

# THUNDER IN THE MOUNTAINS

DANIEL J.  
SHARFSTEIN

Oliver Otis Howard thought he was a man of destiny. Chosen to lead the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War, the Union Army general was entrusted with the era's most crucial task: helping millions of former slaves claim the rights of citizens. He was energized by the belief that abolition and Reconstruction, the country's great struggles for liberty and equality, were God's plan for himself and the nation.

But as the nation's politics curdled in the 1870s, General Howard exiled himself from Washington, D.C., rejoined the army, and was sent across the continent to command forces in the Pacific Northwest. Shattered by Reconstruction's collapse, he assumed a new mission: forcing Native Americans to become Christian farmers on government reservations.

Howard's plans for redemption in the West ran headlong into the resistance of Chief Joseph, a young Nez Perce leader in northeastern Oregon who refused to leave his ancestral land. Claiming equal rights for Native Americans, Joseph was determined to find his way to the center of American power and convince the government to acknowledge his people's humanity and capacity for citizenship.

**Daniel J. Sharfstein** is a professor of law and history at Vanderbilt University and a 2013 Guggenheim Fellow. His first book, *The Invisible Line: A Secret History of Race in America*, received the J. Anthony Lukas Prize. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Joe Barrett** has been a working stage, screen, and recording booth actor since 1974 and an award-winning and eight-time Audie Award-nominated audiobook narrator since 1999. He also practiced law for five years—but don't hold that against him. Joe is married to actress Andrea Wright, and together they have four children.

READ BY JOE BARRETT



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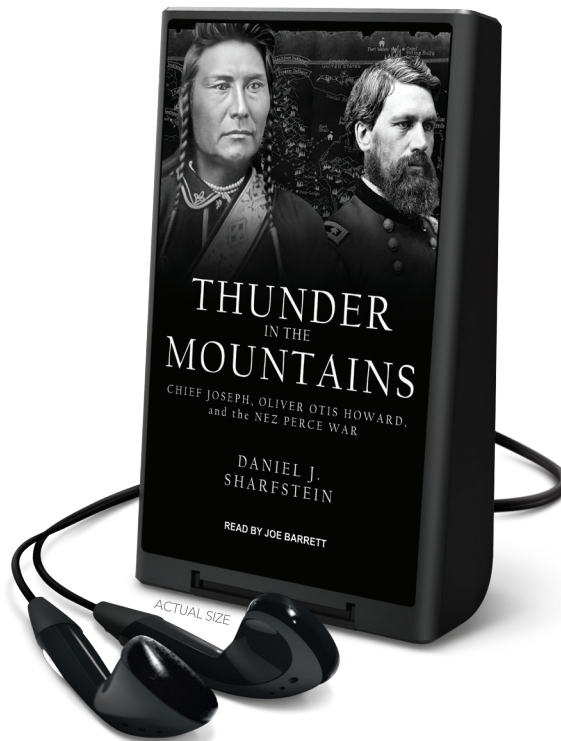
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