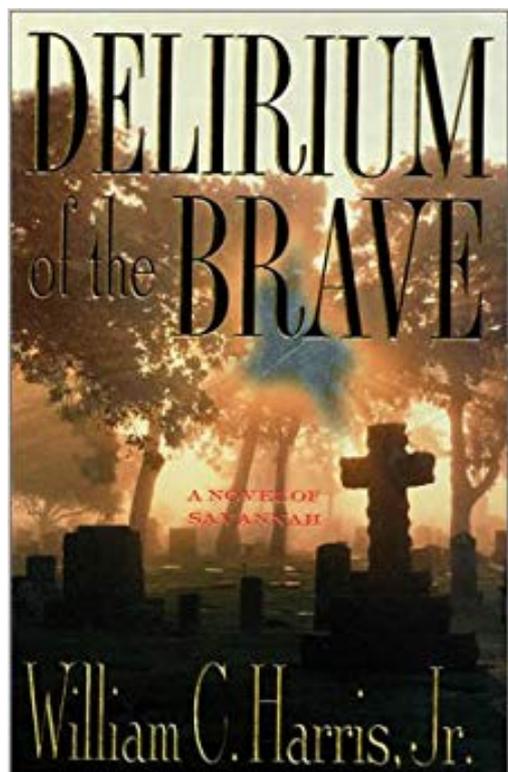


## **Delirium of the Brave** by Dr. William C. Harris, William C. Harris



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Savannah, 1864. Confederate Captain Patrick Driscoll and his dear friend and manservant Shadrack "Shad" Bryan leave their tearful families to help fight for the Southern cause. They are to set up fort at Raccoon Island off Georgia's coast in a last-ditch effort to save their beloved city from Union attack. But only days into their assignment, the two men die in each other's arms in a Yankee bombardment. Though the men are gone, their legacy will live on-as will the legend of the priceless Driscoll family treasure the two men have buried on Raccoon Island. Four generations after the Civil War, many Confederate families still remain in Savannah, struggling through the twentieth-century in a South rife with hardball politics, personal vendettas and the hangover of war. John-Morgan Hartman, son of a newspaper man and great-great grandson of Captain Patrick Driscoll, goes to serve his country in Vietnam, unaware of the physical and psychological wounds that will befall him... Tony O'Boyle is an ambitious young politician who will stop at nothing and spare no one to get ahead-but his family's dark past will come back to haunt him... Lloyd Bryan, descended from slaves, is determined to succeed where his ancestors didn't. But his celebrity as a professional football player immerses him in a world of temptation that ultimately turns him toward religion... Charlotte Drayton, a successful television reporter, has always used her beauty to get her way-but the one man she can't have is the only one she wants... After many years, four friends will meet on the very island where the two confederate soldiers died in each other's arms. To find where they buried Driscoll's treasure-and to uncover the dangerous secrets of a prominent Savannah family. A gripping novel of history, intrigue, war, and love, *Delirium of the Brave* follows four generations of families contemplating the pain of the past and the promise of the future. Get swept away by this glorious saga rich with the sights, sounds, flavors, and people of the South's most stunning locale.



## Reviews of the **Delirium of the Brave** by Dr. William C. Harris, William C. Harris

*Aradwyn*

Harris' "Delirium of the Brave" was a pleasant surprise. Many turns and twists, coupled with interesting characters, make this book more than a fun read. For those interested in Savannah, Delirium, is a must read.

*Linn*

I have read this book twice and enjoyed it both times. I like a story with historical background. The plot was interesting enough to keep me entertained and involved with the characters.

*Cells*

I love anything that has to do with history and places that I have visited. It is an interesting book.

*blac wolf*

I find it difficult to believe that writing this poor could find a publisher.

*Kerdana*

Reading this book was a wonderful experience. On the historical side the picture painted of Savannah was beautiful and enticing, full of the rich Southern and Irish-Catholic heritage that Savannah is so proud of. The families portrayed were full and in-depth studies of the individuals and their family heritage, good and bad. The novel begins with a unique bond between two good men, one a white Confederate soldier, the other a slave. The bond is friendship and trust. The novel traces family history in an intriguing plot involving serial murder, betrayal, greed and also love, brotherhood, trust and true faith. The families' lives intertwine again and again through history. This novel was far different that what I had expected it to be about, but I can say I was not at all disappointed. I was very moved by the strong key role that the characters faith in God and their relationship to the Catholic faith played and how it was their strength and life saver in their many struggles with betrayal, disappointment, drugs, war and death. From the Civil War to Vietnam and beyond this was a wonderfully crafted novel. This is not the typical "Irish Sad Story", where when it's over you heave a big sad sigh. This is a wonderful tale of a family, true love and a rich faith in a beautiful Southern setting.

*Doath*

I picked up DELIRIUM OF THE BRAVE because I thought it was historical fiction. As it happens, the "historical" portion of the book ends with the first chapter. Then it becomes a generational saga reaching from the 1930s up through the 1990s. I quite enjoyed reading it, but I feel sorry for the agent who had to categorize this debut novel in their pitch to publishers, and the shortcomings to this book make it difficult for me to recommend it without several caveats.

It starts with a Civil War vignette, but it's not historical fiction. It has a brief mystery in it, but the mystery is solved almost immediately. There is a Vietnam character study, but it is so hastily and superficially written that it can't be measured as a major part of the work. There is a huge amount of

a religiosity, focusing on Catholic guilt and redemption, but that becomes an annoying subplot rather than a narrative lynchpin. I came to look at DELIRIUM OF THE BRAVE more as a series of set pieces featuring the same characters than I did a truly linear novel. Some characters show up long enough to get you interested in them, and then Mr. Harris makes them disappear for 200 pages.

My writer friends tell me that it is imperative that you say dialogue out loud in order to determine if it feels and sounds "real." It is painfully clear that Mr. Harris either never heard or did not follow this advice. The dialogue is absolutely awful; nobody would actually speak in this stilted, herky-jerky fashion. He is much more successful with his characters' internal, emotional journeys. While some aspects of the story are rushed through in an obvious attempt to get to the next "big plot point," others are explored in an interesting way, and it is this that kept me turning the pages.

There were no surprises here for me - it was fairly easy for me to predict the sequence of events and how the book would end, but DELIRIUM OF THE BRAVE was still mostly pleasant to read for this frequent visitor to Savannah. I'm told that if you grew up in this gorgeous City and are familiar with its denizens, you can guess at the identities from whom Harris borrows for the accuracy of the story. I can make no such claim, but I know I'd be curious to hear what really happened.

Even though this debut had its problems, I'm still looking forward to reading Mr. Harris' follow-up, NO ENEMY BUT TIME. The stories he finds to share are excellent; it will be interesting to see if his writing style improves as he gains experience.

*Jelar*

It is with interest that I picked up this book based on the glowing reviews here on Amazon. I like novels of American history, and I am especially fond of generational sagas. However, I must confess that I was very disappointed, because even though the story holds a great deal of promise in terms of its plot and location, it is very badly written.

My chief gripe is the very poor character development. The reader gets to know very little of any of the characters because the author has attempted to cram so much into their lives. For example, one of our heroes loves a girl, loses girl, takes up with another, goes to war, suffers dreadful injuries, studies to become a priest, takes a break from this, miraculously recovers from injuries and finds girl again. Any of these elements of his life is worthy of closer scrutiny, but they are all glossed over in the unseemly haste to make this a sprawling epic.

Even the bad guys get a rush job. None of the elements of a truly evil character are really brought to the fore, and they are by far the most interesting people in this busy novel.

And to add insult to injury the ending was so predictable that I could have screamed. After all I had only persevered with it to find out how it ended. I could have given it 1 star for the writing, but I decided to give it 2 stars in order to acknowledge that it could have been a really magnificent novel. Finally a novel about Savannah that is realistic!! Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" stereotypes the city. Harris is actually FROM Savannah, and the book is not fake. I happen to attend Benedictine Military School, where part of this novel takes place, and I must say that Harris' description of the school is very real, the characteristics are still the same today as they were in the 60's when the book takes place. Finally, Savannah has a novel that is not fake -homosexuality or the "backwardness" of the south are simple labels placed by various stereotypical authors who aren't even from the area.

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