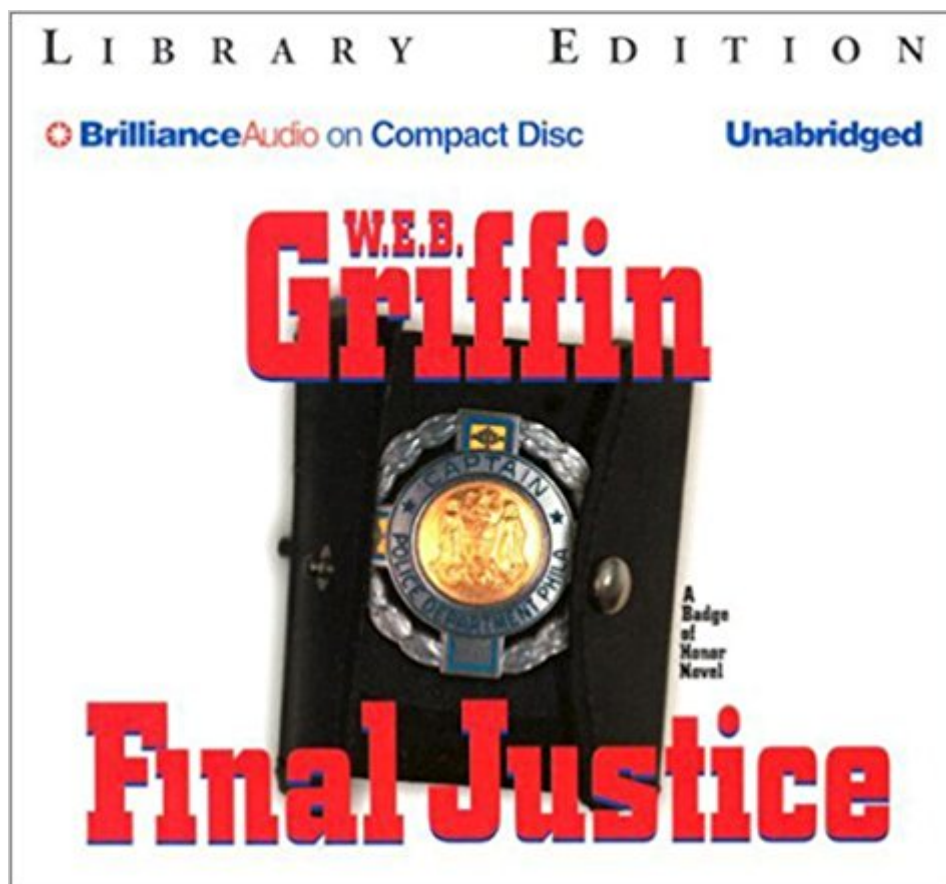


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Final Justice (Badge Of Honor Series)



Synopsis

Just as with his remarkable military novels, millions of readers have been captured by the rich characters and vivid realism of Griffin's police dramas. Now, in *Final Justice*, Detective Matt Payne -- newly promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Homicide -- finds himself in the middle of three major assignments. The first, a fatal shooting at a fast-food restaurant, seems simple, but rapidly becomes complicated. The second begins complicated and only gets more so, as Payne becomes involved with a local guru who has fled the country, leaving behind the mutilated body of his girlfriend in a trunk. And, as if that weren't enough, the self-absorbed star of a series of improbable movies comes into town -- and it is his presence that will complicate Payne's life most of all. Filled with color and detail and plots as real as the headlines, this is a riveting novel of the men and women who put their lives on the line, from the cop on the beat to the commissioner himself.

Book Information

Series: Badge of Honor Series (Book 8)

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Customer Reviews

That there's an Establishment in any big city cop shop is no surprise, but the cops, police, press, and prosecutors who hang out together in W.E.B. Griffin's Philadelphia are so tightly connected that there's hardly any room to breathe in this Badge of Honor thriller. While a couple of minor characters from outside this old-boys' network make a few cursory appearances, plus the obligatory perp, it's mostly an inside story about golden boy Matt Payne, Main Line scion and third generation cop who's just been promoted to Homicide, and his mentors, friends, and family. The perp is a clever psychopath who rapes and murders his way across country while he's buying and

selling exotic cars. Griffin fills in the story with plenty of carefully detailed department procedures in this newest in one of his many bestselling series (Honor Bound, Men at War, Brotherhood of War, The Corps). Justice triumphs and, of course, there's plenty of hero worship and not a flawed cop on the force, which won't surprise or displease the author's legion of true blue fans. --Jane Adams
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If God is truly in the details, then Griffin must be the pope of police procedurals. Want to know what paragraph of the Pennsylvania Criminal Code you violate if you use a flashing blue light attached to your car to get through traffic? Or what the chances are of a patrolman or detective passing the Philadelphia Police Department's exam for promotion to sergeant? Or what happens to the badge worn on the chest of an officer killed in action, after the funeral? All of this-and much, much more-is revealed in the eighth data-heavy entry in Griffin's Badge of Honor series (The Murderers, The Investigators, etc.). What's even more amazing is that all these factoids don't slow down the story's considerable momentum for a minute. Nor do they keep Griffin's gritty cops from convincing us of their individuality. Matt Payne, a detective with the Philadelphia police force, has just been promoted and transferred to Homicide. The cases he gets during his first few days at the post are a rich mix of mayhem entangling all strata of Philadelphia society: an apparently simple shooting in a fast food outlet that turns out to be almost unsolvable; a savage rape and murder with some serious anti-cop political overtones; an extradition case involving a fugitive murderer from France; and, for comic relief, the supervision of a visiting movie star who wants to make his police pictures more authentic. What holds it all together is Griffin's infectious respect for and fascination with police work.
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The great part about Final Justice is the feeling of being around old friends again, Denny Coughlin, Jason Washington, Matt Payne, and the rest. I really do love this series. I would keep buying these books just to keep these "old friends" part of my late night reading. Unfortunately, Final Justice is less well-conceived than the previous novels in the series. And, it had a different feel, like it written by a different author. The usually fascinating characters were flat and somehow not completely in character. Coughlin didn't feel like Coughlin. Washington didn't feel like Washington and was uncharacteristically a bit of a blowhard. Matt can be a smartass sometimes, but here, he is uncharacteristically a jerk (distinctly a bastard in the way he treats a female detective colleague for much of the novel). And Micky is now an overblown caricature of himself, but everybody likes him

(except his boss). Quaire, a name which previously came up only incidentally in the series, is now Matt's boss and called on to make small decisions that drive small parts of the story. Yet, he remains a cipher. Also, many threads that early on seem to be headed somewhere end up not going anywhere. The double murder at the restaurant, a plot device that consumed major plot development time, ends up being resolved in the last few pages as a mere mention that had nothing to do with the main characters. And, the story seems to have ended in the middle. Weirdly, Matt ends up in France on an unlikely sabbatical with Micky O'Hara. And as improbable as that seems, while they are there, as luck would have it, a murdering fugitive who escaped the US and now lives in a small town in France is handed over to Matt to bring back to the US. The End. What? Yes. The end. I checked my Kindle a couple of times to see if I had made a mistake tapping the screen. Here I am criticizing the author of possibly my all-time favorite novel series. The accolades I heap on the series are well-justified. But, the criticism of this installment is also justified. I still love the series and will probably read it again.

I love the series till the last few books, the timeline jumps 25 years but nobody ages, the 20s something cop in the 1970s is still his 20s in the 2000ths. Characters have not grown, still make the same mistakes even after some life altering tragedies.

Each one of the books in this series is more tedious than the one before it. Constant rehash of old events and material. If I had to read, one more time, that Mayor Carlucci held every police department rank other than policewoman, I would have thrown up in my chair. I stopped at No 8 in the series, long past time to recognize that Griffin is flogging the same dead horse. Just like Griffin's military officers' series, all you get is repeated rewrites. I hope W W B is enjoying his retirement because he has long since stopped being productive.

If this had been the first W.E.B. Griffin novel I read, there would never be a second novel I would waste my time reading. I have read all prior released Griffin novels. He hit home runs in most of those earlier ones. He never took the bat off his shoulder in this one and was called out on three straight called strikes. Griffin has never liked to draw out the endings of any novel, but this time the conclusion was so abbreviated as to lack excitement for his readers. I am left to wonder how much of this novel was written by W.E.B. the "master story teller" and how much was written by his son. I'll buy W.E.B.'s next issued novel, but if it is like Final Justice, then it will be the "final" W.E.B. Griffin book I purchase. Enough said-

Like any WEB Griffin series he retells all previous books in the series in the one you are presently reading, e.g., if you are reading #7 of the series, he retells what happened in books 1-6 of that series. This tends to make the book longer and somewhat boring when you get to the later of the series (I find myself skipping over large portions of a book because I've read it in previous books of the same series).If it is a series then the reader should be notified in book #1 - and reference made in the later series books. This might also increase sales...Clive Cussler has series novels - but when he refers to prior books of the series he simply states that something happened in a prior novel.Either way I have the full collections of both Griffin and Cussler on my Kindle.

I can't really add to the comments already made about the book. I was going to write a critique, but found, after reading other peoples comments, that they had covered all the bases. The most charring thing about the book is the time frame switch. In all the previous books there were no cell phones, lap top computers, DNA, or a host of other modern technology in use today. This apparently all came about in only about 6 months from the end of the last book. In six months we have a whole shake up in the city and in the police dept. A new mayor, DA, and police commissioner among others. Other than that it's a typical Griffin book. With all it's idiosyncrasies, like retelling every characters life story as they move into the narrative. But still a pretty good read.

W.E.B. is my favorite auther, what more can I say?

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