



A Police Action

A.A. Freda

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A Police Action is a gripping coming-of-age Vietnam War-era romantic novel. It is the story of two lost confused young adults. It is love at first sight when nineteen-year old Samantha Powers meets James Coppi at the country Honky Tonk in Colorado Springs. There are just two problems for a storybook ending for Samantha's passion. She is pregnant with someone else's child and James, a young soldier, is heading for a war in Vietnam.

Will this instant attraction be enough to form a lasting bond? What will happen after James is deployed? Will he return home safely, and, if so, will it be for Samantha? Follow along as the young lovers mature through individual hardships and those that they share.

A Police Action Details

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Author : A.A. Freda

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From Reader Review A Police Action for online ebook

Carmen says

I found it funny how everyone went to James Coppi for a loan; though there were times it seemed as if he didn't have a sense of responsibility, but he was responsible when it counted. I got a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Stacy says

A Police Action was the story of a young guy, James Coppi, who has been drafted into the Vietnam War in order to avoid trouble with the law. He didn't have any real goals, and didn't know what he wanted to do with his life-- he just always kind of drifted from trouble to trouble. While at Fort Carson, he meets a young girl in trouble and wants to help her. He instantly like Sam, but seems afraid of commitment. During his tour of Vietnam, he finds out how bad war can be. Many friends die, he sees betrayal and injustice. From the descriptions provided and details of little things, the reader gets the definite impression that the author is writing from his own experience over there. Sam loyally sticks by him despite his lack of anything permanent regarding their future together. It all ends up working out for the good in the end, and who doesn't like happy endings? The only thing I found irritating in the book was the way that Sam had to bribe James to do almost anything (painting a room with her, shopping with her, etc) by "making it worth his while" later... which that's one thing if it's once in a while to be playful or as a joke, but something else entirely if it is all the time. Why would a person stick with someone they have to bribe or manipulate to do everyday things with that are just a normal part of a relationship? In my eyes, that isn't a real relationship... if not for that, I would have given the book a higher review.

I received the book for an honest review from the author, thank you.

Laura says

Army draftee James Coppi is headed for Vietnam. Tension is high in his Colorado barracks. Coppi and his comrades are training to fight a war in the jungle, and with only ten months left of his tour he just wants to live long enough to muster out and go home to the Bronx. Coppi's decision to go into town with the others his first Friday night becomes a major turning point in his life.

He meets Samantha (Sam), a woman that catches his eye. Disregarding all the pitfalls associated with becoming involved with Sam, Coppi jumps into a relationship with her immediately. The fact that she has a major problem that needs to be dealt with as well as his impending departure for war adds layers of complexity to their feelings about each other that may be misconstrued for love. And if it is love, will it survive until they are reunited?

Freda writes about war with the knowledge of someone who has lived those horrible minutes, days or years. He brings the intensity of war to life bringing the reader into the jungle with him. The sounds, smells, heat and fear are felt with every word. The horrors of battle are not whitewashed; Coppi's and possibly Freda's feelings about the war the government referred to as a Police Action are evident.

The relationship between Sam and Coppi seems superficial. Perhaps it is the characters themselves. Coppi admits he is a con man and not necessarily a good person. Yet he steps in taking care of Sam when he doesn't even know her. He is difficult to like because he is basically a loan shark, does not pay any attention to his superiors, ignores little things like getting back to base on time and yet seems to save the day every time. Somehow I find it very unlikely that he would have gotten by virtually unscathed after being AWOL several times in the span of a month. The Lieutenants, Majors and Sergeants give him a wink every time he does something stupid just because he can't seem to follow direct orders. That is the only part of the military segments that was unrealistic to me.

Sam alternates between an efficient woman and a whiny girl. The conversations she has do not sound like a grown woman, yet she is working, living on her own and has been on her own before she meets Coppi. The fact that she conveniently brings God into the mix at times does not ring true. She admits to partying and picks up Coppi and sleeps with him the day they meet. The character is like two different people, making the reader question who she really is. Unfortunately her shallowness became really annoying.

I recommend this book for those who are interested in reading fiction about Vietnam by an author with first-hand knowledge. If you are looking for a love story, A Police Action has all of the elements, but I am not convinced the execution is satisfying to the reader.

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Jennie Farino says

An easy read, cute love story and a very honest opinion of the military and that particular theater of operations. I'll compare the overall story to Ben Affleck's Pearl Harbor, a love story in wartime. Fine job Mr. Freda.

Mary Nieberg-Berry says

This is probably the best novel written about the waning days of the Viet Nam war I've read so far. The story is about a young New York boy from the Bronx, drafted to fight in Viet Nam along with his fellow soldiers, and the girl he met while in training in Colorado. James Coppi is realistic in his expectations of life and the actions that led to why he was drafted into this war. Being pragmatic, Coppi takes advantage of the number of ways he can make money ala "good fellas" from his fellow draftees. What James doesn't expect is meeting Samantha Powers one Saturday night during leave from the base. A coming of age story where both James and Samantha are learning about life and it's cruel ironies, amidst the wonder of first love for both. Will James come home to Samantha? Will he deem himself worthy of happiness? Will Samantha learn that she can stand in her own two feet and make good choices for herself rather than relying on the men in her life? Will they find happiness together or alone?

Divya Mahajan says

A Police Action by A A Freda is a love story set amidst the Vietnam War that no one wants to acknowledge. A Police Story As the hero James Coppi calls it. But it is not for those who want a typical Mills and Boons romance, it is real down to earth story of two individuals and their growth as their love grows. Neither it is a war story about the horrors of war nor paints a rosy picture of the military life but presents as it is where soldiers have to look out for themselves and bonds they make and pay for the incompetency of some idiotic and delusional in-charges.

When I started the book I did not know what it would be about and after a few chapters felt whether I would finish it as the story felt a little slag but the story progressed I had to just finish it and could not put down even when my eyes just couldn't remain open. I just had to know What happened to Sam and James?

After finishing the book I am still wondering about the other minor characters in the book whether they survived the war, returned to their families even though I know this is fiction. This was how real it was in the second half. A good read indeed .

Kerstin Vollbrecht says

A Police Action is a beautiful story about two young people, a soldier about to go to war in Vietnam, called James Coppi, and a troubled girl without much self-confidence called Sam. As they meet by chance at a pub and engage in a romantic relationship, Sam starts a person's growth but at the same time gets enormously dependant on James, who is rather shy of committing himself to any woman, although they're living together while he's stationed in Colorado. While in Vietnam, James understands his true feelings for Sam, but it too confused and worn out to do something about it, so he makes a mistake, but Sam is not precisely one to give up once jet mind is set up.

This is a cute love story about two troubled persons, considering the conservative religious upbringing of Sam and tv's very traditional Italian and Catholic background of James, adding his difficulties in making commitments. The maturation produces in both characters ours shown throughout the story, who's plot is well developed and ships consistency with the characters evolution. It had been a very nice read.

Blogging Mama101 says

Another fabulous, un-put-down-able coming-of-age drama by A A Freda.

Set against the back drop of the Vietnam War, our young couple - Sam (Samantha) & Coppi - meet shortly prior to Coppi being deployed, and facing the horrors of war leaving his young lover back home to cope alone.

The odds are stacked against the couple from the outset of their beautiful, turbulent romance, and we are drawn in to their chaotic story, hoping and wishing all the way.

A A Freda writes brutally honestly and has a real gift for character writing. His characters are so vividly real, so beautifully flawed in their humanity, you feel as though you are sitting at the table catching up with old friends. These are not fictional characters, they are human beings with heart, soul, fragility and failings.

He also writes so authentically about a period of recent history unimaginable still to so many of us, and yet the reality for so many such young people, who took war in their stride when they were little more than boys.

Your connection will be instant, deep and long lasting and you will fall in love with A A Freda's gift for story telling.

Donna says

Fantastic!

This story kept me entertained from the very beginning. The characters are real and believable. I rooted for James and Sam the entire book. This is a wonderful love story set in a time of such uncertainty. Vietnam gripped the nation and left many unsure which side to be on. The battles James experienced within himself showed that. I highly recommend. I was given this opportunity to read this book by the author in exchange for a fair review. I am so very glad he did! Thank you Mr. Freda.

Esther L. says

A POLICE ACTION/Angelo Freda
Raising the bar...

In a substantial and gripping look at military life, author Angelo Freda has stitched together a rivetingly clear pattern of his character's inner growth against the background of the U.S. campaign in Vietnam, one of the more bitter and divisive wars the U.S. has been part of.?

His novel, A Police Action, invites readers to be privy to the conflicts that lurk behind conflict — two countries hurtling end-game desires against each other, officers and infantrymen jousting, lifers arguing with short timers, the con man grappling with his better side ... and soldiers going off to war while their lovers' fingers trail desire in the air after them ...

Freda's war is a messy business, messy in personal relationships with those left behind, messy in relationships with others on the front, messy in the effort just to eat and to stay clean. Freda puts his Bronx good guy, James Coppi, in the midst of all of the above and allows the emergence of a man who knows how to look into the heart of what he is about and to create there something of worth. Good Read!!

Dianne says

Whether you are a student of human history or if you lived through the Vietnam (not a) War era, A.A. Freda's **A POLICE ACTION** will resonate with true emotional grit, while carefully sidestepping the raw horrors of the war that wasn't. This is as much a love story as it is the story of war. Two young people, one, a young and brash soldier entrenched in the nightmare of Vietnam, the other, the idealistic young woman he left behind.

Samantha and James met by chance, a twist of Fate, and their budding relationship would be tested from the very beginning as Samantha opens both her heart and life to James, a young soldier who, in many ways was a fixer, seeing a problem as a solution not yet created. They were each young and naïve, but James' street savvy would pull them both through the trials they each would face as he became a larger-than-life hero in the eyes of Samantha. Was he ready to assume that responsibility? Was he good enough for the kind-hearted girl he barely knew? Was he ready to settle down when he came home from Vietnam? Would he be the same person? Would Sam?

James is a hustler, he became the go-to guy for his fellow soldiers, he also became a knowledgeable thorn in the side of his superiors, but he was smart and rode the envelope with apparent glee. James also saw death, the ugliness of war, the heroes, the cowards and the innocence of the "newbies." Even as Sam's letters told of her love for him, she kept her own struggles as a young woman alone in the 60s to herself, her dreams of James' return like fluffy pink hearts in her mind. James never gave completely of himself, his letters were short, black and white, both sparing Sam the details of battle and holding his heart back. Was it insecurity that kept him from admitting his feelings? Was it the unknown he faced every day?

A.A. Freda has captured the "human" atmosphere of the era, the young love, the desperate need to feel alive and as normal as a young soldier could feel when tossed into a land where he became both political and cannon fodder. This is a story of self-doubt, coming of age and learning to trust in a future. Mr. Freda has done a remarkable job of serving up a slice of the life lived by so many while still providing some humor and heart!

I received a complimentary review copy from A.A. Freda!

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Becca Buzzell says

Love in a time of war

My dad was in Vietnam at the end of the war with the 82nd Airborne Division. He wouldn't talk about his experiences much but this book captured the heat, homesickness and feelings of futility at the loss of young lives.

Before deploying, Coppi captures the heart of Sam- but has she caught his? Idealistic Sam waits longingly in the apartment they shared in Colorado. Will the young man she fell in love with return to her?
