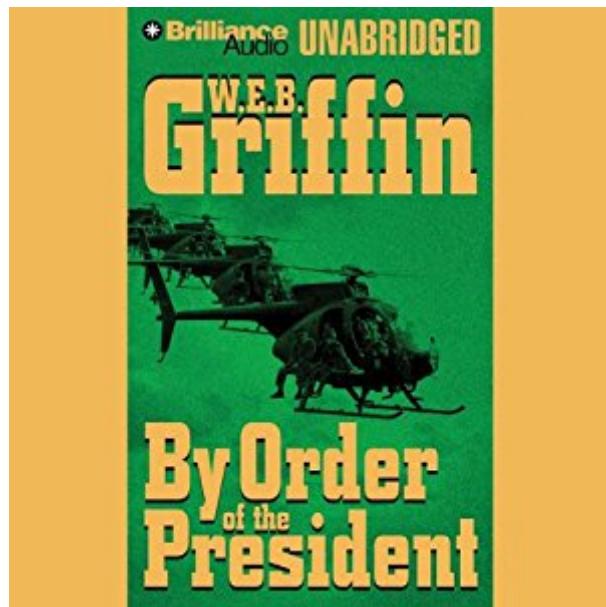


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# By Order Of The President: A Presidential Agent Novel



## **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.

--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

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## **Customer Reviews**

All of us Griffin fans have put up with a lot over the years while enjoying the bottom line: the characters and the story. We suffer through much of the following in each series: a fifth of each

book rehashes previous books; suffer through the fact that apparently a tenth of the American officer corps is wealthy or from old main-line families; suffer through little inaccuracies; and we have to wait up to a year before the next novel comes out - although he does not appear to have finished a series since B.O.W. The series have, however, become formulaic - one could change McCoy's or Frade's insignia and they could be dropped into any of the other series without any real disruption. The latest, 'By Order of the President' is so full of factual errors and apparent editing mistakes that I can not recommend it in good conscience. I really get the impression that Griffin is taking advantage of his readers. The myriad of mistakes makes it hard to read, particularly for those of us who are professional Soldiers and in the intelligence business. On page 67, DTG is '1545, 7 March 1981'. The next subchapter DTG is '0740, 7 March 1981', eight hours earlier. Oops. The editing errors continue throughout the book. The real mistakes are hard to believe. He has the Commander, 11 ACR worried about Soviet T-34 tanks coming through the Fulda gap in 1981! I seem to remember being worried about T-63s, T-64s, and such. Page 72 refers to a 'Baker Troop', yet the US Army had not used that phonetic term since WWII. Griffin appears to be confusing old Marine terminology with the modern Army. On page 73, a photo caption from the regimental newspaper of 1969 refers to a character as a 'WOJG'. In 1969, we had had the numbered Warrant Officer ranks of today for some time.

WEB Griffin books have a habit of causing me problems. I like them too much. When I start one, I tend to get very little else done until it is finished. Unfortunately, this latest offering has the same property and they always seem to come at inconvenient times like during exams, or when a major project is coming due. It's worth the price. This is the first book of a new series. Instead of reaching back into history, it tackles real issues now. It does so with all of the traits that have come to be expected of Griffin's books. These traits have rightfully been condemned as formulaic but, in this case, the formula works. The focus of the book is the war or terrorism. This is a much more difficult war to portray than the second world war, Korea or Vietnam. Its nature is such that the role of intelligence and the lack of intelligence are even more problematic than normal. This gives an even greater opportunity for Griffin to write about the special operations types he obviously loves. It also provides an opportunity for him to take a critical and sometimes scathing look at the cultures of the communities who gather, process and disseminate that intelligence. As is to be expected in a Griffin Book, the protagonist is the wealthy playboy type. This device is used so often by him that it would be laughable were it not for the fact that it works and works well. Another characteristic of his work is here in full force as well. It is certainly not politically correct. Griffin pulls no punches in deference to

race, national origin or religion. He calls them as he sees them and is likely to offend some people. The same people who are offended, however, miss the fact that he is also very respectful of those from other races, nations and cultures.

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