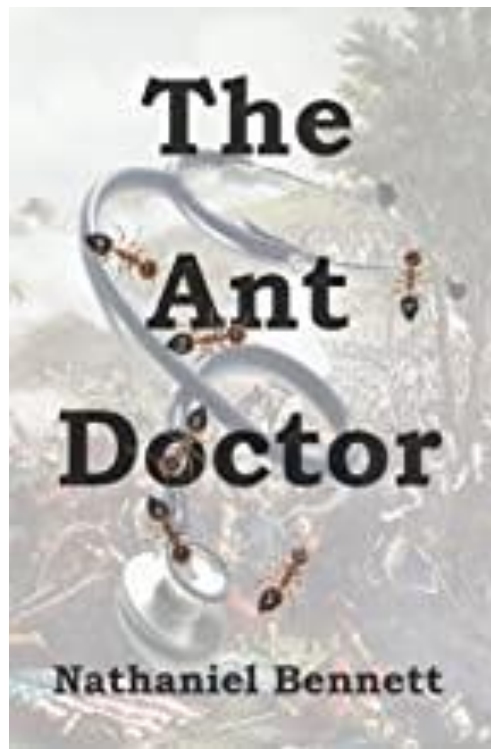


The Ant Doctor



By Nathaniel Bennett

Reviewed by M. J. Hudon

The Ant Doctor by Nathaniel Bennett is a post-civil war adventure full of virtuous heroes and dishonorable villains. The main character, Jonathan Haggan, is a blend of a southern gentleman, the Lone Ranger, and a dash of Chuck Norris. With his no-nonsense friend, a freed slave, Moses beside him, the two travel until they find a place to build their home and a community.

Educated, honorable, and wise to the world's ways, the two share many adventures, establish a civil society within their town, and punish any scoundrels who get in the way.

Bennett's well-written story moves back and forth through time weaving vignettes from his characters' lives together in such a way as to keep the reader engaged and bring the ending to a satisfying fruition.

*Some may have trouble with the use of era-related language if they haven't read the Author's Note beforehand.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

I purchased *The Ant Doctor* because I liked its cover and title. I was anxious to read it to see who or what the ant doctor was. The story began with a young man lying in the hot sun in pain. He thinks he may have been shot but wasn't sure. He ached all over, was miserable and worst of all, he had this sensation of crawling all over his body. After a while, he discovered, to his horror, that the crawling sensation was due to red ants, and they were eating him alive!

His name is Daryl Haggan. And thus began the story of his and his family's history. It's a good story of the Old South, the evil institution of slavery, slave catchers, abolitionists, and the Civil War.

This book is well-written, full of interesting characters, both good and evil. And it has a satisfying ending. I recommend this book for one and all.

Reviewed by Larry Danek

I took this book to read while on a round-trip flight of three hours each way. I planned to read one half in each direction but found it hard to put down. I finished the book in my hotel room despite a hectic schedule. This Civil War era novel was well researched and quite entertaining. I did find the book wasn't written in a straightforward way and bounced around a bit through different time periods. It caused me to stop and think back to where the current chapter related to a past one. It didn't stop me from enjoying the book and I highly recommend it.

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

At first glance, the title of the book might suggest a story about an entomologist, a person studying ants and other insects. That is not the case, although upon reading the story one will discover that there is a doctor and there are ants.

This is a story of a family set against the backdrop of the American Civil War. Jonathan Haggan is a son of the old slave-owning South, but an individual who has different, perhaps radical opinions regarding many of the practices of the time. While he could stay and control his family's plantation, he sets out on a different path. The story relates his tale as well as the tales of many of his family and friends, tying all together at the end.

This is a book one will read in a minimum number of sittings, as it is nearly impossible to put down.

Reviewed by Sue Eller

The Ant Doctor spans an era that includes the pre- and post-Civil War years in the United States. Nathaniel Bennett has a unique way of telling the story in that he skips around in location and time. Follow the adventures of the young son who throws off the influences of his slave-owner father and finds his unique path to freedom.

Reviewed by Kevin Hostbjor

A wonderful read. I picked up this book after meeting the author at a craft fair and thoroughly enjoyed it. Set within the backdrop of the civil war and all the horrors and bigotry of the era, the story follows characters surviving the war with honor and kindness. Written well, it brings the characters full circle and concludes in a realistic and satisfying manner. Recommended.



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