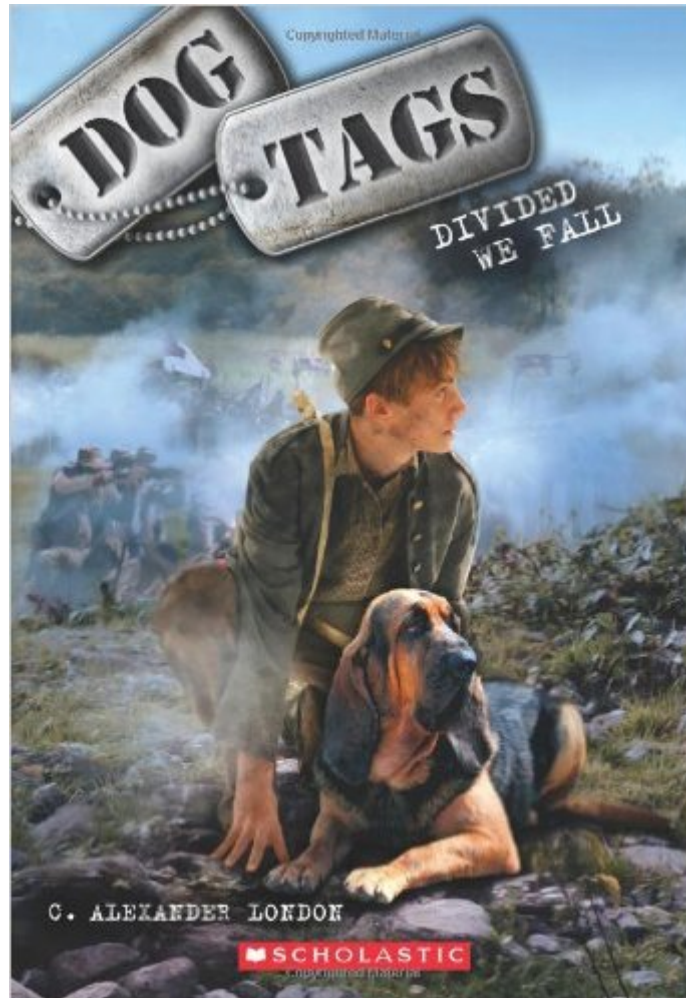


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# Dog Tags #4: Divided We Fall



## Synopsis

Man's best friend goes to war. LOYALTY ABOVE ALL ELSE. Andrew believes in the importance of loyalty. He is loyal to his family. He is loyal to his hound dog, Dash. And he is loyal to his country, the Confederate States of America. Although he's too young to join the Confederate Army, Andrew is welcomed into the Home Guard, a group of men who track down deserters and runaways. He and Dash make a great team. But hunting people is very different from hunting raccoons. And soon Andrew's loyalty will be tested like never before. Dog Tags is a series of stand-alone books, each exploring the bond between soldier and dog in times of war.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920 (What's this?)

Series: Dog Tags (Book 4)

Paperback: 186 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; 1st edition (April 29, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545477077

ISBN-13: 978-0545477079

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #83,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #115 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #611 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

“War makes boys into men before their time,” Pa had said. I hadn't even seen the war yet, not really, and I already felt about a hundred years old. Divided We Fall by C. Alexander London Andrew is a twelve year-old boy during the Civil War. His older brother Julius is a soldier in the Confederate Army. His older brother was forced to enlist because their father was too bad off to be of any service to the Confederate Army. While Julius is gone he writes his family and he tells them about what is going on, what he is going through, and how awful it is to have seen the

elephant. Andrew is jealous that Julius is able to fight in the War so he ends up helping the Home Guard hunt down and catch War Deserters with his dog Dash. The two of them make a good pair when it comes to hunting down those that have committed crimes against the cause. Eventually however, they get a letter saying that his brother has gone missing and that they don't know where he is just where he had last been. This upsets Andrew and his parents and eventually Andrew and Dash go out in search of Julius. Do they find Julius? Is he alive or dead? Did he desert his post? What was going on that made him not want to be in the Army anymore? Can Andrew and Dash make things right? As you are reading you will have many questions similar to these and I can promise in due time you will get the answers you seek. I have really enjoyed this series. This particular book is well written and very attention grabbing. I had a difficult time putting it down, which wasn't easy since I was mostly reading it on my breaks at work. I really enjoyed seeing both Andrew and Julius grow up within the pages of this book. I also enjoyed reading about the Civil War.

The book is aimed at 4th to 7th graders. The book's cover, description, and on-line marketing are so inaccurate that it's reasonable to characterize them as intentionally deceptive. As an introductory anti-war polemic for young people, it's fine and effective. If you're looking for a story about a boy and his dog and loyalty to family and "country", look elsewhere. The rating reflects that a purchaser will not get what they believed they purchased. The author (to his credit) explains at the end of the book that one of his inspirations was the Red Badge of Courage. He also makes no bones about the fact that it is not historically accurate. (No surprise to adult readers familiar with any original Civil War correspondence, histories or even documentaries.) London has extensively written about children in war and is obviously an advocate for children. However, this book gives no indication until after a few chapters that young readers will be subjected to graphic descriptions of Civil War battlefield deaths and lengthy dissertations by utterly anachronistic characters about pacifism and the futility of war, culminating in [SPOILER] the main character and his brother actively deserting. Finally, the boys' desertion is not based on self-discovery, learned opposition to slavery, or switched political allegiances to the Union. Instead, their motivation is fear of getting blown up. Good thing the boys weren't on the Union side. Don't market a book as "Where the Red Fern Grows, the Child's Civil War Edition", when it is really an exposition on the futility and nihilism of war. Don't have the back cover of a book aimed at young boys say, "LOYALTY" and then have the main characters switch sides out of fear (even if justified).

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