when I saw this book I thought who wouldn't want to know more about the rogue Rhett Butler. I wasn't as thrilled with the story as I wanted to be. It skipped around a lot and each story was interesting but I was expecting more information on Rhett and not on everyone else too.

I was surprised when I saw this on the library shelf. I found out soon enough when I listened to it. It's bad. Go to the bottom of this review, though, for some things I liked. I'm not a "Windy," although I know sorta-"Windies," and have seen the movies and listened to the audio books. Explanations: "Windies" are like "Trekkies" only mostly female and, of course, better dressed. The other movie is "Scarlett. So, I wanted to like "Rhett Butler's People" but couldn't. It shares the same problems "Scarlett" does. It fluctuates between continuing the story and starting all over again. It views the South critically and then sympathetically. The plot works and then blows up and then works and then blows up It's a historical novel, no it's a romance, no it's an apology, it's antireligious, no it's not, it's unbelievable, it's only a story You know how in the slasher movies you cringe when you hear "let's split up.

Well there are dozens of those situations here. Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara. Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. What wonderful, larger-than-life, amazing characters. Handsome and beautiful. Tough and competent. Shrewd and conniving. Hateful and loving. What I liked: At the end of the printed version, the author admits his inaccuracies. I like to think he was jerked around by editors and the estate to explain the other problems with quality and plotting. Some of the descriptive scenes are marvelous. Returns accepted for full refund for up to two weeks from purchase date if received in unchanged condition items which are in their original packaging, such that that packaging constitutes part of their collector value, must be returned with that packaging unchanged. Orders usually ship within business days. Shipping costs are based on books weighing 2. If your book order is heavy or oversized, we may contact you to let you know extra shipping is required.

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See scans. A highly regarded - and authorized - sequel to "Gone With the Wind", generally regarded as far surpassing earlier, unauthorized attempts at that. Ships in a new, sturdy, protective box, of course - not a bag.

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