

I survived the battle of gettysburg

i Survived the Battle of Gettysburg: A Screenplay Treatment ** **The air hung thick with the stench of cordite and fear. A symphony of screams, the thunder of cannons, and the desperate cries of men pierced the oppressive stillness. This was Gettysburg, July 1863. For the soldiers who fought and lived through this cataclysmic clash, the war was no longer an abstract concept; it was a physical, visceral maelstrom that etched itself into their souls. This screenplay treatment, "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg," aims to capture the raw emotion and intimate experience of this pivotal moment in American history, through the eyes of a young, terrified private. We will explore the psychological toll of war, the camaraderie forged in the crucible of battle, and the enduring legacy of sacrifice.** *The Crucible of War: A Soldier's Perspective This screenplay centers on Private Thomas "Tommy" Malone, a 19-year-old Irish immigrant drafted into the Union Army. We follow Tommy's journey from the initial bewilderment of the battlefield's chaos to the horrors of the second day's brutal fighting around Little Round Top. The narrative isn't just about military strategy; it's about the human cost. We'll see the terrifying realities of combat—the sudden, brutal deaths, the agonizing wounds, the desperate attempts to survive. We'll see the fear in Tommy's eyes as he grapples with the overwhelming realization that this isn't some grand game of strategy, but a fight for survival.*

The Psychological Impact of Battle

Tommy's experience mirrors the mental struggles of countless soldiers. We will explore the concept of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a nuanced way, not as a diagnosis, but as a series of responses to trauma. Using imagery and internal monologues, we portray the nightmares, the flashbacks, the recurring anxieties, and the persistent sense of unease that Tommy carries after the battle. This approach allows the audience to connect with the character's inner turmoil and empathize with his psychological scars.

The Bonds of Camaraderie

The story won't shy away from the darkness of war, but it will also celebrate the resilience of the human spirit. We will show how camaraderie forms in the face of adversity. Tommy's relationship with a seasoned veteran, Sergeant Miller, will evolve from fear and deference to mutual respect and trust. Sergeant Miller serves as a father figure, mentor, and confidante. These moments of connection, though often fleeting, are vital to the narrative. They showcase the power of human connection and the enduring bonds formed amidst the horrors of war.

The Shifting Landscape of Gettysburg

The screenplay will meticulously depict the historical landscape of Gettysburg. The narrative will weave in the strategic importance of key locations like Little Round Top, Cemetery Ridge, and Devil's Den. Using detailed descriptions and immersive cinematography, the screenplay will transport the audience to the battlefield, allowing them to witness the scale and intensity of the battle firsthand. We can utilize historical documents to accurately depict the terrain. This will ground the story in reality and heighten the sense of immersion. Case Studies in Storytelling: • Saving Private Ryan (1998): This film masterfully portrays the psychological toll of war through the eyes of multiple soldiers. By focusing on specific characters and their experiences, it resonates deeply with the audience. • **The Hurt Locker (2008): This film effectively captures the intense claustrophobia and visceral nature of combat in Iraq. The focus on the internal struggles of the characters helps us understand the human cost of war.** • **Platoon (1986): This powerful film uses flashbacks and internal monologues to reveal the psychological turmoil experienced by the characters, as they grapple with the brutal realities of war.** Illustrative Scenes: • Scene 1: The Draftees –

A chaotic scene of men being assembled and marched towards the unknown. The fear and bewilderment of the new recruits are palpable.

- Scene 2: The First Blood - **The opening of battle, the sheer terror of the onslaught of the artillery fire.**
- Scene 3: Beneath the Tree - Tommy's encounter with a wounded comrade and the grim reality of survival.

Benefits of This Screenplay:

- Historical Accuracy: **The screenplay will strive for historical accuracy while remaining engaging and accessible to a modern audience.**
- Emotional Resonance: **By focusing on the emotional impact of the battle on a young soldier, the film will appeal to viewers' empathy and understanding.**
- Universal Themes: **The themes of courage, sacrifice, and the human spirit's resilience are timeless and will resonate with audiences long after the credits roll.**

Conclusion: **"I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg" will not just recount the battle; it will attempt to convey the enduring human impact. The film aims to explore the psychological turmoil of war, the strength of human bonds, and the profound sacrifice made by those who fought in this pivotal conflict. By using vivid imagery, compelling character arcs, and a strong narrative structure, the screenplay strives to bring the horrors and heroism of Gettysburg to life on the screen.**

Advanced FAQs:

1. How can the screenplay balance historical accuracy with dramatic license? **The script will use historical research and consult with historians to ensure accuracy. Dramatic license will be reserved for enhancing character development and driving the narrative forward, without compromising the integrity of the historical event.**
2. What is the intended audience for this film? **The target audience is a broad one, encompassing history buffs, war film enthusiasts, and anyone interested in exploring the human cost of conflict.**
3. How will the screenplay approach the sensitive topic of PTSD? **The screenplay will depict PTSD symptoms realistically, through Tommy's internal struggles, without sensationalizing the condition. It aims to offer a nuanced perspective on the long-term impacts of trauma.**
4. What role does music play in shaping the atmosphere and emotional impact? **A powerful and evocative original score is crucial to setting the atmosphere and deepening the emotional impact. Music will serve to underscore the tension, convey the fear, and capture the awe-inspiring heroism.**
5. How can the film evoke the visceral experience of combat without gratuitous violence? **The script will use powerful imagery, dialogue, and emotional tension to create a sense of horror and intensity without resorting to graphic violence. The focus will be on the human experience, rather than on gratuitous gore. This treatment provides a foundation for a compelling and thought-provoking film about one soldier's harrowing journey through the Battle of Gettysburg, ultimately exploring the universal themes of war and human endurance.**

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg: A Glimpse Through the Eyes of a Soldier

The name "Gettysburg" echoes through history, a somber testament to one of the most pivotal and bloodiest battles ever fought on American soil. For three sweltering days in July 1863, the fate of the nation hung precariously in the balance as the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia clashed in a maelstrom of cannon fire, musket volleys, and desperate bayonet charges. While history books meticulously document troop movements and strategic decisions, the true visceral experience of such a cataclysmic event is often lost in the grand narrative. This is where the imagined personal account, "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg," comes to life, offering a raw, human perspective on the unfolding horrors and the enduring spirit that persevered. Imagine, if you will, a young Union soldier, perhaps barely out of his teens, thrust into the heart of this inferno. He's not a general strategizing on a map, but a foot soldier, clutching his rifle, his heart pounding a frantic rhythm against his ribs. He's seen skirmishes before, heard the distant roar of artillery, but nothing could have prepared him for the sheer scale and ferocity of Gettysburg. His story, etched in the annals of imagined survival, becomes a powerful reminder of the individual sacrifices that shaped the course of the American Civil War.

The Calm Before the Storm: An Uneasy Peace

The days leading up to the battle were marked by an almost palpable tension. Rumors of General Lee's advance

into Pennsylvania had spread like wildfire, igniting a mix of fear and determination. Our fictional protagonist, let's call him Private Thomas Jenkins, recalls the dusty roads, the tired but resolute faces of his fellow soldiers, and the ever-present buzz of anticipation. They knew something significant was brewing, but the full, terrifying scope of it remained shrouded in uncertainty. The idyllic farmland of Pennsylvania, a stark contrast to the war-torn landscapes they had become accustomed to, offered a fleeting, almost mocking, sense of peace. Little did they know, this tranquility was merely the deceptive hush before the tempest.

Day One: The Shock of Engagement

The morning of July 1st dawned with an ominous stillness. Then, the distant rumble of artillery began. It started as a whisper, then grew into a deafening roar that shook the very ground. Private Jenkins describes the initial confusion, the frantic calls to arms, and the hurried deployment. The Union forces, initially positioned north of Gettysburg, found themselves outmaneuvered and outnumbered. The fighting that ensued was brutal and chaotic. Waves of Confederate soldiers surged forward, their Rebel yell a chilling sound that echoed across the fields. Jenkins remembers the acrid smell of gunpowder, the screams of wounded men, and the desperate struggle for every inch of ground. He saw friends fall, their lives extinguished in an instant, and the grim reality of warfare became an undeniable, suffocating presence. The strategic importance of McPherson's Ridge and Seminary Ridge was hammered home with every desperate charge and counter-charge.

Day Two: The Bloody Triangle - Little Round Top and the Wheatfield

The second day of Gettysburg, July 2nd, is etched in military history as arguably the most brutal. The battle raged across a vast expanse of farmland, with iconic locations like Little Round Top, Devil's Den, and the Wheatfield becoming synonymous with unimaginable carnage. Private Jenkins' narrative would likely focus on the desperate defense of Little Round Top. Imagine him and his comrades, exhausted and out of ammunition, being ordered to hold the vital high ground at all costs. He'd describe the hand-to-hand combat, the desperate bayonet thrusts, and the sheer grit it took to repel repeated Confederate assaults. The struggle for the Wheatfield, a seemingly innocuous patch of land, became a meat grinder, with both sides suffering horrific casualties. The fighting was so intense and prolonged that the very soil seemed to weep blood. The Union defensive line, a crescent shape stretching from Culp's Hill to Little Round Top, was pushed to its breaking point.

Day Three: Pickett's Charge - The Confederate Gamble**

The climax of the Battle of Gettysburg arrived on July 3rd with what is now infamously known as Pickett's Charge. After two days of heavy fighting, General Lee, convinced of the Union army's weakened state, ordered a massive frontal assault across open fields towards the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. Private Jenkins would have witnessed this spectacle from the Union perspective, an almost surreal experience. He'd describe the sight of thousands of Confederate soldiers, impeccably dressed and marching in ordered ranks, advancing under a hail of artillery and musket fire. It was a breathtaking, yet horrifying, display of bravery and folly. The Union artillery unleashed a devastating barrage, tearing gaping holes in the Confederate ranks. Those who survived the artillery barrages then faced the relentless volleys of Union riflemen. The charge, though valiant, was a catastrophic failure for the Confederacy, marking a turning point in the battle and the war. The shattered remnants of the Confederate army retreated, their hopes of invading the North dashed.

The Aftermath: A Landscape of Devastation and Resilience**

The silence that followed the battle was deafening, a stark contrast to the preceding days of thunderous noise. Private Jenkins, surveying the scene, would be overwhelmed by the sheer scale of devastation. The fields were littered with the dead and dying, a grim tableau of human suffering. The smell of death hung heavy in the air. He'd describe the arduous task of tending to the wounded, both friend and foe, and the overwhelming sense of

relief and exhaustion. While he had survived, the scars, both physical and emotional, would remain. The **Battle of Gettysburg significance** was now undeniable. It was a victory for the Union, a crucial turning point that shifted the momentum of the war. But it came at a terrible cost. The **impact of Gettysburg** on both armies was profound.

Lessons Learned and Enduring Legacies

The story of "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg" isn't just about the horror of war; it's also about the resilience of the human spirit, the bonds of brotherhood forged in the crucible of combat, and the profound sacrifices made for a cause. It's a reminder that behind every historical statistic are individual lives, hopes, and dreams that were extinguished or forever altered. The **Gettysburg National Military Park** stands today as a solemn memorial to these sacrifices, allowing visitors to walk the very ground where history was made and to contemplate the immense human cost of the Civil War. The **Union victory at Gettysburg** was a turning point, but the **Confederate defeat at Gettysburg** signaled the beginning of the end for their cause. For those seeking to understand the human element of this monumental conflict, delving into imagined personal accounts like "I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg" offers a powerful and moving experience. It humanizes the conflict, allowing us to connect with the soldiers who lived through these harrowing events and to appreciate the extraordinary courage and resilience they displayed. The **significance of Gettysburg** cannot be overstated, and through the eyes of those who were there, we gain a deeper, more profound understanding of its enduring legacy. The **civil war battle of Gettysburg** continues to captivate and educate, reminding us of the sacrifices that shaped the nation we are today. The **civil war in Pennsylvania** was never more intense than during those fateful three days. The **Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg** stands as a poignant reminder of the immense loss. While the battle itself was a complex tapestry of military strategy and individual bravery, imagining a soldier's personal narrative allows us to grasp the sheer terror and the indomitable will to survive that characterized the Battle of Gettysburg. The **American Civil War** was a period of immense upheaval, and Gettysburg remains one of its most defining moments.

Surviving the Battle of Gettysburg: A Testament to Resilience and History

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought over three pivotal days from July 1 to July 3, 1863, stands as one of the most consequential engagements in American history. More than a military confrontation, it marked a turning point in the Civil War, where the tide decisively shifted away from the Confederate cause. For those who lived through those harrowing moments—soldiers and civilians alike—the experience was not merely a test of endurance but a profound chapter in the human story of survival amid chaos.

An Unprecedented Clash of Arms

The battle unfolded in and around the small Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg, where Union and Confederate forces clashed with unprecedented intensity. Over 160,000 soldiers engaged in fierce combat across fields, woods, and high ground, enduring relentless artillery fire, close-quarter combat, and the constant pressure of advancing armies. What made Gettysburg unique was not just the scale, but the speed and ferocity of the fighting—studies estimate that more than 50,000 casualties were sustained in just three days, from long hours of brutal engagement. This was a battle where strategy, courage, and sheer will were tested in real time, shaping the fates of nations.

Key Insights: The Turning Point in Civil War Strategy

Historians often emphasize Gettysburg as the moment when Confederate momentum collapsed. General Robert

E. Lee's gamble to invade the North faltered under the weight of Union defensive strength and tactical resilience. The failed assault known as Pickett's Charge on the third day became a symbol of the Confederacy's inability to break through well-prepared Union lines. Beyond the immediate outcome, the battle reshaped military doctrine, highlighting the growing lethality of rifled muskets and artillery that demanded new forms of trench warfare and coordination. These lessons influenced future battles and underscored the devastating human cost of unchecked ambition.

Applications Beyond the Battlefield: Lessons in Resilience

While the historical significance of Gettysburg is undeniable, the personal narratives of survival offer timeless lessons. For soldiers enduring cannon fire and bayonet charges, survival often depended not only on physical strength but on mental fortitude, unit cohesion, and quick adaptation under pressure. These elements resonate far beyond the 19th century—modern discussions of crisis response, leadership under stress, and team dynamics echo the experiences of those who stood shoulder to shoulder in the fields of Pennsylvania. The battle reminds us that resilience is forged not in comfort, but in the crucible of adversity.

Benefits of Remembering Gettysburg Today

Understanding the Battle of Gettysburg enriches our appreciation of democracy's fragility and the price of unity. It grounds historical memory in human emotion, transforming numbers into stories of bravery, loss, and endurance. For educators, it serves as a powerful tool to teach not only strategy and tactics but also empathy, moral courage, and civic responsibility. For visitors to the battlefield, walking the grounds offers a visceral connection to the past—where every stone and tree whispers echoes of courage and sacrifice.

Future Outlook: Preserving Memory for Generations

As digital archives and immersive technologies advance, the story of Gettysburg evolves while retaining its core power. Virtual tours, interactive timelines, and oral histories ensure that the lessons of survival and sacrifice remain accessible to global audiences. Looking ahead, the continued preservation of Gettysburg National Military Park, paired with thoughtful scholarship, will maintain its role as a sacred space for reflection. By honoring those who lived through the battle, we not only remember history—we strengthen the values of resilience, unity, and vigilance that remain essential in facing modern challenges. The enduring legacy of the Battle of Gettysburg lies not only in what it achieved on the battlefield, but in how it continues to shape our understanding of courage, sacrifice, and the enduring human spirit.

The roar of cannons, the crackle of muskets, the desperate cries of men – these are the visceral sounds that echo through the pages of *I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg*. Lauren Tarshis's gripping historical fiction transports young readers directly into the heart of one of the most pivotal and brutal battles of the American Civil War, offering a powerful and accessible entry point into understanding this complex and devastating conflict. More than just a thrilling adventure, the novel serves as a potent educational tool, shedding light on the human cost of war and the enduring spirit of survival.

The Unflinching Realism of War for Young Readers

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg doesn't shy away from the grim realities of warfare, yet it does so with a sensitivity that is crucial for its target audience. Through the eyes of its protagonist, ten-year-old Gettys, the novel depicts bravery in the face of overwhelming odds. Tarshis masterfully crafts vivid descriptions that appeal to all the senses, allowing readers to almost feel the tremors of artillery fire and smell the acrid smoke. This immersive approach is essential for capturing the intensity of the battlefield and instilling a profound respect for the soldiers who fought there.

A Personal Perspective on Historical Trauma

The narrative centers on a young boy named Wheat, who is separated from his family and thrust into the chaos of Gettysburg. Wheat's journey is not one of grand military strategy, but of personal survival. He encounters soldiers from both the Union and Confederate armies, witnessing firsthand the toll the conflict takes on individuals and communities. This personal lens is key to making the overwhelming scale of the Battle of Gettysburg relatable. Instead of abstract troop movements and casualty figures, readers engage with the fear, hunger, and exhaustion experienced by ordinary people caught in the maelstrom of war. This emotional connection is vital for fostering empathy and understanding the profound impact of historical events.

The Human Cost of Conflict

Tarshis skillfully illustrates the devastating human cost of the Battle of Gettysburg. Wheat witnesses the wounded lying in fields, the desperate efforts to provide medical aid, and the pervasive sense of loss. The novel avoids glorifying combat, instead focusing on the bravery of those who sought to survive and the compassion shown by those who aided the injured, regardless of their allegiance. This nuanced portrayal is crucial for educating young readers about the true nature of war, which is often characterized by suffering and sacrifice rather than heroic triumph alone.

Navigating the Trenches of Historical Accuracy

While *I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg* is a work of fiction, its strength lies in its commitment to historical accuracy. Tarshis has meticulously researched the events, locations, and general atmosphere of the battle, weaving them seamlessly into Wheat's narrative. This dedication ensures that the story serves as an accurate, albeit dramatized, reflection of what transpired on those fateful July days.

Key Moments and Locations of the Battle

The novel takes readers through some of the most critical phases and locations of the Battle of Gettysburg. From the initial skirmishes on July 1st to the iconic events of July 2nd and the climactic Pickett's Charge on July 3rd, Tarshis grounds the narrative in historical fact. Wheat's encounters might place him near Little Round Top, during the defense of the Union lines, or amidst the desperate charges across open fields. These references, when coupled with the accompanying historical notes at the end of the book, provide valuable context for young readers, helping them connect the fictional plot to real historical events. Keywords like "July 1st Gettysburg," "July 2nd Gettysburg," and "Pickett's Charge" are central to understanding the battle's progression.

The Role of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times

Beyond the soldiers, *I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg* also highlights the experiences of civilians. Wheat's own struggle for survival mirrors that of countless others in Gettysburg, who had their homes and lives irrevocably altered by the presence of two massive armies. The novel underscores that history is not just made by generals and presidents, but by ordinary individuals thrust into extraordinary circumstances. This perspective is invaluable for teaching about civic engagement and the impact of national events on local communities.

Educational Value and Engagement for Young Historians

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg excels as an educational resource, sparking curiosity and making the study of American history an engaging and memorable experience. The series format itself encourages continuous learning, with each book tackling a significant historical event.

Making History Accessible and Engaging

The "I Survived" series is renowned for its ability to make complex historical events accessible and exciting for children. Tarshis's use of a relatable child protagonist, coupled with a fast-paced plot, ensures that readers are not just learning facts but are emotionally invested in the story. This approach transforms potentially dry historical lessons into thrilling adventures, fostering a lifelong interest in history. The interactive elements, such as the historical notes and glossaries, further enhance the learning experience, providing opportunities for deeper exploration of topics like "Civil War soldiers," "Union Army," and "Confederate Army."

Connecting to Broader Themes of Courage and Resilience

Beyond the specific events of Gettysburg, the novel delves into universal themes of courage, resilience, and the importance of hope. Wheat's journey is a testament to the human capacity to endure hardship and find strength in the darkest of times. These themes resonate with readers of all ages and provide valuable life lessons. The Battle of Gettysburg, a turning point in the Civil War, becomes a backdrop for exploring these enduring human qualities. Understanding "Gettysburg significance" is amplified through the personal narrative of survival.

Beyond the Battlefield: The Legacy of Gettysburg

The impact of the Battle of Gettysburg extended far beyond the immediate aftermath. It marked a crucial turning point in the Civil War, shifting the momentum in favor of the Union and ultimately contributing to the nation's reunification. Tarshis's novel, while focusing on individual survival, subtly conveys the immense importance of this Union victory.

The Turning Point of the Civil War

By immersing young readers in the chaos and intensity of Gettysburg, the novel helps them grasp why this particular battle was so pivotal. The sheer scale of the fighting, the immense casualties, and the strategic implications all contribute to understanding its status as a "turning point of the Civil War." The narrative implicitly showcases the Union's ability to withstand a major Confederate invasion and begin to regain the initiative. Exploring the "causes of the Civil War" and its "effects of the Civil War" becomes more tangible when experienced through the lens of such a dramatic event.

The Enduring Memory and Memorialization

The novel also touches upon the enduring memory of Gettysburg. The vast battlefield, now a national cemetery and park, stands as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made. While Wheat's immediate concern is survival, the lasting impact of the battle on the landscape and the nation's consciousness is an underlying theme. The very act of memorializing such a devastating event speaks volumes about its historical weight. The "Gettysburg National Military Park" and the iconic "Gettysburg Address" are inextricably linked to the events depicted in the book, providing further avenues for historical exploration.

In conclusion, *I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg* is a triumph of historical fiction for young readers. Lauren Tarshis masterfully blends thrilling narrative with educational accuracy, offering an unforgettable journey into one of America's most defining moments. Through the eyes of Wheat, readers gain a profound understanding of the human dimension of war, the importance of courage, and the enduring significance of the Battle of Gettysburg. It's a book that not only entertains but also educates, leaving a lasting impression and fostering a deeper appreciation for history.

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Questions & Answers About i survived the battle of gettysburg

No	Question	Answer
1	What makes 'I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg' so gripping for young readers?	The book throws readers directly into the chaos and fear of the Civil War through the eyes of 12-year-old Thomas. His personal survival story, filled with danger and difficult choices, makes history feel immediate and relatable.
2	Who is the main character in 'I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg,' and what is his role?	The main character is Thomas, a young boy who gets separated from his family and finds himself caught in the middle of the battle. He becomes an unofficial messenger and witness to the brutal realities of the fighting.
3	What historical details does the book include about the Battle of Gettysburg?	The book touches on key aspects like the three days of intense fighting, the Union and Confederate armies, iconic locations like Little Round Top, and the overwhelming human cost of the battle.

4	How does the author, Lauren Tarshis, make a historical event like Gettysburg accessible to children?	Tarshis uses a fast-paced narrative, engaging dialogue, and a child protagonist to explain complex events simply. She focuses on the human experience of war, making the historical context easier to grasp.
5	What are some of the challenges Thomas faces during the battle?	Thomas faces immense challenges, including finding food and shelter, evading soldiers from both sides, witnessing violence, and dealing with the constant threat of injury or death.
6	Does 'I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg' focus on specific battles or skirmishes within the larger event?	While it covers the overall scope of the three-day battle, the book highlights key moments and intense fighting, particularly around areas like Little Round Top, giving readers a sense of the unfolding conflict.
7	What is the overall message or theme of 'I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg'?	The book emphasizes themes of courage, resilience, the devastating impact of war, and the importance of survival and hope even in the darkest of times.
8	Is the book historically accurate, or does it take liberties for the sake of storytelling?	The book aims for historical accuracy within its narrative framework. While Thomas's specific experiences are fictionalized, the setting, key events, and general conditions of the battle are based on historical research.
9	What age group is 'I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg' best suited for?	It's generally recommended for readers aged 8-12, making it an excellent tool for introducing middle-grade students to American Civil War history in an engaging way.
10	Where can I find more information about the real Battle of Gettysburg after reading the book?	Many historical sites and resources offer more in-depth information. The Gettysburg National Military Park website, historical documentaries, and reputable history books are great places to start.

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Platform independence enhances longevity.

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Final thoughts on managing I Survived The Battle Of Gettysburg PDFs

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