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Honor Bound



Synopsis

Bestselling author W.E.B. Griffin has captivated readers with his electrifying saga of the Marine Corps. Now he presents his most powerful story of World War II - a desperate mission in the farthest reaching shadows of Nazi power... October 1942. At a secret rendezvous point off the coast of neutral Argentina, a small merchant ship delivers supplies to Nazi submarines and raiders. The OSS is determined to sabotage the operation by any means necessary. But one of the key saboteurs they've enlisted - a young U.S. Marine - must fight his own private battle between duty and honor. Because he was chosen for a reason - to gain the trust and support of his own flesh and blood. A powerful Argentinian called "el Coronel." The father he never knew...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best known for his series Brotherhood of War and The Corps, Griffin's new WW II novel uses the relatively unexplored theater of South America as the backdrop for his fast-paced story of a father and son, conflicting loyalties and war. In late 1942, marine fighter ace Cleve Frade, Army demolitions engineer Anthony Pelosi and electronics wizard David Ettinger are sent by the OSS on a top-secret mission to neutral Argentina: destroy a merchant ship that has been supplying Nazi submarines and raiders. But the projected raid is only the tip of the novel's iceberg. The U.S. is hoping that Cleve will be able to influence his estranged father, an eminence grise in Argentine politics by the name of "El Coronel" Jorge Guillermo Frade, to throw his influence behind the Allies. Meanwhile, Luftwaffe ace Peter von Wachtstein heads to Buenos Aires to consolidate the Nazi position. The Frades are convincing central characters, whose developing father-son relationship

anchors much of the novel's plot. Griffin's reconstruction of upper-class Argentine society in the 1940s provides an exotic and credible setting for a tautly written story whose twists and turns will keep readers guessing until the last page. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The author of the "Brotherhood of War" novels attacks a relatively obscure theater of World War II. Lieut Clete Frade, a Marine fighter pilot, is pulled off Guadalcanal. He and a small team have been selected by the OSS (Office of Strategic Services, the allied intelligence group) to stop the Germans from using neutral Argentina to resupply. Clete's father, who for complicated reasons he has never met, is a major figure in Argentina. Clete swiftly discerns that half his mission is to influence his estranged father in favor of the Allied cause; but working for the OSS, there are plots within plots. Griffin's feel for the details of life in the military 50 years ago and the humanity of his characters on all sides of the covert war make this a superior war story in an interesting milieu. Recommended for fiction collections. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/15/93.- Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army TRALINET Ctr., Fort Monroe, Va. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Honor Bound series is the third of W.E.B. Griffin's works and incorporates bits and pieces of Brotherhood of War AND The Corps so if the reader has a tingling sense of deja vu it is expected. The primary character is Lt. Cletus Frade "a younger version of Fleming Pickering, a Marine with ZERO intelligence background. But he has several things going for him: he speaks Spanish like a native, his natural father that he hasn't seen since birth is a high ranking Argentine landowner; his grandfather is the principal shareholder in Howell Petroleum "Cletus's cover story, and lastly he has been combat tested, flying wild cats off both Midway and Guadalcanal. He leads a three man team being sent to Argentina to blow up so-called neutral shipping vessels who are replenishing German U-Boats in the mouth of the Platte River. Other members of the team are 2nd Lt Anthony Pelosi, a grandson of one of the "sons of Pelosi & Sons Salvage", a demolition company that takes down buildings and an explosives expert & David Ettinger, a European/German Jew of Spanish descent who lost most of his family in concentration camps. The role of "handler" is OSS Deputy Director Col. Alex Graham who during the between war years ran the third or fourth largest railroad-depending on money or trackage "a man of Hispanic descent and a fellow Aggie from Texas A & M. The story opens as Cletus is recovering from wrecking his fighter on

landing and is slated to appear in the first war bond tour, only to be pulled and sent home [his grandfather's home in New Orleans] before heading to Argentina. The relationship between him and his grandfather & his grandfather and natural father form the crux of the major conflict for Cletus as his attempts to complete his mission of preventing the German U-boats from being replenished within Argentine waters. Mr. Griffin is at his best as he weaves the story of the prodigal son returning to the land of his father on a spy mission. Add in the mixture an Argentinean Frank Knox, who only wants what is best for his country; the depravity of Juan Peron; the grief stricken into insanity aunt & banker uncle; the widow, and her two daughters, next door who has been the de facto if not de jure second wife of his father while stirring in a German Baron fighter pilot captain whose father is a mirror of Craig Lowell's father-in-law who was caught trying to blow up Hitler. They are all being chased and dodging the FBI and the SS's three stooges assigned to the U.S. & Argentinean German Embassies and a clever, sardonic story is in the making. The story relates the struggle of a country who finds itself divided and poised on the brink of a civil war; both fear the invasion of communism but must chose between Anglo or Germanic support in the fight "choosing the wrong which is more right."

Given the high esteem in which W.E.B. Griffin is held by at least two generations of soldiers, marines, and airmen, one more review for any of his books might well be considered non-relevant window dressing in the extreme. However, I would add just one footnote, if I may. As a former military officer with 21 years of service, I was not surprised at my own identification with many of Griffin's characters and places. What really impresses me, however, is that my wife has adopted Griffin with a personal fascination that is unmatched for her in the work of any other author of military fiction except Michael Shaara ("Killer Angels" - on the Battle of Gettysburg). Coming from a lady who has early memories of being strafed by night fighters in northern Germany, this is significant testimony to the art of the writer and the depth of his characters. She continues to "inhale" all of Griffin's many books, only the latest of which on her nightstand is the "Honor" series. As said by others many times before, "well done"...

This is the 4th time I've read this complete book set I bought the book when it first came out. Now I have to buy the books for my Tablet, (so I can enlarge the print). Getting Old. I have most of WEB Griffin's books that deal with WWII. They are well written and his use of known facts make them hard to put down. If you are a buff on WWII, You'll find his books add fiction to facts is worth reading.

Griffin is a great author & shines here again although I don't think this one is as good as some of his earlier ones (I especially liked The Corp series, maybe because I was in the Corp). Character development is very good and the book is suspenseful with several twists. Most of it is predictable though as this book is the intro to a series so setting & character development is vital for setting the stage for the rest of the series. A very good book , though not Griffins best. RAG

The book makes a good read since relevant historical facts and bonifide locations are sprinkled into the storyline. Taking the story through its storyline gets a bit too verbose, giving too much reasoning to take or conduct an action in order to have the reader follow the same train of thought of the character(s). The reader should be able to use some deductive reasoning on their own or let the reader make their create conclusions on their own. This would allow the reader to come to conclusions of their own and allow the reader to take some ownership or become the character. The reader to become either part of the story or the character him/herself. Regardless, this book and the several series written by Webb with some series of books written with a co-author are easy to read, interesting, fairly factual and a good way to relax. The books are interesting enough to want to keep reading through completely but one does not necessarily need to read any of Webb's books from start to finish in one or two sittings. One can read some put the book down for a while and the storyline is easy enough to pick back up and catch back up with relative ease without having to restart the book or start the chapter over in order to get oneself back into the story.

A typical good read from Griffin. And a typical plot set up also. All his novels have a common flavor as to the main characters. Rich, charismatic leading men and gorgeous women who can't wait to jump in bed with them and a plot the puts them outside the normal command structure and of course, danger. Should point out one historical error. The Army was flying P400 planes out of Henderson in the early days of the Guadalcanal battle, not P40's. The P400 was a version of the P39, a very poor dog fighting machine. The P40 was the famous Flying Tiger plane sometimes called the War Hawk. Most people would never notice.

Honor Bound is the inaugural book in the series. The books all track and lead into another series which is also great. There are two books in the follow on series which has many of the characters from the beginning story.

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