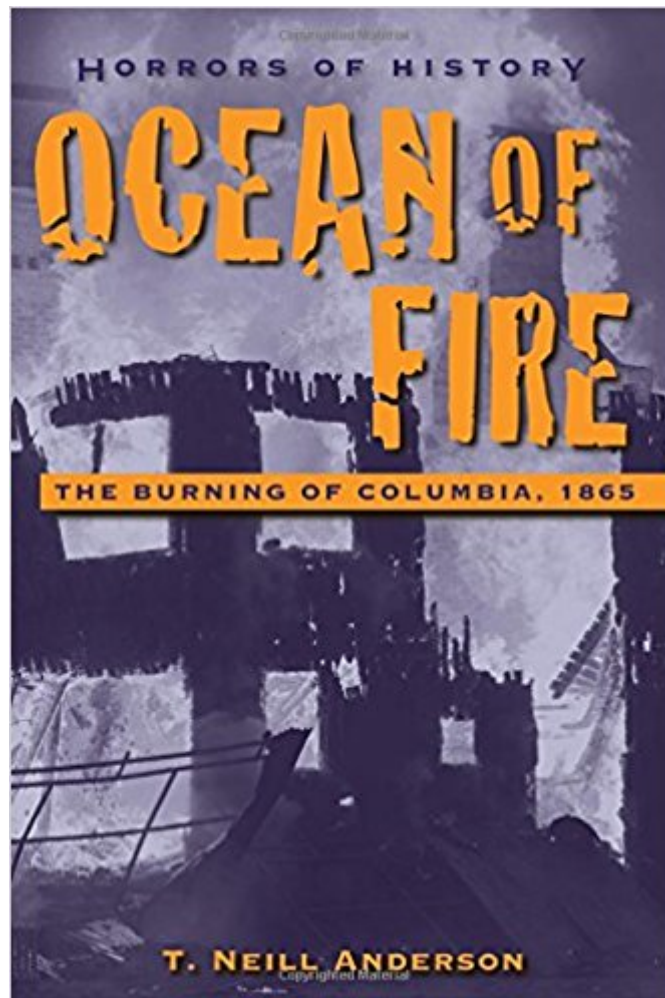




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# Horrors Of History: Ocean Of Fire: The Burning Of Columbia, 1865



## Synopsis

Based on the actual fire that swept through Columbia, South Carolina, after the city surrendered to General Sherman's Union troops, *Ocean of Fire* details life in the South at the end of the American Civil War. Supported by thorough research, narrative accounts of actual historical persons as well as fictionalized characters comprise the novel. Follow 17-year-old Emma, her family, and potential Confederate spy, Charles Davis, as a chaotic community tries to survive a blazing firestorm. The second book in the *Horrors of History* series, *Ocean of Fire* makes history accessible, questioning who could have started this controversial fire and exploring how the closing weeks of the war affected citizens and slaves alike.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Series: *Horrors of History*

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580895166

ISBN-13: 978-1580895163

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.8 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,282,434 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in *Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Period* #88 in *Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period* #131 in *Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century*

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

*Ocean of Fire* presents the events of the burning of Columbia, South Carolina, in 1865 by General William T. Sherman's army, as seen by 17-year-old Emma LeConte, who is trying to protect her family from the Yankee soldiers; her uncle and father, who are taking supplies out of the city so they don't fall into enemy hands; and Reverend Porter, a local resident. Other characters include Charles Davis, a Yankee soldier who seems to be a spy, and Lieutenant

McQueen, an officer in the Northern army who protects Emma's family from harm at the hands of Sherman's men. Unfortunately, the amount of historical detail compromises the novel's readability. The pace is slow and the language is dry. The foreshadowing of the tragedy is overpowering as all of the scenes in the first half of the book appear to be included simply to point out how easily the city could burn, and the alternating points of view distract from the immediacy of the events. The characters' voices are not distinct, and so many people are introduced that readers don't become fully invested in their plight. It's a struggle to remember who they all are and what role they are playing in the unfolding story. This novel will not generate much traffic.

— Tammy Turner,  
Centennial High School, Frisco, TX

T. Neill Anderson is a writer and editor living in Brooklyn, New York. This is his second book for young adults and the second in the Horrors of History series.

I received the author's first book, Horrors of History: City of the Dead from LibraryThing Early Reviewers, not realizing it was written as a juvenile book, somewhere in the middle-school to high school range. It was a fictionalized account of the 1900 Galveston hurricane and included lots of true historical details and actual photographs so that, even if the writing was a little simplified for teenagers, I still enjoyed reading it. So I sought out this book, the second in the author's Horrors of History series, and was not disappointed. This is the story of the burning of Columbia, South Carolina during the Civil War, centering mainly on one family living in Columbia. The author writes that it is based on actual written accounts of the events, and maps and pictures are included. I think of this series as "History for Dummies" and have learned a lot from these two books. I look forward to the next book about the 1918 flu epidemic.

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