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Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives

By Kathryn Calhoun Lemon Distinguished Professor of History
 Carol K Bleser, Associate Professor of History Lesley J Gordon

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2007. Paperback.
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 Mary Lee to Ulysses S. and Julia Grant, Intimate Strategies of
 the Civil War examines the marriages of twelve prominent
 military commanders, highlighting the impact wives had on
 their famous husbands careers. Carol K. Bleser and Lesley J.
 Gordon assemble an impressive array of leading scholars to
 explore the marriages of six Confederate and six Union
 commanders. Contributors reveal that, for many of these men,
 the matrimonial bond was the most important relationship in
 their lives, one that shaped (and was shaped by) their military
 experience. In some cases, the commanders spouses proved
 relentless and skillful promoters of their husbands careers.
 Jessie Fremont drew on all of her connections as the daughter
 of former Senator Thomas Hart Benton to aid her modestly
 talented husband John. Others bolstered their military spouses
 in less direct ways. For example, Ulysses S. Grant s relationship
 with Julia (a Southerner and former slave owner herself) kept
 him anchored in stormy times. Here, too, are tense and
 tempestuous pairings, such William Tecumseh Sherman and
 his wife Ellen-his...



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