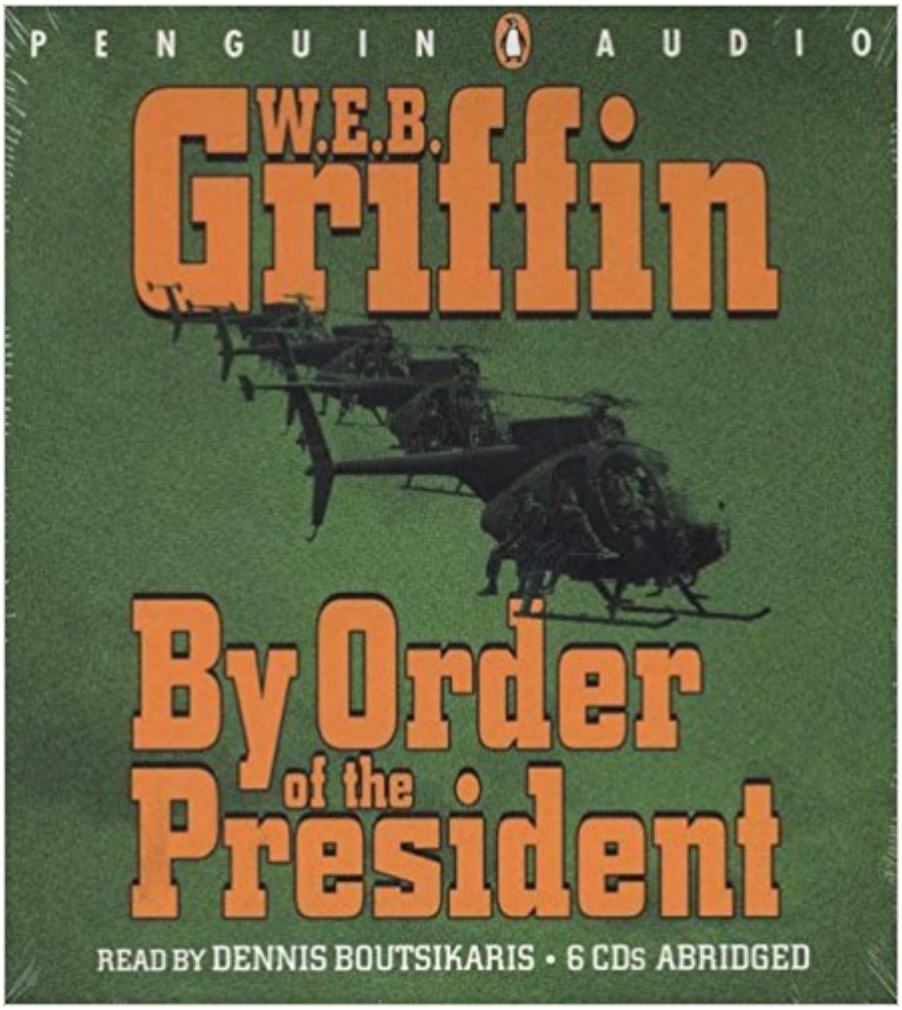
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# By Order Of The President (A Presidential Agent Novel)




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## Synopsis

Over the years, W.E.B. Griffin’s stories of the military and police, told with crackling realism and rich characters, have won him millions of fans and acclaim as "the dean of the American war adventure" (Publishers Weekly). Now he vaults into the present day with a series as exciting as anything he has ever written.  At an airfield in Angola, two men board a leased Boeing 727; then, once it is in the air, slit the pilot’s throat and fly to parts unknown. The consternation is immediate, as the CIA, FBI, FAA, and other agencies race to find out what has happened, in the process elbowing each other in the sides a little too vigorously.  Fed up, the President of the United States turns to an outside investigator to determine the truth, an Army intelligence officer serving as special assistant to the Director of Homeland Security. Major Carlos Guillermo Castillo, known as Charley, is the son of a German mother and a Tex-Mex father, a Medal of Honor winner who died in Vietnam. A pilot, West Point graduate, and veteran of Desert Storm and the Special Forces, Castillo has a sharp eye for the facts-and the reality behind the facts. Traveling undercover, he flies to Africa, and there, helped and hindered by unexpected allies and determined enemies, begins to untangle a story of frightening dimensions-a story that, unless he can do something about it, will end very, very badly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Proving himself solidly in control of cutting-edge military material, Griffin bases his new series not on wars past but on today’s murky exigencies of terrorism and international political intrigue. Army Maj. Carlos Guillermo Castillo, whose Spanish name belies his fair-haired, blue-eyed appearance (he

had a German mother), is working as a special assistant to the secretary of homeland security. Because of post-9/11 concerns, when a Boeing 727 is hijacked from a remote airport in Angola, it becomes a top priority for the U.S. government. Vicious infighting between several agencies results in a snafu that leads the U.S. president to assign Charley Castillo to use the search for the plane as an excuse to launch an investigation into the internal workings of all the government agencies and personnel who need to cooperate in terrorist situations. Griffin is more interested in military procedure than in blood, sweat and derring-do, and he resists no urge to meander through scores of pages of backstory to round out the many characters who will be series regulars. In the end, there are a few bodies to account for, but its' the meticulous investigation that leaves readers standing on the tarmac waiting for Charley Castillo and his newly minted band of can-do compatriots to touch down and carry them away again on a new adventure. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Lest we forget, Griffin is the author of five series: Honor Bound, Brotherhood of War, The Corps, Badge of Honor, and Men at War--34 books in total, for those readers who are counting. His latest novel is the first volume in a new series, and it clocks in at more than 500 pages. It concerns a Boeing 727 jet that is hijacked in Angola; the two-man crew is killed. The American president, seeking to know who did the hijacking and why, asks the help of an army intelligence officer serving as an assistant to the secretary of Homeland Security. He's Delta Force Major Carlos Guillermo Castillo, a West Point graduate, pilot, and veteran of Desert Storm. Much of the plot deals with flying and a variety of aircraft, both military and civilian, and there is lots of jargon on navigation systems, landings and takeoffs, airspeeds, guns, satellite imagery, and radar--which, of course, Griffin's fans thrive on. The novel's locales include Germany; Saudi Arabia; Chad; Costa Rica; Washington, D.C.; South Carolina; Georgia; and Philadelphia--a range sure to suit, again, his legion of readers, who probably will guess the story's outcome from the start. But, of course, it is the getting there that is the fun. George CohenCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

One of the best and most prolific authors I have had the pleasure to read! I have previously read two 10-book series by W.E.B. Griffin and loved every book. Some common denominators in his books are: His lead character(s) is/are extremely wealthy, serving in the military, on a first-name-basis with the President, multi-talented people who all seem to enjoy Famous Grouse scotch! (I checked it out - it actually exists)

Mr. Butterworth has writing the military novel equivalent to a bag of Doritos down to a science...each one tastes pretty much the same, but I still can’t stop devouring ’em! Here you have the rich, multi-lingual, and supremely-talented officer (can you say Craig Lowell or Pick Pickering?), whose best buddy is an also highly-talented black officer, with a father that just happens to be a highly-regarded retired senior, legendary Army commander. And there is apparently only one city in Germany where heroes come from or go to university...the ubiquitous Marburg an der Lahn. But those traits aside, the story is a fun read, the plot has some interesting twists, and the Good Guys once again triumph over Evil, in between casual trysts with blonde supermodel career women. (Mr. Butterworth and his characters are all still living in a pre-AIDS/STD world, despite the updated technology and terrorist threats.) It doesn’t matter, ’cause as long as he continues to write them, I’ll still buy ’em!

Love this kind of story and W.E.B. Griffin tells a hell of a tale.I like that we have stories about people that run to the danger and expose themselves into harm’s way.

Having never read Griffin before, I was looking forward to a thrilling story. Unfortunately, this book is plagued with a ridiculous plot (acknowledged throughout the book by several characters), shallow characters, and an ending that we all expected.Griffin is clearly familiar with his material, but he seems entranced by the idea of constructing a terrorist plot that is so outlandish that no one will believe it--and therefore maybe it will be carried out? The plot is dragged reluctantly along by characters who would rather gesture than speak. Griffin’s military characters are constantly being described as making this gesture or that gesture. The reader comes away wishing someone would speak up and tell them to keep their hands to themselves.He also spends a surprising number of pages giving us a laborious introduction to the story’s hero, Charley Castillo. Given the depth of the background, you would expect the reader to be intrigued by Charley. But Charley is so shallow--and his actions so unbelieveable--that I found myself looking for someone more interesting in the story. Alas, no one is to be found. All the characters are given lengthy introductions that are only an inch deep. At times I found myself wishing the terror plot might succeed in order to spare others from having to ever read of them again.Equally as disappointing is the ending. By this time in the novel, the reader can predict exactly what is going to happen. There are no surprises; indeed, there is nothing at all exciting about the ending of this novel. The good guys win; the bad guys lose. What Griffin obviously plans to be clever twists even end up being predictable.If you’re looking for good bedtime reading, however, this may be your book. It’s got all the makings for a good night’s sleep.

If you are a W.E.B. Griffen fan , you will not be disappointed. His knowledge of the workings of the military, and his attention to detail, his character development, and plot development carry you on a adventurous ride from beginning to end.

I’m a Griffin fan and, so far, love all his books. I find they are redundant from book to book but that suites me fine as it refreshes my memory from book to book.

If you have read W.E.B. Griffin before, then you know it is predictable. His hero’s are usually independently wealthy, are so charming that they get away with stuff normal people would not and they are the Don Juan type. But then you read these types of books to escape reality and they are entertaining.

Poor character development. I’ve read others in this series. This book, however, the banter between characters is weak. I get that these guys have to be tough hotshots that want to protect the US at all costs. That said, the main character has low character - he beds women but you’re supposed to pull for him when he comes across a "nice girl" that holds him at bay. Come on. Why? The writing, banter, characters don’t measure up to two other writers: Lee Child’s Jack Reacher series and John Sandford’s two: Lucas Davenport in the Prey series or his Virgil Flowers character series.

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