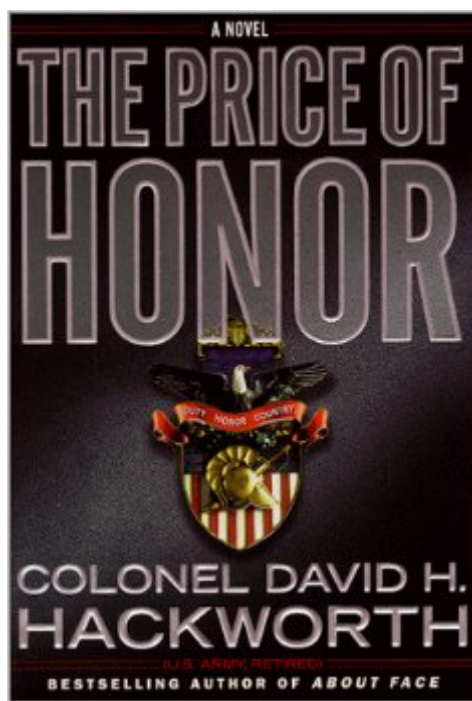


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The Price Of Honor



Synopsis

"Exciting and raw."(Library Journal) "Front-line legend Col. David H. Hackworth proves in this gripping tale that he is as accomplished a storyteller as he is a soldier. With vivid, powerful combat action and a terrific band of brothers in arms, *The Price of Honor* is one of the year's outstanding military thrillers."(W.E.B. Griffin) U.S. Army Special Forces Captain Sandy Caine's father had disgraced the family as a coward in Vietnam-at least, that's what he's been told. Now, he's about to uncover the truth about his father-and a legacy of lies built by the most powerful players in Washington. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Every military officer who is stationed at the Pentagon or going to be stationed at the Pentagon must read this book. David Hackworth presents the reader with an exciting and sobering view of the weapons acquisition process "inside the Beltway." Hack is able to blend his considerable military experience, forged through three wars, with his incredible feats as a "front-line journalist" to give the reader a realistic view of how America fights its wars and the power struggles behind the weapon systems America uses. Hack takes the reader on a journey to the places he himself has been and allows the reader to feel the raw terror of being at a Special Forces Firebase being overrun by North Vietnamese; being on the ground, outgunned and out-generated in Somalia; trying to figure out who is the worst of two evils in Bosnia; and fighting the funding battles inside the Pentagon. Hack is able to do this with incredible realism, because he has been to all those places and done all those things.

Hack makes the reader part of the plot. He draws you in and makes you love and/or hate the principal characters. This is one of those books, you do not want to end. If you want to find out what life is like behind the scenes in the weapons systems acquisition business, read this book. If you want a snapshot of what Vietnam was like, read this book. If you want see what Somalia and Bosnia looked like during the latter part of the last Century, read this book. If you are a military officer, fighting the endless budgetary wars within the Pentagon, read this book. This book has it all...action, sex, politics and mystery. Well written and accurately presented. This is a good book. Read It. Sandy Mangold Colonel, USAF (Retired)

I normally stay away from non-fiction authors who write fiction because their fiction usually is rarely as good as their non-fiction (the Late Carl Sagan comes to mind.) However, I made an exception for David Hackworth's first novel. This exception was well worth it. I enjoyed the book as a good, well done read. The plot about the Military Industrial Complex (MIC) and greed is well thought out. I had a problem with some of the climax because some of it turned into stuff from a really bad conspiracy movie. This is a good solid adventure to be enjoyed. Finally, I would like to make a comment about Hackworth being an SF groupie. That's total BS. He led the equivalent of a Ranger unit in Korea, and his actions in Vietnam from My Canh to his quest to improve small unit training showed that he walked the walk. I really believe that he respects those who live, not speak, the warrior spirit. And if they happen to be SF types, so be it.

As a former Special Forces senior NCO and a fan of David Hackworth personally and his writings, I was intrigued about what he could do with fiction. Colonel, ya did good! Some say the ending is not believable. I say, so what? It is a work of fiction, after all. It isn't supposed to be believable. It is pure escapism and a darn good read. I really could not put the book down until I was finished in two days. Hack's characters were believable as were their actions of men molded in combat and bound together like brothers. Men who would back each other up no matter the cost. Hack's descriptions of the movers and shakers operating in our government today is more than plausible, given the snakes crawling around in D.C. these days. You have a winner, Colonel. A sequel, perhaps?

I just finished "The Price of Honor" and was seriously disappointed. I have read all of Hackworth's other works, and although not always agreeing with him, found them all insightful and interesting. Not this book. In some parts its actually pretty ludicrous, particularly all the conspiracy-theory nonsense and the Vietnam Vet who relives the war in the forests of Montana. Some of the

characters are simply thinly-guised real life people, and the F-44 is a thinly-guised F-22...The best parts of the book are the combat narratives from Somalia and Bosnia. Hackworth has extensive knowledge in both areas and considerable combat experience as both a soldier and journalist. In authoring a plot, he stumbles badly. Overall, for readers of Hackworth, there should be enough fiction in his non-fiction to satisfy you (if you get what I mean). If you are determined to read, get in paperback.

As a retired Air Force officer who enjoys listening to Hackworth on talk shows, etc., I really wanted to like this book. However, the characters are cardboard cut-outs with no believable human emotions, the plot is slow, and the writing is stiff and unimaginative. Even the sex scenes were boring! He clearly knows his stuff when it comes to combat and the military environment, but maybe Hack should stick to nonfiction. I gave up on this book after reading about half of it, something I almost never do.

I have read and enjoyed Col. Hackworth's previous works. He is the consummate "truth-teller". In "The Price of Honor", Sandy Caine's search for the "truth" about what occurred in Vietnam follows Hack's principles. The few combat scenes are well told and page turning, but too brief. The camaraderie between good officers and men in the Special Forces is on target. Where Hack goes somewhat astray in this tale is the foray into Sandy Caine's sexual activities with Abigail Mancini. While the depictions may arguably provide the reader insight into their relationship, Hack should have fallen back on the more subtle and less graphic. For more on SF ops and the frustration to win hearts and minds, try "Immaculate Invasion". Or, for more on Somalia, try "losing Mogadishu", or "Backhawk Down". While not a top on my list, I'd compare it to a W.E.B. Griffin genre. Next time Hack (and I do hope this is just the beginning of his fiction writing)...stick to the guns and leave out the bedroom details.

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