In the Name of Honor by Richard North Patterson

The Cost Of Integrity

Home from Iraq, a lieutenant kills his commanding officer—was it self-defense or premeditated murder? An enthralling novel of suspense about the high cost of war and secrets

The McCarrans and the Gallaghers, two military families, have been close for decades, ever since Anthony McCarran—now one of the army's most distinguished generals—became best friends with Jack Gallagher, a fellow West Pointer who was later killed in Vietnam. Now a new generation of soldiers faces combat, and Lt. Brian McCarran, the general's son, has returned from a harrowing tour in Iraq. Traumatized by wartime experiences he will not reveal, Brian depends on his lifelong friendship with Kate Gallagher, Jack's daughter, who is married to Brian's commanding officer in Iraq, Capt. Joe D'Abruzzo. But since coming home, D'Abruzzo also seems changed by the experiences he and Brian shared—he becomes secretive and remote.

Tragedy strikes when Brian shoots and kills D'Abruzzo on their army post in Virginia. Brian pleads self-defense, claiming that D'Abruzzo, a black-belt martial artist, came to his quarters, accused him of interfering with his marriage, and attacked him. Kate supports Brian and says that her husband had become violent and abusive. But Brian and Kate have secrets of their own, and now Capt. Paul Terry, one of the army's most accomplished young lawyers, will defend Brian in a high-profile court-martial. Terry's co-counsel is Meg McCarran, Brian's sister, a brilliant and beautiful attorney who insists on leaving her practice in San Francisco to help save her brother. Before the case is over, Terry will become deeply entwined with Meg and the McCarrans—and learn that families, like war, can break the sturdiest of souls.

My Personal Review:
This book has it all. I can just picture the handsome military lawyer, Captain Paul Terry, as he takes on a case representing the well-connected golden boy, Lieutenant Brian McCarran, on charges of murder and adultery.

You see, Lt McCarrans father is the Chief of staff of the army, and has been tapped for the top position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Cpt Terry has only two months left to serve as a Jags Corp officer, after being hired by a top notch Wall Street firm, and he hopes that this case will be resolved quickly. He was assigned this case by his commanding officer and also has a reputation to have never lost a case as a prosecutor and only a few as a defense lawyer.

Mr. Patterson takes the reader on a journey that explores not only the JAG system in the military, but also the dynamics within a four generation military family, and the daily life of a soldier in Iraq. He expertly educates the reader on the definition of PTSD, and how the military code has not caught up to the reality of our present time and situation in the world.

I am always spellbound by the stories Mr. Patterson writes, and this one did not disappoint me one bit. His novels are not formulated, fill in the blank stories, in which the supporting cast is the only thing that changes, book to book. Instead, his novels are superbly crafted sagas that I truly treasure and take my time with, rather than speed read over some of the content.

This book is not an action-packed thriller of the Tom Clancy or W.E.B. Griffin variety, but is rather a fine suspense novel, that builds slowly to a conclusion that kept me guessing until the end.

I suggest that when you get this book, you set aside some quality time to just get lost in the story. I stayed up quite late several nights in a row and really didnt want to put this book down at all!

I highly recommend this book.

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