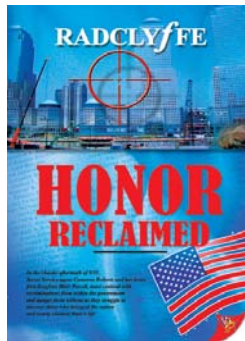


Book Review: January 2006

by Richard LaBonte (reviewer at Q Syndicate and BTWOF)



Honor Reclaimed

Radclyffe

ISBN: 1-933110-18-X

Trade paper, 288 pp, \$15.95

December, 2005

Lesbian Romance/Action

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

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Richard Labonte

Book to Watch Out For

Website: <http://btwof.com/>

Carol Seajay - Publisher

(*Note: Spoilers contained within this review.*)

In the bold alternate universe of prolific novelist Radclyffe, the president of the United States palavers with his beloved openly lesbian daughter before she accompanies him to Ground Zero days after September 11. Most of the Secret Service agents, covert FBI operatives, and undercover CIA sleuths in *Honor Reclaimed* are strong-willed women sleeping with other women. And in the midst of post-9/11 chaos, the president's daughter - after surviving an assassination attempt by presumed terrorists and escaping unscathed and uninfected from a follow-up smallpox attack - is making wedding plans with her Secret Service lover. Terrorist attacks aside, it's definitely not the world as we know it - but the author's brisk mix of political intrigue, fast-paced action, and frequent interludes of lesbian sex and love sure does make for great escapist reading. This fifth in the "Honor" series draws on plot points and character interactions from earlier books, but it's a satisfying stand-alone read - a lusty romance adroitly woven into the ominous backdrop of America under attack.

_Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s.

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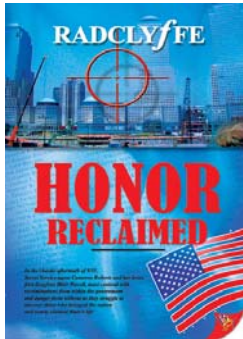
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Book Review: February 2006

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [JAW](#))



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Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& *Publisher*

Honor Reclaimed is the fifth book in Radclyffe's Honor Series, and if you have not read the previous four, now is the time. It has been said that it is difficult to make a sequel better than the original. Well, Radclyffe has written each one better than the last, culminating in a thoughtful, compassionate and captivating story in the aftermath of 9/11.

Honor Reclaimed continues where *Honor Guards* left off. It is two days after September 11. On that date, while horrific events were unfolding nationwide, an assassination attempt was made on the president's daughter Blair Powell, resulting in the death of two secret service agents. Most of the secret service team, including the lead agent and her lover, Cameron Roberts, is removed from protecting Blair when it is determined that the attempt was an inside job. Only Paula Stark, the new agent in charge, remains on the team because she put herself in the line of fire. Cam is convinced that another strike is imminent and thus has Blair sequestered in a safe house. While Paula is protecting Blair, Cam is searching for answers with her newly formed team to prevent another attempt on her life. When another attempt is made, the weapon this time is bioterrorism, and Cam's team must act quickly to save Blair. However, Cam still doesn't know if there is a traitor in their midst, working against everything she is trying to protect.

Radclyffe skillfully describes how everyone involved is dealing with 9/11 in their very personal, as well as professional, way. Each has their own demon to fight as they attempt to reach out to one another. The supporting cast is superb and adds depth to the story. FBI Agent Renee Savard is struggling with the memories of having been in one of the Twin Towers as it collapsed; her lover, Paula, is trying to cope with being Blair's new secret service agent in charge. Cam and Blair do not have much time to explore their growing love as each is trying to protect the other. Diane Bleeker and Valerie Lawrence are just beginning to discover one another, but Valerie's secrets threaten their tenuous relationship. Blair's and Diane's friendship is fleshed out too, demonstrating durability and an unwavering faith - the sort of alliance we all seek out.

Honor Reclaimed is honest and intense. Radclyffe balances passion with the uncertainty of each character's future as well as the country's. When Paula and Renee make love, they are seeking comfort and belonging. Each character is trying to find answers through their need to connect with another after their world is upended. The first passionate love scene between Valerie and Diane where Valerie finally lets someone touch her is moving and breathtaking. Allowing others to reach inside and comfort us when we feel lost is at the very core of *Honor Reclaimed*. It is a brilliant effort.

When an author tries to create a fictional event around history, her weaknesses can easily be exposed if the story is inconsistent with the events. When the event becomes part of a nation's psyche, it is doubly important that the author knows what she is doing. To create a book surrounding the shocking and serious events of 9/11, it takes a mature, gutsy and sensitive author to construct a fictional tale that understands the magnitude of the real event it encompasses. Radclyffe has done just that with *Honor Reclaimed*. It is an incomparable story that parallels real life which only a seasoned and gifted author could accomplish admirably. Bravo, Radclyffe!

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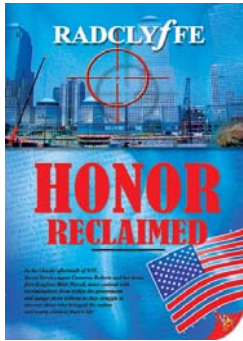
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Book Review: February 2006

by Cheri Rosenberg (reviewer at [MBR](#))



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James A. Cox

Editor-in-Chief

Writing a series takes skill and finesse. Radclyffe possesses both in her Honor series, Justice Series, and Provincetown Tales. *Honor Reclaimed* brings back beloved characters Cam and Blair for another fulfilling glimpse of their love, commitment, and adventures. This time Cam tries desperately to uncover the identity of those responsible for attempting to assassinate the president's daughter, and prevent any further attacks on Blair. Following 9/11, the nation is scrambling to win the war against terrorism and hoping to hold those responsible accountable, while Cam works to keep her lover safe amidst threats to her life.

Not many people can claim that they have slept in the white house and have woken up next to the first daughter. However, Secret Service Agent Cameron Roberts, Blair Powell's personal security chief, cannot believe *she* can. So begins the fifth novel in the Honor series, *Honor Reclaimed*. Our heroines fight for more than honor in a world gone mad at the hands of terrorists and assassins, "...in a world where annihilation could be delivered to one's doorstep on a bright sunny morning, there seemed to be little point to standing on convention. And for those who lived within the shadow of the tragedy, life had taken on an even greater sense of urgency, where caution and prudence had far less meaning" [p. 86].

On that fateful day, when the attack on the World Trade Center ensued, the lovers were near Blair's heavily guarded apartment in New York City. Simultaneously a shooting targeting Blair despite Cam's vigilant safeguarding, left one agent on Cam's team dead, another one critically injured, and a third agent, a suspected killer. Cam felt responsible and duly worried for Blair's safety. If there was one traitor, then there were bound to be others. Taking more than one bullet meant for Blair, Cam would do it again in order to protect the woman she loves more than life itself. Blair hates that Cam puts her life on the line for her and the thought of ever losing her is a fate worse than death.

Radclyffe, known for exploring many characters concurrently in her novels, does a fine job of developing ancillary characters as well. Cam and Blair are the central characters but *Honor Reclaimed* would not be complete without Agent Paula Stark, who becomes Blair's new security chief in Cam's place and FBI agent, Renee Savard who is Paula's lover. The dynamics are further complicated with the beginnings of a relationship between the elusive Valerie Lawrence and Blair's best friend, Diane Bleeker. It is interesting to note that the interplay between the main characters has a pivotal role in shaping the plot. Emotions run deep between characters some of whom had a past to those making history. Cam and Valerie have a cross to bear, a hurdle to get over, from past liaisons.

What I liked best about this book was not only the fast-paced action sequences, the hot love scenes, and seeing life through some of my favorite characters' eyes but the depth with which these brave women love each other. I love the commitment of these couples who are even willing to put their life on the line for the ones they love. That is the most romantic part of all and what makes *Honor Reclaimed* not only a terrific mystery, but an engaging romance. I also find it admirable that they are willing to defend their country with equal fervor. Readers love heroes and Radclyffe gives her readers what they love. It is no wonder that Radclyffe is the winner of many accolades and continues to delight her fans.

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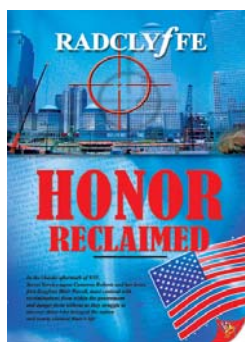
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Book Review: May 19, 2006

by R. Lynne Watson (reviewer at MegaScene Magazine)



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In many ways, Radclyffe has created a “torn from the headlines” story. Set in the aftermath of 9/11, it’s a story that starts on Sept. 13, and ends on Oct. 1. It follows the day by day protection of the president’s daughter, and the work done by the secret service. Part of the “Honor” series, it features Secret Service Agent Cameron Roberts and the president’s daughter, Blair Powell.

The story begins shortly after an attack has been made on Blair, orchestrated by a rogue agent. As Cameron was head of the Secret Service team, she is pulled from being in charge of Blair’s protection. As Blair’s lover and who values honor above all, Cam will not rest until the perpetrators are caught and she knows Blair is safe.

Radclyffe is a well established author with several books in print, including the books in this series. While reading all the books in the series is riveting, each book stands on its own merit. The plots are tightly written, the characters well drawn, and the sex is always hot! Look for this believable and exciting story at your favorite gay and lesbian bookstore.

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