Abstract

Double helix of black and white

Marly Youmans’ novel, The Wolf Pit, is the winner of the 2001 Michael Shaara Award for Civil War Fiction sponsored by Jeff Shaara and the U.S. Civil War Center. Other works include: Little Jordan (David R. Godine, Publisher, 1995); Catherwo....

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The Wolf Pit contains two somewhat parallel stories. We are first introduced to Robin, a Virginian fighting in the Civil War in the days surrounding the battle at The Crater. Shortly thereafter, we meet a slave named Agate. Robin and Agate, and the people by whom they are surrounded, are very interesting characters. Art by Clive Hicks-Jenkins. In THALIAD, Marly Youmans has written a powerful and beautiful saga of seven children who escape a fiery apocalypse—though "written" is hardly the word to use, as this extraordinary account seems rather "channeled" or dreamed or imparted in a vision, told in heroic poetry of the highest calibre. Amazing, mesmerizing, filled with pithy wisdom, THALIAD is a work of genius which also seems particularly relevant to our own time. --novelist Lee Smith.