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A horseman in the sky by ambrose bierce pdf reading order

Was there anyone on the horse?""Yes.""Who? The Union assigns Druse to a remote outpost since he knows the terrain. Perhaps he would now turn and ride carelessly away.Then Carter looked down into the valley so far below. He loved his parents, his home and the south. The main character is Carter Druse, an only child who decides to join the Union. The only witness to the death is an officer below, whom sees the horseman falling over a thousand foot vertical cliff, appearing to fly as an apparition, hence A Horseman in the Sky. He seemed to look at Carters face, into his eyes, and deep into his brave, generous heart.Carters face became very white. He saw a line of men in blue uniforms and their horses, slowly leaving the protection of the forest. Carter would not receive a medal for his actions. If he dropped a stone from the edge of this cliff, it would fall for six hundred meters before disappearing into the forest in the valley below.Giant cliffs, like the one Carter lay on, surrounded the valley.Hidden in the valleys forest were five union regiments -- thousands of Carters fellow soldiers. As he lifted his head, he saw a man on horseback standing on the huge rocky cliff that looked down into the valley.The rider and his horse stood so still that they seemed made of stone. Carter knew that this man must be shot from ambush -- without warning. Then he said, "As of this moment you are a traitor to the south. Druse decides to kill the Confederate horseman which "At that instant the horseman turned his head and looked in the direction of his concealed foeman--seemed to look into his very face, into his eyes, into his brave, compassionate heart." Druse's decision was to protect the Union's position in the valley below. Words rang in his head -- the last words his father ever spoke to him: "No matter what happens, be sure you always do what you think is your duty."Carter Druse was calm as he pulled the trigger of his gun.At that moment, a Union officer happened to look up from his hiding place near the edge of the forest. His entire body began shaking. His eyes climbed to the top of the cliff that looked over the valley. Now they were resting. The identity of the horseman is not revealed until the end of the story, when we learn it's Druse's father, a Confederate spy. But this time he pointed his gun at the horse. A small squeeze of the trigger, and Carter Druse would have done his duty.At that instant, the horseman turned his head and looked in Carters direction. But the man and his horse seemed to be of heroic, almost gigantic size, standing there motionless against the sky. The sound died without an echo. His hair streamed back, waving in the wind. "Why are you making this into a mystery. Just looking at the top of the gigantic rock, so far above him, made the soldier feel dizzy.And then the officer saw something that filled his heart with horror. Please dont tell your mother about your decision. A messenger who had come to announce the end of the world. ""My father."Announcer: You have heard the story called, "A Horseman in the Sky." It was written by Ambrose Bierce, and adapted for Special English by Dona de Sanctis. And he aimed for the horsemans heart. But he showed no other sign of emotion. At almost the same instant, he heard a crashing sound in the trees. Fortunately, no one could see him. Its body was proud and noble.As the frightened Union officer watched this horseman in the sky, he almost believed he was witnessing a messenger from heaven. Your storyteller was Roy Depew.For VOA Special English, this is Shirley Griffith. The horse looked as if it were galloping across the earth. A foolish Union officer had permitted his soldiers to bring their horses to drink at a small stream near the forest. That was why Carter Druse had been sent to guard the road.It was his duty to be sure that no enemy soldier, dressed in gray, spied on the valley, where the union army was hiding.But Carter Druse had fallen asleep. Carter did not turn his head as the sergeant kneeled beside him."Did you fire?" The sergeant whispered. "Yes.""At what?"A horse. But at midnight they would climb that road up the rocky cliff.Their plan was to attack by surprise an army of southerners, camped on the other side of the cliff. The officers legs grew weak, and he fell. He falls asleep, but is awakened by an angelic force just in time to witness a mysterious, statuesque horseman who has identified the Union regiments, but has not yet discovered Druse's position. He falls asleep, but is awakened by an angelic force just in time to witness a mysterious, statuesque horseman who has identified the Union regiments, but has not yet discove This is a short story detailing the account of difficult choices during wartime. He knew no one would ever believe him.Soon after firing his gun, Carter Druse was joined by a Union sergeant. She is sick, and we both know she has only a few weeks to live."Carters father paused, again looking deep into his sons eyes. Suddenly, as if a messenger of fate came to touch him on the shoulder, the young man opened his eyes. And that person would feel very dizzy, looking down. But he loved his country, too. Perhaps the southern soldier had not seen the northern troops.Perhaps he was only admiring the view. And there they were -- in plain sight!Carter Druse looked back to the man and horse standing there against the sky. Its not there now. Anyone standing on the top of this high rock would be able to see down into the valley. Here is Roy Depew with the story.Narrator: Carter Druse was born in Virginia. Because his family is from Virginia, he is considered a traitor to Virginia and his father. And in the autumn of eighteen sixty-one, when the United States was divided by a terrible civil war, Carter Druse, a southerner, decided to join the Union Army of the north.He told his father about his decision one morning at breakfast.The older man looked at his only son for a moment, too shocked to speak. The mans gray uniform blended with the blue sky and the white clouds behind him. This man must die without a moment to prepare his soul; without even the chance to say a silent prayer.Slowly, a hope began to form in Carter Druses mind. Carter discovered he was very much afraid, even though he knew the enemy soldier could not see him hiding in the bushes.Suddenly the horse moved, pulling back its head from the edge of the cliff. In fact, if his commanding officer were to see him, he would order Carter shot immediately.For Carter was not dead or wounded. "Carter," he said, "No matter what happens -- be sure you always do what you think is your duty." Both Carter Druse and his father left the table that morning with broken hearts. He raised his gun, pushing its barrel through the bushes. He went back to his camp. And all was silent.The officer got to his feet, still shaking. He was hidden by some bushes, growing by the side of the road.The road Carter Druse had been sent to guard was only a few miles from his fathers house.It began in a forest, down in the valley, and climbed up the side of a huge rock. A man on a horse was riding down into the valley through the air!The rider sat straight in his saddle. He was sleeping while on duty. The sergeant did not understand."See here, Druse," he said, after a moments silence. His left hand held his horses reins while his right hand was hidden in the cloud of the horses mane. This is a short story detailing the account of difficult choices during wartime. It was on that rock. But he didnt tell anyone what he had seen. He held a gun in his right hand, and the horses reins in the other.Carter could not see the mans face, because the rider was looking down into the valley. He was on his stomach, his arms still holding his gun. Instead, he let go of his gun and slowly dropped his face until it rested again in the dirt.Brave and strong as he was, Carter almost fainted from the shock of what he had seen.Is it so terrible to kill an enemy who might kill you and your friends? ...more www.manythings.org/voa/stories Download MP3Our story today is called, "A Horseman in the Sky." It was written by Ambrose Bierce. And Carter soon left his home, and everyone he loved to wear the blue uniform of the Union soldier.One sunny afternoon, a few weeks later, Carter Druse lay with his face in the dirt by the side of a road. But if their enemy learned about the Union Army hiding in the forest, the soldiers would find themselves in a trap with no escape. His mind began to race, and in his fantasy, the horse and rider became black figures, rising and falling in slow circles against a fiery red sky.Carter did not pull the trigger. Again he took aim. It went over the cliff." Carters face was white. I order you to report. They had marched for thirty-six hours. Carter was completely awake now.

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