



The General's Daughter

Nelson DeMille

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Captain Ann Campbell is a West Point graduate, the daughter of legendary General "Fighting Joe" Campbell. She is the pride of Fort Hadley until, one morning, her body is found, naked and bound, on the firing range.

Paul Brenner is a member of the Army's elite undercover investigative unit and the man in charge of this politically explosive case. Teamed with rape specialist Cynthia Sunhill, with whom he once had a tempestuous, doomed affair, Brenner is about to learn just how many people were sexually, emotionally, and dangerously involved with the Army's "golden girl." And how the neatly pressed uniforms and honor codes of the military hide a corruption as rank as Ann Campbell's shocking secret life.

The General's Daughter Details

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Author : Nelson DeMille

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From Reader Review The General's Daughter for online ebook

Sandra says

Spoiler Alert Do Not Read before you read the book....Colonel Wm. Kent, post provost marshal, never actually confesses. He just blows his brains out. My spouse (Jeff) doesn't at all agree with me, but I still wonder if the true killer was Mrs. Kent? Was he protecting his wife? Taking the blame? After all, he had caused quite a bit of unhappiness and misery in their marriage. I thought DeMille gave a good hint that this could be so. Maybe I'll ask him. Favorite quote, page 352. Ann Campbell: "it's a human tragedy." Paul responds, "What other kinds of tragedies are there? We're all a heartbeat away from tragedy." I'll let you know if Nelson answers my question about the wife. Addendum on 9/14/2013 Nelson did not answer my question re: Mrs. Kent, instead I now receive group emails about his writings. Oh, well, guess that's what the spam button is for.

Sarah ~ says

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Deyth Banger says

What more than a place around General's and to don't be somebody like a friend... but to be a the "daughter"... from this look to see what's the feeling to be in type of person and you father to be the general.

Leslie says

I can't recall the first time I read this book but I know I have read it in hardback, paperback and now Kindle. And it is like being wrapped up in a soft warm blanket, okay a creepy blanket.

This is a brilliant police procedural set on a military base in America in the early 90s. Warrant Officer Paul Bremmer is already at the base investigating a plot to illegally sell military arms to baddies. He is called to a scene of rape / murder which is terrible and made worse when it is revealed the victim is the daughter of the camp's General. What seems simple gets more complex as the victim is shown to be quite a freak. But she has reasons and the General's entire staff is complicit.

Accompanied by Warrant Officer Cynthia Sunhill, a rape specialist, he peels the onion which is the camp and its personnel. The situation is further complicated by his previous relationship with Ms. Sunhill when they were stationed in Brussels.

In the preface to the book Mr. DeMille speaks of the casting of the movie. A long time ago I knew he envisioned Bruce Willis playing Paul Bremmer and ever since then I have also envisioned him as Paul Bremmer.

Richard says

I have seen the movie so many times, that John Travolta as a rough and sarcastic military investigator Paul Brenner is burned into the back of my head. And I really enjoyed the movie, and will watch it again for the 100th time.

The book was great, and way way way better than the movie, even though I had Travolta's face in the back of my mind while reading it. This is one of those books I stayed up reading way too late, lost track of time, and had that addictive quality too it.

If I was to become a writer this is what I would write about; suspenseful military crime drama, with political overtones, scandalous sex, women in power, strong women, sexual deviance, and psycho sexual revenge, incredible characters, an antagonistic duo of detectives.

I would highly recommend reading this book and it's partner book Up Country with Paul Brenner in

Vietnam.

Wesley says

The book was okay. I liked some parts, but not all of it. Still, I will read more books by the author.

Horace Derwent says

twisting and suspense packed, but tell you what, I think the movie is better

Jeri-Lynn Vernon says

I think this is the DeMille that hooked me for life.

Bob Mayer says

I read this as my introduction to Nelson DeMille years ago. As a veteran, his take on the Army is quite accurate. I like the balance of the mystery and the humor of the protagonist.

As a West Point graduate with the second class to have women, I think he explored a subject that few are willing to get into.

Where does the quest for power cross personal ethics? How much is an officer willing to give up for rank? With classmates commanding the 18th Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg and McChord-Lewis in WA as three star generals, I find the different paths we all took quite interesting.

Nelson DeMille is an outstanding author whose work always has a great twist to it.

Highly recommended.

Eve says

The General's Daughter is a good crime fiction novel, but it's a straight-forward whodunit that doesn't have the humour and quirkiness of DeMille's John Corey series.

Much like TV's JAG, The General's Daughter is about an army investigation into the murder of one of its own, in this case the general's daughter.

The story is well written and is engaging, but the characters are not as fleshed out as in the Corey series.

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist" says

Excellent mystery. Kept me up late a few nights. I figured out early on who killed the general's daughter, but DeMille did some skillful misdirecting to make me question my guess for a few hundred pages. Sneaky devil.

Some of the characters here are depraved in a way I wouldn't expect from DeMille, but they serve his purpose. He highlights some problems created by having males and females serving side by side in the military.

I loved the witty banter between investigators Paul Brenner and Cynthia Sunhill. The set-up is similar to DeMille's John Corey/Kate Mayfield relationship. Take a wise-cracking, middle-aged guy, very good at his job but doesn't play by the rules. Pair him with a much younger, smarter but less experienced female who keeps him humble and is handy with the snappy retorts. A little sexual tension and a lot of great dialogue. Works well for DeMille and his readers.

Bestest line in the whole book:

"In fact, he's rather tight-assed, and if you put a lump of coal up his butt, he'd produce a diamond within a week."

Homunculus says

Auch ohne Action kann man wahre Pageturner schreiben. Dies gefällt mir an den Büchern von Nelson deMille immer sehr gut.

In diesem Buch geht es um den Mord an der Tochter eines verdienten Generals der US Army, der von Paul Brenner und seiner Kollegin aufgeklärt werden soll. Im Laufe der Ermittlungen kommt aber immer mehr zum Vorschein, so hat die Tochter eigentlich mit allen Army Größen ein sexuelles Verhältnis gehabt (sogar mit dem Pfarrer!). Dies hat allerdings seine Gründe, die das Ermittlerduo nach und nach herausfindet. Wirklich sehr spannend geschrieben und wieder einmal mit den witzigen Dialogen, die ich sehr an Nelson deMille schätze.

Gleich danach habe ich mir dann den Hollywood Film mit John Travolta als Vergleich angeschaut. Es gibt schon einige starke Veränderungen (so begeht ein Verdächtiger Selbstmord, im Buch jedoch nicht) und natürlich gibt es den großen Showdown, den es so im Buch auch nicht gibt. Aber trotzdem sehr interessant, gleich den Film nach der Lektüre zu sehen. Und natürlich hat mir in diesem Fall das Buch besser gefallen. :)

Corey says

Excellent book! Kept me up almost past midnight while reading every night, I just couldn't put it down! It was a great who-done-it murder mystery, but also very true to life, with what goes on behind closed doors in the Military.

Army Captain Ann Campbell, the young daughter of General Joe Campbell, is a West Point Graduate, and a

very highly decorated soldier, until her body is found, naked and bound, on the firing range at Army Base Fort Hadley. CID (Criminal Investigation Department) Officer and former Vietnam Soldier Paul Brenner is the man in charge of the investigation. Teamed with Brenner is Rape Specialist Cynthia Sunhill, who once had a complicated relationship with Brenner, they work on and off the clock, questioning everyone on the base, witnesses and others who knew the deceased.

At first to Brenner, the case turns out to be just a normal rape and murder, but he and Sunhill learn that Ann Campbell had been sexually involved with many people, and they learn about her dark past, corruption within the Army, and a cover-up years back which lead to Campbell's death.

The only thing preventing me from giving the book 5 stars, was even though the case was closed in the end, I personally felt that not all parties were held accountable for the murder. Other than that it was a great book, and a great premise. I enjoyed the witty one-liners from Brenner, and his love-hate relationship with Detective Sunhill, he's like another version of the John Corey series, which is by the same author for those of you who don't know.

PS The General's Daughter was also made into a movie in the late 90's, with the same title, starring John Travolta, and I remember liking it because he's one of my favorite actors, but as usual the book was better!

Matthew says

Maybe 3.5 stars . . .

I thought it was good . . . but I also thought it drug on a bit longer than it needed to in various places throughout the book. When I look back on it after finishing, I think it kept rehashing plot points in places that didn't need it - probably added 150 unnecessary pages or so.

But, as I said, not bad in the long run.

Nooilforpacifists says

Do not bother with the movie. And, yes, the book is sexist.

Carol says

Nelson DeMille is such a great storyteller!

Set on an Army base in Georgia, convincing characters fill the pages to tell the story of **THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER**, her shocking secret life, murder and apparent sexual assault as her body is found naked, bound and staked to the ground. (*no spoiler here*)

Fast-paced and full of sarcastic witty humor, Warrant Officer Paul Brenner and Rape Specialist Cynthia Sunhill's officious investigative techniques to uncover the truth surrounding Captain Ann Campbell's demise made for an entertaining and suspenseful crime read exposing horrific, inexcusable sexual misbehavior and

corruption within the military system.

Five stars for me. Excellent murder-mystery!

Update: April 17, 2016

Just caught the movie on HULU. A few differences, but as is normally the case, the book is not only better, it is a zillion times better!!! (IMHO)

Amy says

Read this years and years ago and loved it. But I don't think I five-star-loved-it, you know what I mean? But it was good.

Mike French says

Very enjoyable and entertaining book from beginning to end. I am a big fan of Nelson DeMille and looking forward to reading more of his work.

Denise says

Where have I been that I didn't know that this book existed or that it was made into a movie 10 years ago?!

As others have mentioned, one of the benefits of the book club is the opportunity to read something I would not have sought out on my own. Left to my own devices, I probably would have passed up this great murder/mystery.

After settling into the book, I was captivated by the unfolding of the crime and the subsequent events that led up to the final "who done it." At times, however, I found the subject matter unsettling and sad, but in the end, I felt like Capt. Ann Campbell had made peace with herself and her demons.

I was somewhat irritated with the 2 investigators, Paul and Cynthia. I found Paul to be condescending and dismissive toward Cynthia, while she in turn, seemed to always be in the background, her character never fully revealed. Towards the end, I was kind of hoping to fast forward the last quarter of the book.

On another note, this book provided interesting insight into military life and its assigned protocols, sometimes too prescribed for me.

I'm glad I decided to try something new in reading this genre of book. Definitely a page-turner and I have requested the movie from the library. I'm looking forward to seeing the book's characters transformed to the big screen, especially John Travolta's portrayal of Paul.

Julie says

I liked the straight forward language in this older book. The bantering back and forth with Brenner and others was good too! A very enjoyable read about a very serious subject.
