

P A T R I O T S



BOOK ONE
WILL KANE THOMPSON

Patriots

Will Kane Thompson

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Patriots

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Whether they admit it or not, or even realize it, their whole lives have been altered by the events of September 11th, 2001, when they were just kids.

They came to this paradise of a college campus to find freedom, themselves, their future, sex, love, fun, God, intellectual discovery, their creative core ... but instead find their world being torn apart again by political divisiveness, extremism, rage.

And now one of them will turn back to the terror of their youth in the hope of finding answers.

The rest will be victims.

Please also check out www.patriotsthenovel.com and @patriotsthenovel on Instagram.

[Meta: Patriots the novel patriots novel]

Patriots Details

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Author : Will Kane Thompson

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Genre :

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From Reader Review Patriots for online ebook

Valerie Carullo says

One of my favorite reads of 2017 written by one of my favorite people. The first part of a riveting story about a terrorist attack on a college campus in Florida told through the eyes of six undergrads. Will tells a great story. He also does right by Florida, which as a former Floridian, I love.

Marisol says

This was a fun book, and probably college students would love it because it explains clearly how confusing that period of our lives is: we want everything, but we don't know much. In any case, the characters feel quite real (very american!), with many flaws but also redeeming traits, so you end up liking (or at least understanding) them.

The first chapter is great, and you want to know more, but unfortunately you end the book without knowing what actually happened ... I didn't realize more books will follow.

Katie says

As was tearing through Patriots I kept trying to imagine if I'd read anything like it before -- and I don't think I have. Patriots is a genre-busting book -- political thriller? YA? College? LGBT? I would have loved to read this while I was still in college.

This is one of those great books where The Big Thing happens right away and we're left trying to figure out who and why for the rest of the pages. I loved how the characters and their complexity were revealed in bits in pieces -- one of my favorite characters was someone we really only got to know toward that last 3rd of the book.

If you read Patriots please DM me so we can discuss The Big Thing and The Person.

Cherie' says

Patriots Book 1 by Will Kane Thompson

This book seems to have it all, racism, 9/11, anger, violence, relationships, friendships, conspiracy, politics and death.

This was an intense read for me, it seemed real and fascinating, some parts had me skipping the sexual, cursing. These parts were a little too much for me. This book relates more to college age kids, I guess it's my

age which make me apauled at the language, it was a little too much for me, There were a lot of characters to follow and the end left you hanging, I'm not sure I would read the next book. Kids today think going on a rampage is how to take care of their problems. With all of the shootings today this book seems all so real. I so wanted to like this book, however I want to give my honest opinion.

Doesn't mean I wouldn't read more by this Author if tamer than this book.

Thank you Net Gallery, Xpressobook Tours and Will Kane Thompson for allowing me to read this book.

Cherie'

#Patriots #NetGallery #Xpressobooktours

Melanie says

I received this book through the goodreads giveaways program. I couldn't even finish it, tapped out at 38%. More vulgar than it needs to be, and I think that turned me off early on. Also just too much going on, and not organized, though it appears to be, with all the time stamps. So many characters and too much minutiae. I appear to be the only one though, lots of positive reviews, it just wasn't for me.

Jodi Gallegos says

Full review pending

K.A. says

Patriots is an intriguing modern day collection of stories within a larger story that kicks off with the ending hurled at us at the very beginning-- and the lead up outlines the rest of the novel to the moment things go wrong.

What I liked: Characters. None of them flawless and all of them share a self-absorbed quality that's quite refreshing to see not only stated, but acknowledged and called out. From a good looking on the surface power couple whose lack of depth and honesty is crumbling the foundation of their relationship to the broken unrequited love and opposing sides of a life long friendship quickly destroyed, to the insidious anti-government and anti-all-but-white group, to a young man who finds a name for and anger for the wounds he tried to pretend racism doesn't inflict on him... to the alarming differences and difficulties that come from a couple on track to be wed-- but have very different ideas of what being a "Good Christian" means-- and to the daughter of a high profile politician who wants to give her father a good fuck you to keep him in line.

What I didn't like: The pacing and overall structure of the story. It jumps around and makes it difficult to tell whose story I'm currently in and whose perspective I'm supposed to follow. And with the alarming intro at the beginning not touched upon, left as a cliffhanger complete with the sensation of "dun dun duuuunnnn....!!!" at the end? It feels as though that impactful beginning was cheapened, used to grab the reader's attention in hopes of their completing the novel with a lot more questions than answers.

There are also some sections of Tristan's perspective, as well as Katie's, that just feel beyond preachy and straight up like I'm being courted by a mall kiosk salesman about God/Religion and conspiracy theories.

Lucille Bransfield says

Hmmm... I'm not sure how I feel about this book. It started at the end and worked back three days. So I have to be honest, I had to reread first part when I got to the end. There were so many characters that it was a little hard to keep track while reading. I also did not realize it would end so wide open. Hadn't realized it was to be a series like that. I don't mind series, I am reading quite a few, but I don't like when they end so abruptly and obviously stopping where book 2 will start. I felt a little cheated not knowing an ending.

Jodie "Bookish" Cook says

Book Review

Title: Patriots

Author: Will Kane Thompson

Genre: Coming of Age/Political Fiction

Rating: ***

Review: The opening to Patriots was great, it opens in a club on October 21st with a unknown narrator describing the atmosphere of the club and how all the college students are dancing and having fun when he kicks a bookbag on the floor and suddenly there is an explosion and some people are hurt including the narrator. For an opening chapter this certainly was gripping. We then jump backwards three days, where we learn of the day to day situations at Florida South Coast University and the divide between students. As we slowly move through the day we learn about the lives of some of the students, one of which might be our mystery narrator from the opening chapter, and the two groups we seem to be focusing on are Ryan and his platoon of would be soldiers and Luke and his church goers and the divide between them. We learn that this novel is set post 9/11 and there is a lot of desire for the younger generation to fight back against the powers that harmed their country. So far it seems to be divided between those that support Bush and those that don't after 9/11 which is a bit confusing if you don't read much on the topic or are too young to have been around at the time, for me I was 4 years old at the time of 9/11 so I don't know that much about it.

As we approach the 1/4 mark in the novel, by 6:30pm on the first day everything seems to be heating up and the tension for what is to come is really building. We also get to see the relationships between the characters and they are diverse. We have Tristan and Kyle's very loving relationship although Kyle is shy and hesitant to say how he feels, then we have Ryan and Tracey's tense relationship with seems to be ending, Kristi and Luke's Christian relationship built on abstinence which doesn't always prevail. However, there also seems to be a past relationship or an unrequited love between Ryan and Tristan which I am interested to see how this develops especially with their difference of opinion on the conspiracies of 9/11. So far, nothing much is happening the way of action or drama but we are seeing a lot of social, political, racial and religious tension

building but this doesn't really make for interesting reading.

As we cross the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark in the novel, we are getting closer and closer to the events of the first chapter with only a day and a half to go, but the character I am really enjoying reading about at the moment is Kristi as she breaks away from Luke's idea of faith to find her own and she is beginning to realise that she won't put up with the way he is treating her for the rest of her life and intends to make herself heard where she would normally be silent as a "good Christian wife" should be. Kristi realises that she wants to be a strong woman like her mother but not trampled by a man like her mother was and like the pastor's wife and she isn't going to allow Luke to trample her into submission. It was also nice to see the character development in Luke and Ryan, Ryan is coming to terms with his father's death in the 9/11 attacks and the betrayal he felt at Tristan's words and Luke is beginning to accept the fact that he is either gay or bisexual while trying to maintain his religious beliefs.

As we approach the halfway mark in the novel, we are approaching the end of the second day and we can really see things snowballing. An offhand comment made by Tristan sparked an argument between him and Ryan and now they are going to confront each other but Tristan is still trying to appease his friend without hurting him further, but we know Ryan's goal is revenge against those who killed his father. We also see a spark of religious argument between Luke and Kristi when they have drastically different opinions on religion and she tells him she isn't certain about their relationship anymore and he is trying to cover up his attractions to the same sex while maintaining the façade of a faithful Christian. One of the most exciting scenes in the whole novel so far beside the opening chapter was the confrontation between Tristan and Ryan. Tristan's argument makes a lot of sense and Ryan despite his words doesn't want to hear it because his father died in the attack and he ends up attacking his friend over something that could have been avoided if they had spoken about it earlier. On the final day before the attack at the beginning of the novel, we see how different types of loyalty can really divide people; the loyalty to your beliefs and/or religion and how this can divide from the loyalty of the people you care about as if the case with Kristi and Luke and Tristan and Ryan.

As we cross into the second half of the novel, I really liked seeing Kyle's struggle between religions. Kyle grew up in a multi-religion household as his father was Muslim and his mother Christian and while he investigates both religions he understands that neither if any religion will accept him being gay. I liked the struggle with identity in this novel and the mirrors between Kyle and Luke. Both are gay although one is out, and one is not and both struggle to identify with a religion but while Luke remains corseted by his beliefs Kyle is happy being who he is without a religion to lean on. As we get closer and closer to the events in the opening of this novel I was still trying to pinpoint who could have been responsible for the attack or if all the characters mentioned will be victims of the attack. For the majority of this novel relationships have been built between friends and lovers and now we are watching them fall apart piece by piece. As we are getting closer and closer to the end of the novel something is building but what it is isn't known, I thought it might be the attack at the beginning of the novel but there haven't been any signs of that since the beginning of the novel so now I am not so sure.

As we approach $\frac{3}{4}$ mark in the novel, I was beginning to feel like the novel was repeating the ideals and behaviours of the same characters repeatedly and I can understand it wants to drive home a point, but that point is becoming lost in religious, political and societal babble. Despite this the novel is experiencing what I would call the calm before the storm and this is the period within the novel where everything slows down before crashing into the climax of the novel.

As we cross into the final section of the novel, we see the party everyone has been preparing for and how it ties into the beginning of the novel we see some relationships fall apart completely and others are mended.

However, the novel ends before the attack at the beginning of the novel and we are left with no idea who it is or why the attack happened. Overall, this novel was interesting to read and had some really gripping elements, but I felt that the novel didn't know what it wanted to be. Is this a poke a religion, political, society, all of the above or none of the above I wasn't quite sure, and neither is the novel? If I do decide to read the second book in the future I will be expecting a lot more for it than I got from this one.

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Harold says

This book is incredible. The characters and the world all feel so real, and if I didn't already live on the campus it takes place on, I'm sure I'd know it anyway. It's wonderful how alive everything feels, and how true the struggles of every character are. While showing such a wide array of representation, it doesn't feel like any character is just there for the sake of another perspective, or for the plot. These are real people, many of whom I feel like I've met, who go to college, who feel and think and do these things around the country. The problems and mental rabbit holes they find themselves running down are all too real, and the way they intertwine is fascinating, and a little bit addicting. This is a book for people in college, who want to see themselves, their friends, their enemies, and their issues in a new light that proves they aren't alone, while the plot works through their ups and downs and wildest fears. It's brilliant. It's honest.

Sarah Contos says

Spectacular! I had no idea what to expect. This book chronicles 3 days in the lives of multiple college students who are about to have their world permanently altered by the end of the third day. Will Thompson finds the part of each of his characters that makes the reader relate to them, even if you're equally suspicious of every one of them the entire time. With deep insights into our post 9/11 culture and the way we consider what it means to be a citizen of this modern world, the author has crafted a book which is part hero conquest, part love story, part mystery. And more! I can't wait for book 2!

Debbie Littley says

Patriots is a collection of stories within a larger story and it begins with the ending! But the real ending is a - god I need the next book right away! So maybe have book 2 to hand before you finish this one.

E says

A politically charged thriller set on a college campus- filled with such richly diverse and detailed characters, skillfully told from each perspective...so well written. I didn't want the book to end. Cannot wait for the next volume in a moving story that can reach (and possibly teach) young and old. Come on Book Two!!!

Aspen (Skeleton Leaf Reviews) says

With everything that has been happening lately I am not sure how I felt about this book. I think books need to be written on this subject but I'm not sure this was a good example of how to do it.

This book read much more like a murder mystery thriller than it felt like the stark look into the world of school shootings/bombings and the thoughts and feelings involved with those. The author put too much emphasis on the fact that none of the characters were good people that it felt distanced.

The three star rating on this book is because I am not sure how else to rate it. If you want to read it, do so with a grain of salt, but it's not something I will be declaring my love for from the rooftops.

***I received this book for free in exchange for my honest opinion.