



## Thunder in the Morning Calm

*Don Brown*

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## **Thunder in the Morning Calm** Don Brown

Lieutenant Commander “Gunner” McCormick is assigned as an intelligence officer to Carrier Strike Force 10, being deployed to the Yellow Sea at the invitation of South Korea for joint exercises with the US Navy. During his pre-deployment briefing, he discovers a TOP-SECRET MEMO revealing rumors that the North Koreans may still be holding a handful of elderly Americans from the Korean War in secret prison camps. As it happens, Gunner’s grandfather, who was a young marine officer in the Korean War, disappeared at Chosin Reservoir over 60 years ago and is still listed as MIA in North Korea. Sworn to silence about what he has read, the top-secret memo eats at him. Gunner decides to spend all his inheritance and break every military regulation in the book to finance his own three-man commando squad on a suicide mission north of the DMZ to search for clues about the fate of his grandfather. Risking his career, his fortune, and his life, Gunner will get his answers, or he will die trying. Don Brown is building a loyal fan base by writing what he knows best: thrillers with heart. A former Navy JAG officer and action officer in the Pentagon, Brown pens action-packed plots and finely-drawn characters that are credible and compelling. *Thunder in the Morning Calm* is a novel of bravery, duty, and family love that will keep readers of all ages reading straight through to the last page.

## **Thunder in the Morning Calm Details**

Date : Published (first published July 12th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Don Brown

Format : Kindle Edition 336 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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## **From Reader Review Thunder in the Morning Calm for online ebook**

### **Rebecca says**

I'm a big fan of listening to Dick Hill from all the W.E.B. Griffin books that he's done. He did a fantastic job on this book, the first of Don Brown's I've listened to. I loved the character development, the action, the explanations. It wasn't dry, we didn't get bogged down in any of the technical or military terms. The ending was so emotional and so heartfelt. I highly recommend this book, and anything narrated by Dick Hill!

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### **Maria says**

Lieutenant Commander Gunner McCormick, a Navy intelligence officer aboard the US Harry Truman aircraft carrier, stationed in the Yellow Sea uses his private fortune on his 30 day leave to infiltrate North Korea and rescue the American POW left over from the Korean War.

Why I started this book: Military thriller by a Navy officer about Korea? Sign me up.

Why I finished this book: If you can suspend belief that a Navy officer has a private fortune of +\$600,000 that he can draw from at will, a high security source who is willing to pass him information about American POWs but unwilling to rescue said POWs, and Gunner's ability to make repeated contact with clandestine Christians smuggling people out of North Korea, with only a week's lead time, this might be the book for you. Of course the stereotype characters might trip you up... the more I write this review, the more surprised I am that I finished this book. The story did draw me in, so that I only saw the plot holes in the rearview window.

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### **Pam says**

New author for me - will try to find the rest of this series. I'm hooked

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### **Tanya says**

I was pleasantly surprised with this book. After some of the horrible books I had started that had great reviews, (they had horrible language and descriptive sex, immediately off my kindle) I was wary about this one. Would it hold up to what I expected. I was glad to say it did. For a book that is military based, it had clean language, and even the violence was toned down. It is Christian based, very patriotic and if someone has any sort of leaning to socialism/communism they will hate it. Although I found it to speed through some of the story, there were other times I was wondering if these events needed to be in it. Could there have been enough drama without the extra military drama? Since I have no experience in the military and even less knowledge of the Navy, particularly those serving in areas with high political tension it could be more realistic than I think.

I enjoyed the fictional president being tough, and not backing down I felt a pride in my country that I have not felt in a few years. It made me wish he was our president and that someone of his caliber was actually able to run and win.

The last page made me cry, I didn't think I would but he struck my emotional cord in a manner I didn't anticipate. I think this is one of the best books I have read this year.

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### **Kathleen McRae says**

I thought this would be a book shedding some light on the Korean peninsula. I found instead it was more of a marine thriller

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### **Laura says**

Title: THUNDER IN THE MORNING CALM

Author: Don Brown

Publisher: Zondervan

August 2011

ISBN: 978-0-310-33014-1

Genre: military/fiction/inspirational

Lieutenant Commander Christianson Pendleton “Gunner” McCormick is a Naval Intelligence Officer tasked with briefing the current naval carrier strike force in the Yellow Sea with a new mission. This mission is intended to initiate a show of presence in the Yellow Sea in an effort to calm mounting tensions in the area between The Republic of Korea and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (read, “North Korea.”)

While in the area, Gunner uncovers information pointing to the possibility that American POW’s are still being held in the North Korean controlled areas north of the 38th parallel. Gunner’s own grandfather may be one of the captives. Raised with a sense of responsibility and duty by (and for) his forefathers, Gunner desperately throws together his own “mission,” knowing full well that failure could cost him more than his own life. It could cost the lives of those around him, and potentially thousands of others, should hostilities be renewed between North and South Korea.

Nevertheless, honor and courage combine in a novel that will stir your spirit and warm your heart as you follow Gunner and his new-found compatriots on a rescue mission that trumpets the sentiments of every red-blooded American: POW – MIA You Are Not Forgotten! I'd give this one 4 stars. Don Brown kind of dragged it out, and got overly technical at times in a very inconvenient way. He likes to use Navy documents as a means to introduce background material, but he's kind of clumsy at it. It ended very emotionally. In a good way. 336 pages. \$14.99.

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## **Ron Denton says**

This is a far cry from a military techno thriller, unless you know absolutely nothing about firearms, aircraft, ships or missiles, and have no idea what the Aegis Combat System is. As others have said it is much more like a comic book or Saturday matinee than a novel. This is sad, because the setup is essentially good, and another writer could have put something good together here. Thankfully I got this from the library, so no money wasted. I will not waste any more time on this author.

The tech errors are so bad, you expect the Captain of a modern US aircraft carrier to direct his First Lieutenant to open the ports and run out the guns.

Characters in this book are 2D at best. From what I read about the author, he was a JAG officer for some years, so it's possible his JAG-based books might be better. It's too bad that on this one he spent so much time injecting religion and current political jabs to use even Wikipedia to check some of his tech details. Sorry Brown, just knowing terms like SM-3 or M16 isn't enough, you actually have to have some idea of their capabilities and operations. Apparently the complete lack of barracks-language or blood and gore is connected to the religious angle.

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## **Cheryl says**

This is another book where I picked it up as it sounded good but then it got added to my giant TBR pile and forgotten. Since this is the year that I decided to start attacking my TBR pile, this book finally got picked up once again. Man am I kicking myself now that I did not read this book as soon as I got it. A great military thriller. Mr. Brown writes with such passion and is a talented storyteller. He captures the details and his characters emotions in a way that pulls you into the story and makes you connected to the characters. I was with Gunner through the whole journey as he raced to see if the rumors were true about some Americans still held captive by the North Koreans. I do plan to go back and check out Mr. Brown's other books.

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## **Brenda says**

This was an intense book. I read late into the night. It moved fast and the exploits seemed too good to be true/

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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Thunder in the Morning Calm (Pacific Rim Series #1)

Author: Don Brown

Pages: 330

Year: 2011

Publisher: Zondervan

My rating is 5 out of 5 stars.

Wow, what a thrilling story! The setting is modern era Korea, both North and South. There have been rumors circulating that the North Koreans have a prison camp where they are still holding American servicemen from the Korean War. These prisoners have been held captive for sixty years! If the rumors are true, then Commander Christianson "Gunner" McCormick plans to rescue them no matter the cost.

Gunner comes from a wealthy family, but he doesn't flaunt that and is a member of the U.S. Naval

Intelligence branch of the service. His U.S. Marine grandfather went missing during the Korean War, leaving a hole in the life of his mother as she was only five years old when he disappeared. He is presumed dead, but in his memory Gunner vows to rescue these captive servicemen. His mother taught him to memorize Scripture every night while growing up, and the one that sticks in his mind while he is deciding whether to pursue this extremely dangerous rescue mission into Communist North Korea is "Do what is right," from Deuteronomy. Gunner is risking his naval career as this mission is not sanctioned by the military, lots of money, as well as his life. He recruits two retired servicemen, one from the U.S. Army and the other from the South Korean military, to help him in this mission. All the men know that their odds of success are slim at best, but are willing to "leave no man behind".

Gunner asks for thirty days leave from his assignment aboard the U.S.S. Harry Truman to begin his mission. While he is gone, his ship engages in practice maneuvers with their South Korean allies. Missiles get launched, attacks by North Korea, then retaliation from the U.S. cranks up the tension. Another portion of the story tells about the prisoner camp and the cruelty and brutality of the North Korean soldiers. When one captive falls ill, they find help from an unexpected source only for the source to be captured and sentenced to execution. This is the world Gunner and two companions must enter.

I couldn't put this book down! The various threads of the story all had their own set of players with tension and danger galore. The bravery, courage and strength of the U. S. servicemen was inspiring. Gunner and Keith, both held to their faith in the most trying of circumstances. God certainly answered the prayers of Margaret, Gunner's mother, in a big way! The characters were easy to get to know and connect with, so the story was a quick read for me. I can't wait to read book two in the series, Fire of the Raging Dragon. This is one not to miss, so grab a copy for yourself and a friend!

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## LindaJ^ says

As another reviewer commented, this was like watching Fox News. There is a dig at the Obama administration concerning the purchase of some malfunctioning defense mechanism. There is a president who orders a North Korean frigate destroyed after North Korean pilots shot missiles at US fighter jets (who were deliberately flying on the border of the air space) (the pilots of which were then ordered to, and did, fire at the North Korean jets and bring one of them down) and North Korean missiles were shot at the aircraft carrier where the US jets landed (one of which hit the ship because of the defective defense mechanism). When the Secretary of State insists that diplomatic measures should be attempted before sinking the ship, the president goes into a diatribe about how terrible the UN is.

But what gets it a 2 star from me is the unbelievable and not very well written story. The core of the story is about a rogue Navy intelligence officer who gets 30 days leave and in less than a week, hires an ex-Army ranger, a retired Korean general, buys a plane and weapons and undertakes a "mission" to rescue American POWs from the Korean War still being held (in their 80's) in a North Korean prisoner of war camp. The story switches between the Navy officers activities, the POW camp, the action involving the US Navy and North Korea, and the Navy officer's mother (who is the daughter of a Marine MIA in Korea). The characters are poorly developed and there are too many action scenes with little differentiation -- the same buildup and conclusion, over and over.

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**Betty Vernon says**

I finished the book but considered ditching it a few times. The characters and story were interesting but I dislike the political and religious propaganda. I can get that for free on Faux news.

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**Libby says**

My husband I loved this book that open our eyes to those soldiers missing in action ,especially those who have been forgotten because it " couldn't be possible they are still alive". While it is a work of military fiction it helps keep hope alive that the missing could still be brought home.

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**Kathy says**

excellent, couldn't put doqn

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**Edison Colwell says****Grateful story**

Wonderful conclusion to a marvelous heart warming story of faith and honor. Hope to read more of this series.Hooray. Go marines.

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