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# FIRST DARK

A Buffalo Soldier's Story



*From the author of WILL AND DENA*

Bob Rogers

# FIRST DARK: A BUFFALO SOLDIER'S STORY

ISBN: 978-1-61434-751-4

## ABOUT THE STORY:



**I**saac Rice, a teenager on a South Carolina rice plantation, traveling alone, follows a treacherous route filled with incredible hardships and danger to escape from slavery. Too young to be a soldier, the Union Army hires him to shovel coal on a gunboat. Thus begins Isaac's westward journey, in which he encounters storms, stampeding buffalo, and the hate of zealous patriots whose causes are antithetical to the nation he is sworn to defend. Undaunted, he pursues respect and dignity on an odyssey from the middle of the Civil War in South Carolina's Low Country and the Mississippi Heartland, to the Indian Wars on the Great Plains and deserts of Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico.

Isaac's is an historically correct epic tale of young North Americans coming of age amid the violence of the U.S. Civil War, Indian Wars, Reconstruction, and spillover bloodshed from a Mexican Revolution. Telling Isaac's story required extensive research of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century books, official documents, and letters, plus multiple visits to relevant geographic locations over a period of twenty years.

A memorable set of characters revolve around Isaac - a Confederate guerilla, a black female activist in a Mississippi Constitutional Convention, a Mescalero Apache warrior, a white Union cavalry sergeant, and a Mexican nurse - who raise their voices and bare their souls as the world they seek constantly changes, bringing tragedy to their lives and danger for Isaac.

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## About the Cover:

The Don Stivers Gallery granted special permission for the use of the painting "Proud to Serve."

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Bob Rogers**, author of *Will and Dena*, is a former army captain and combat leader during the Vietnam War in Troop A, 1/10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He was a charter member of the Baltimore, MD chapter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry Association. Bob lives in Charlotte, NC.

Visit Bob's blog at: <http://www.bobrogers.biz/id3.html>

