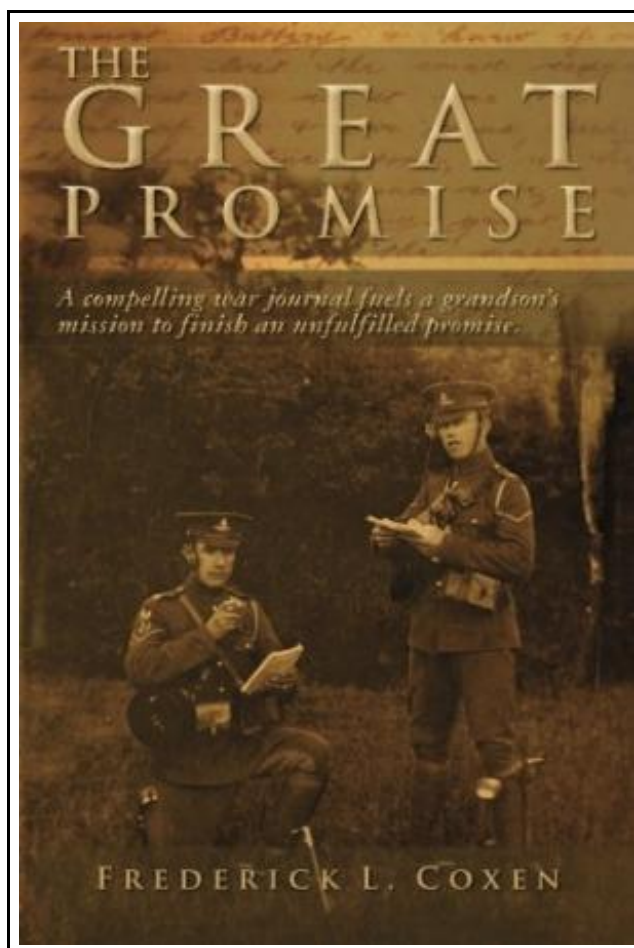


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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Frederick L. Coxen s life was changed when he stumbled upon his late grandfather s journal from World War I. Coxen did more than just transcribe the worn, weathered diary and annotate it with maps and a historical narrative to create this volume. He devoted years attempting to fulfill the terms of a pact his grandfather had made with three fellow soldiers in the summer of 1914-an unkept pledge that, to his dying day, haunted the elder Coxen. The Great Promise is thus a primary source, a history, and a personal quest. Coxen s grandfather (also named Frederick Coxen) was called to the colors to serve in the Royal Field Artillery. He was among the first British soldiers to land in France at the start of The Great War, and he fought in every major engagement until being gassed in 1915. The journal covers his first year at the front almost day by day. His reports, observations, emotional asides, musings, and even occasional jokes lure the reader into a fascinating, detailed, and very human time capsule. To assist those unfamiliar with the period, the younger Coxen intersperses his grandfather s entries with short but clear passages explaining the commanders, maneuvers, and terminology of the First World War. His simple, clean maps show the routes his ancestor trod and the towns he fought over. These help set the stage for his grandfather s wonderful and rarely hurried prose. There are episodes of unconscionable horror, such as the crucifixion of captured soldiers (by both sides) and reflections on the deaths of friends and enemies alike. Upon seeing one man fall, for example, the elder Coxen writes, I wondered if this...



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