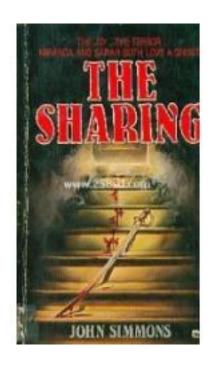
The Sharing



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Gettysburg, predawn

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Yesburg, you can still find a cluster of basswood trees that lean

together slightly, like old men talking. There are four of them,

hundred feet tall, and their branches bear broad,

heart-shaped leaves that spread thick shade. Even today a deer

will hesitate beneath them after drinking from a nearby stream;

from a nearby stream;

or and for many years the tallest tree was home to a family of

for > Coopers hawks, who like to build their hidden nests high up

off the ground. Neither the flowers of the basswood, which

scent the young summer air, nor their rough gray bark give

on the early morning of July 1, 1863, that

or Captain Alan Reynolds and three Union privates met a

dozen
 Confederate soldiers and death, in that order. Captain Rey-
 lds--of the Fourth New Jersey Cavalryi'/4Œ Gamble s Brigadei'/4Œ
 Buford s First Division--had been on a scouting patrol. Acting Sr > as vedettes 14 or mounted picketsi¼Œ he and his men rode forward

from the Jar right side of a membranous line of cavalry that
 stretched from McPherson s Ridge to Oak Hill, covering four

four<b to regroupii¼Œ and before the first light of dawnii¼Œ they
 did. Two of the men had sighted an advancing Confederate
 reconnaissance in force. Once beneath the treesi¼Œ all prepared
 to return to the Union line. At that momenti¼Œ a little before five

br > in the morningi¼Œ they were ambushed.
 The captaini¼Œ who had belonged to Kane's Bucktails before

yoining the cavalryi'/4Œ was twenty-five years old. He was a tall

br > man with a thick mustache and dirty blond hair grown shaggy.

br > He had a thicki¼Œ straight brow and a longi¼Œ sharp nosei¼Œ and the or > red skin that stretched across his angular face had been hard-of > ened by two years of war. Only his eyes 4E gray to black and set of > deep 4E were soft 4E though the men of Company A thought they < br > were balefuli 1/4 © sometimes ominousi¼Œ and before a battle they
 avoided his stare. On this misty morning that began Julyi¼Œ the
 captain rode without gloves or a hati¼Œ dressed in a dusty coat.
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