



Blood Oath

David Morrell

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He wanted to make peace with the past....Peter Houston just wanted to find the grave of the war-hero father he never knew--a yearning that would draw him thousands of miles from home to the military cemetery in France. Instead, he stumbled into a shadowy underworld....He never dreamed his private pilgrimage would unearth a decades-long secret that would plunge him into a deadly labyrinth of intrigue and murder. Now, he's fighting for survival....As ruthless assassins hunt him through the cities of Europe, he'll struggle to stay alive. But when they murder the woman he loves, he'll turn from hunted to hunter. And swearing a blood oath of vengeance....Tracking down his ruthless tormentors, he'll discover a truth he could not imagine...and could possibly destroy him.

Blood Oath Details

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Author : David Morrell

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From Reader Review Blood Oath for online ebook

msleighm says

4.5 stars.

On the book cover is a quote from Stephen King, "I defy readers not to finish this novel in a single sitting." If I hadn't started so late in the day yesterday, I would have, I couldn't put it down. Liked the writing better than the earlier books and will continue to read them, somewhat in order.

Cris says

3.5 stars.

Mark Graham says

This little known short novel by David Morrell is one of his best. Try to find the Gothic elements that the author used to advance the tricky plot.

Hana says

How can an innocent idea change your life - you wish to find your father's grave and suddenly you are hunted, your wife is murdered and you find out that your father not only lives but is a member of a mob. It was a good thriller with fast pace, good writing and interesting characters. I liked it.

Tom Hooker says

Creative Plotting. During WWII, a squad of soldiers goes MIA during a battle in France. Not long after, Peter Houston's mom (wife to one of the soldiers) gets a letter from a Frenchman. The letter promises he will maintain the father's grave as a gesture of gratitude for the sacrifice he made in behalf of France and the free world. Thirty-two years later, Peter travels to France to visit his father's grave. No grave. He searches for the man who wrote the letter, he's disappeared, too. With a little investigation, Peter discovers that the families of each of the MIA squad members received a similar letter from the Frenchman, and that no grave exists for any of the soldiers. Peter resolves to get to the bottom of the mystery, and thus begins a chaotic series of events. The writing in the shoot'em up in the last few pages is a bit over the top. Otherwise, not a bad story.

Viji (Bookish endeavors) says

Old wine in new bottle.. Well.. I shouldn't say new since I've seen other writers do it in a better way.. It's a polished bottle..

Pete Houston visits France to look for his father's grave, the father whom he had never known. His wife is with him and because of some twists that take place when he tries to find out about his father, she gets killed. He is determined to find out her killer and is helped by Simone, the daughter of the owner of the hotel where he is staying. And they find out a 37-year old secret..

As the story progresses, we feel that it's something huge that's going to happen. There is all this tension and secrecy and shadowing. And when you get the whole picture, you feel like that's it. ?!! And the stunts in this book is like some small-town fight. It doesn't do justice to the 'real bad' image of the villains.

Altogether, this book doesn't have a plot of its own and the author has failed miserably in his attempt to present it in a decent manner.

PS:-

I saw Stephen King's praise for this novel on the cover page, "best selling thriller-packed with tension" and was lured into reading it. And now I've decided never to read the praises.

CBishop says

Excellent story about a man who went to France to solve a curiosity about his father, only to be drawn into something much deeper. And despite Stephen King's defiance, I read this over several sittings (but then, that's how I read).

Michael says

Imagine going to France to visit your father's grave and find he isn't buried there?

Pete Houston never knew his dad but when his mother died he goes to France to visit the grave of his father and tell him about his wife but his father's not there.

All Pete and his wife have is info that Pierre de StLaurnet wrote to Pete's mom and promised to look after his father's grave but when they investigate, St. Laurent is also missing.

A stranger tells Pete that St. Laurent lives in another town but when traveling there, a van forces Pete's car off the road. They crash into a river, Pete escapes, his wife, Jan, does not.

Pete awakens in the hotel where the authorities had taken him. The owner and his daughter, Simone, permitted Pete to recover there.

Upon recovering and taking care of his wife's funeral, Simone takes Peter to the address he had been given for St. Laurent but this too is a setup.

They return to the military cemetery where he thought his father was buried and find that two other people came to find their family member in the same situation, and found their loved one's weren't buried there either.

Morrell does a find job in keeping the suspense going. How Houston could continue so soon after his wife died and was cremated was improbable but the rest of the story went well. The characters were well drawn and the story told dramatically.

The main character has been compared to Robert Ludlum's Jason Bourne and I think there could be a valid comparison.

it'chy says

houston, we have a problem

p151: "and my father's at the center of them," houston said. his stomach dropped. "dear god, what kind of person was he? what was he involved in?"

"is," simone said.

"what?"

"not what but is. it hasn't ended."

p185: simone and he waited anxiously...

p240: the makeup peeled away in strips of grotesque supple rubber.

Nicole says

"I defy readers not to finish this novel in a single sitting." Stephen King. Is the quote on the cover. While I didn't finish it in one sitting, I did enjoy reading the book. The characters were enjoyable and the pace was perfect, no lagging or drawn out anything.

Definitely looking forward to more stories by the same author.

Martin Hill says

Peter Houston, an American novelist, travels to France to pay homage to the father he never knew, an American soldier killed in action in the weeks following the Normandy invasion. When he discovers there is no record of his father being buried in any of the American war cemeteries, Houston begins looking for a Frenchman who promised the writer's mother he would look after the dead soldier's grave. Houston's search threatens to uncover long buried secrets, and suddenly finds Houston targeted by unknown forces. Those forces make one deadly mistake, they kill the woman Houston loves and when he swear a blood oath, Houston turns from being the hunted to being the hunter.

David Morrell's *Blood Oath* is a classic Hitchcockian mystery; that is, a story about an ordinary man who innocently becomes embroiled in deadly enigma and is forced to take action to save himself and those he loves. One can almost imagine Cary Grant as Houston. And like a good Hitchcock movie, *Blood Oath* soon turns from mystery to thrilling suspense.

Beyond the mystery and suspense, however, this is also the story about a boy who grows up without his father. Father-son relations often play a part in Morrell's novels, and none more than *Blood Oath*. As Morrell explains in the forward, he grew up never knowing his father, a Canadian pilot who was killed in WWII. Like Houston, Morrell began a search to learn more about the man, a search that eventually led him to a war grave in the United Kingdom. While reading *Blood Oath*, it wasn't difficult to hear Morrell's childhood pain in Houston's childhood angst.

In the end, *Blood Oath* is a fine mystery thriller, one of Morrell's best.

Charles says

Just an all around good book.

David says

Taut, relentless thriller from genre master David Morrell. This is one of his early works and suffers at times from melodrama, but not enough to be distracting. I can't speak for other editions, but the first edition hardcover has no fewer than three typos. Sloppy editing aside, an enjoyable book.

Stephen says

Not a bad book, but certainly not one of Morrell's masterpieces. This bit of 80's fiction follows the running through the French country jumping fences, dodging trees, and trying to get away while searching for answers paradigm. This book could easily be overlooked without much loss. If you like Morrell, go read The Brotherhood of the Rose series, The Fifth profession, Creepers, Scavenger, or even Testament.

Robert Grant says

This one started out pretty good but I think it then became a bit too predictable and kind of over the top. There is some parts of this story that hint at the excellent works that come later from this author but, this one disappoints.
