



Men In Blue

W.E.B. Griffin

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W.E.B. Griffin's bestselling series, THE CORPS and BROTHERHOOD OF WAR, have captured the pride and glory of the military community. Now he reveals a city police force with the same unique blend of realism, drama, and action. Here are the brave men and women behind the badge as you've never seen them before--their hopes and fears, their courage and heroism, sparked by a single, shocking event: the killing of a cop in the line of duty.

From the Paperback edition.

Men In Blue Details

Date : Published (first published 1988)

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Author : W.E.B. Griffin

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From Reader Review Men In Blue for online ebook

Cedar Bristol says

I have read most of Griffin's books multiple times, and this whole series up to the point where he time-warped it is on the read multiple times list.

I don't have a well developed opinion on what counts as great literature and what is fun, but not so important as a work of art. There are certain books I would absolutely include on the list, and when I think of those, I think the question of what's great literature and what's not really does matter. Most of the time, I read with no thought given to that question. I wouldn't spill so much ink over it here but for the fact that these stories have stayed with me just as strongly as ones I don't hesitate to put on the "you should teach this to school kids" list, like *The Winds of War*. But I don't know if those without a deep interest in the military or law enforcement will ever feel as much for them as I do.

I was junior enlisted in the Army myself, so the world of his military novels is not mine and never was, so I can't really say that too much about accuracy. He writes about officers, or enlisted on their way to becoming officers.

I can say that he has been given the title "Poet Laureate of the US Military Community", and I can't think of a better candidate for that title.

Paul says

Where is the story?

David Ward says

[Men In Blue \(Badge of Honor #1\)](#) by W.E.B. Griffin (Jove Books 1988) (Fiction - Thriller). Like his earlier series [The Corps](#) and [Brotherhood of War](#), this new series tells the tale of a special band of men, this time the Philadelphia Police Department. This series begins when one of their own is killed. The new series, "Badge of Honor", is all about the response. My rating: 7/10, finished 2/2/10.

Will says

Dutch Moffit's Cop Murder and the TV Hottie. A dashing Highway Patrol captain Dutch Moffitt is killed by a robbery that interrupted a questionable meeting with a smoking hot TV newscaster by two junkies looking for \$120. Louise Dutton's presence at the crime scene causes undue pressure to keep a lid on things given Dutch's wife and children must be crisis managed. The police commissioner assigns a young stud to babysit the hot witness to preserve the positive relationship with the TV station. The babysitting becomes more intense when Louise witnesses the aftermath of a faggot murder in her condo building, causing she and Peter to bond closer and resulting in aggressive exchange of bodily fluids. Unfortunately, the faggot's father is a wealthy publisher who is heading towards insanity wanting the crime solved; Peter is assigned to hold his hand as well. While they solve Moffit's murder by finding the perp, Peter falls in love with Louise as her

father conspires to remove her from the web of a cop. Peter is marooned to NJ while the commissioner cools off about a news leak, and Louise takes her dad's bait and accepts a star job in Chicago.

David says

Excellent start to the series. Made me want to keep on going.

Norman Oswald says

I thought it was over descriptive and boring.

Judy Green says

UNC
Tedious start, but proved to be exciting later.

Lizabeth Tucker says

This book begins Griffin's Badge of Honor series which focuses on the police department. We meet reporter Louise Dutton, who is also the illegitimate daughter of a multi-millionaire who owns television stations and newspapers as well as Staff Inspector Peter Wohl. There's a murder of a police captain, then the slaughter of a gay friend of Louise, who is also the illegitimate offspring of a multi-millionaire. Lot of that going around.

This sounds just like a book I'd love, particularly since I devoured Griffin's Presidential Agent series. And I tried, I really tried to make my way through the book. I made it to page 952 of 1332 before I finally gave up. I don't know if this was the first book Griffin ever wrote or if it suffered from bad editing, but I just couldn't stand it any longer. I was bored, even when two grungy undercover cops were chasing a murder suspect through a subway tunnel.

My father, who had read this series before me, stated that it was very slow, even throughout the rest of the series. So I think it is time to just admit defeat and look for something else to read.

David says

Have you ever read a book that you felt was probably written a decade or two in advance, and then punched up\adjusted for the later decade before being published?

That's the feeling I got reading "Men in Blue" which has a 1988 copyright date, but in many ways seems much older in tone and content.

Why does it have a 1960's feel to it?

- 1) A reference to a policeman returning from Vietnam
- 2) A reference to a Ford Fairlane Convertible (to my knowledge discontinued before 1972 when Ford abandoned convertibles for a number of years)
- 3) Use of the word NEGRO in several places to refer to African-American and "Afro-American" in another place.
- 4) Use of extremely perjorative terms for homosexual and a reference to it (in a public place by a police officer) as a deviant lifestyle without any other person questioning its political correctness, etc.
- 5) Use of several outdated words like "bimbo" and "dame"

Why does it feel punched up\adjusted?

- 1) Use of the F word in the thought processes of characters is much more modern
- 2) Reference to answering machines (more of a late 70's early 80's thing) and computers in the newspaper office

Why didn't I like it more?

- 1) The author pulls a "Victor Hugo" on the reader. This is where the author spends pages of detail only slightly related to the matter at hand. For Hugo, in "Les Miserables" the author spends chapters describing the battle of Waterloo simple to say that a character was acting cowardly and looting the bodies of the dead both friendly and unfriendly. The "Victor Hugo" stun pulled off by Griffin here begins on page 214 (JOve Paperback version) and continues through to page 216. Here the author tells the story of a German immigrant's entry into American society in 1837, a description of his family, and how his descendant was laid to rest in a masoleum... only to tell us that a fugitive is hiding in the masusoleum. Really, we needed to know about the immigrant who came in 1837 for that? Their money, their marriages, their business????

This was cheap filler material.

Then, the author wraps up a murder in a secondhand conversation--

The story was much more about relationships than actual police work.

IN short. I think it is sorely lacking as a police novel.

Bob Cutler says

Pretty much a waste of reading time. All of the characters are cardboard. There is a slight attempt to make the main character something more, but it's a failed attempt.

There's an awful lot of words about the history and lineage of the characters in the book. Unfortunately, it reads like filler and it crops up in unexpected places, long after the characters are introduced. Maybe the author was short on the number of words he committed to write and needed to stretch it out. I can't believe he thought it was a valuable addition to the narrative.

In summary:

Not a police procedural.

Not a detective story.

Not a character study.

Not as entertaining as Joseph Wambaugh's Hollywood Station series

Too bad you can't give a half star. Sigh.

Quillracer says

I admit to a bias toward police procedurals. W. E. B. Griffin's *Men In Blue* falls into that category. Like Ed McBain's 87th Precinct series, Griffin juggles a large cast of characters both on and off the job. He's no match to McBain but he comes close.

Griffin provides too much background on command structure of the Philadelphia Police Department (nice but not needed in that depth) and the family history of the primary characters. Things like that are interesting and provide texture and context to the story but slow it down some. And sometimes, Griffin takes it too far. Did we really need to know the history of a family whose mausoleum briefly became a bad guy's hiding place?

Still it was good enough that I'll at least read the next book in the series.

Michael C. says

Men in Blue is the first entry in W.E.B. Griffin's Badge of Honor series, which focuses on the Philadelphia Police Department.

As an introduction to a brand new cast of characters, Men in Blue does its job surprisingly well. Griffin has a flair for writing books with plodding plots that spend quite a bit of time focusing on exposition and character development as opposed to actually moving the story forward. As a result, his books often seem to wrap up very quickly within the last one hundred pages or so, and this can be off-putting to some readers. Instead of a page-turner that is notable for its high degree of suspense and nail-biting action, what you get is a book that welcomes you with open arms into a unique community; Griffin's talent is making you feel as though you're part of a family . . . the cast of characters that he describes throughout the many installments of his various series.

With that said, Men in Blue does a good job drawing you in by kicking off the Badge of Honor series with a bang - literally. At the Waikiki Diner on Roosevelt Boulevard, Captain Richard C. "Dutch" Moffitt of the Philadelphia Police Department is gunned down in cold blood by one of a pair of robbers. Dutch manages to kill his murderer before quickly succumbing to his own wounds, and thus begins a citywide manhunt for the escaped "doer," who is wanted in connection with the robbery and the murder of Dutch himself, the commanding officer of the Philadelphia Police Department's Highway Patrol.

Many of the characters readers are introduced to in Men in Blue will become staples of the Badge of Honor series. In particular, recent college graduate Matthew Mark Payne subsequently assumes the role of series

protagonist in Special Operations. Others, including Staff Inspector Peter F. Wohl, Chief Inspector Dennis V. Coughlin, Mayor Jerome "Jerry" Carlucci, Captains Mike Sabara and Dave Pekach, the ex-undercover officers Charley McFadden and "Hay-zus" Martinez, assume more or less equal roles as part of an ensemble. It is in this book that readers will get to know these characters for the first time, and, in doing so, witness how they respond to one of the most shocking events in law enforcement: the killing of a police officer in the line of duty.

If I can praise Men in Blue - most of Griffin's books, in fact - for one thing, then let it be their remarkable authenticity and consistency. The Badge of Honor series as a whole, as a portrayal of law enforcement in general and the Philadelphia Police Department in particular, is very realistic and subsequently very down-to-earth. As a young man who's lived in Philadelphia for all of his life, and whose father and grandfather were/are both Philadelphia police officers, I can vouch for Griffin on this; he did his homework.

Overall, I highly recommend Men in Blue to readers who find themselves even vaguely interested in real-world police work and want to try something new. It's rather short, as are most of the installments in the Badge of Honor series, and it shouldn't take long to read.

Final Rating: I really liked it.

Denise says

Took me forever to find the first of this series which was recommended by my cousin. Since it takes place in Philadelphia, I thought it would be interesting.

The 2 star rating is because the book, although noted as published in 1988, seemed to have been written in the early 1970s simply based on some of the topics and phrasing throughout the book. Overall, it was an interesting story but the author could have used a stronger editor as the grammar was rather poor in places and seemed a bit amateurish.

My guess was it was pulled out from the back of a drawer, brushed off and published once the author was popular and a sure bet with his publisher.

Would I read another? Yes, will probably read several. It is always fun to have your native City a central character in any novel.

DD@Phila

Meruyert says

The best plot ever written

TJ says

So read this books as a teenager and liked them. Decided to re read as an adult living in Phila. Amazed by the sexism and racism - just the accepted nature of name calling and if conquests.

Yet I still find the books enjoyable.
Quick easy reads
