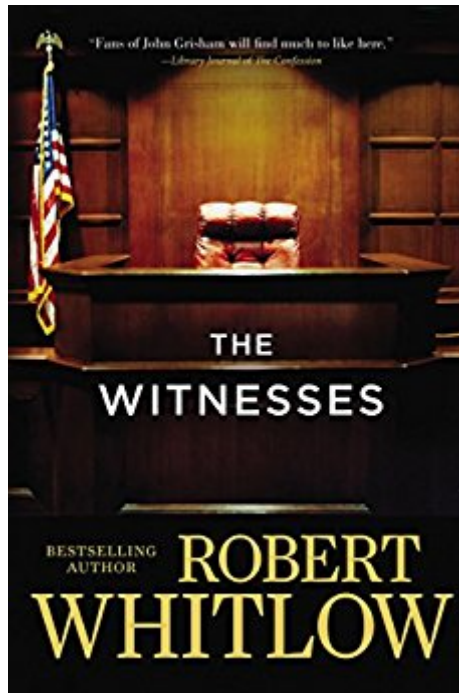




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The Witnesses



Synopsis

Young lawyer Parker House is on the rise—until his grandfather's mysterious past puts both of their lives in danger. Parker House's secret inheritance is either his greatest blessing . . . or his deadliest curse. The fresh-faced North Carolina attorney shares his German grandfather's uncanny ability to see future events in his mind's eye—a gift that has haunted 82-year-old Frank House through decades of trying to erase a murderous wartime past. While Parker navigates the intrigue and politics of small-town courtroom law, Frank is forced to face his darkest regrets. Then, a big career break for Parker collides with a new love he longs to nurture and the nightmares his grandfather can no longer escape. Sudden peril threatens to shatter not only Parker's legal prospects but also his life and the lives of those dearest to him. Two witnesses, two paths, an uncertain future.

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Customer Reviews

My book club never passes up a chance to read a novel by Robert Whitlow. Although he has scored

a miss or two with us, he is a consistent favorite. His latest book, *The Witnesses*, is Whitlow at his best. We met last night to discuss the book. I have to admit that I finished it just minutes before walking out the door. Others in the group had not finished it, but had skimmed the ending so that they could join in on the discussion. (In our defense, we only had a 2 1/2 week turn around between meetings. We usually have at least a month.) The consensus was that we loved the book, and for those who had not completed it, that pleasure was on their agenda for the rest of the evening. Parker House and his grandfather, Frank, are gifted with hunches and premonitions. Frank's ability has led to some of his biggest regrets, while Parker, a young lawyer, has barely discovered the power and responsibility of his gift. The past, present and future collide as their need for a life lived with integrity is impacted by the expectations and demands of their world. There is much to love about *The Witnesses*. Well-developed characters are easy to love (or hate as the case may be). My book club especially liked Frank who could have easily been a difficult character to connect with. As a former officer in the German army in WWII, he participated in operations against the Allies. But his deep sense of right and wrong and his conscience made him real and relatable. His story was the most engaging, yet we were heavily invested in Parker's story, especially his relationship with Layla and her father/his boss, Tom Blocker. Elements of suspense, legal drama, and romance make this a story that will appeal to a wide audience. I had to take this book away from my husband so I could have it read by my meeting. He is a big fan of Whitlow, too, and is eager to get back to the story. The book encouraged a good bit of discussion, and the questions at the back went a long way in directing us. Faith elements are strong, including the theme of forgiveness that runs throughout the book. Whitlow uses God's word and the words of others to impact the characters (and his readers) and draw them closer to God. The idea of visions/intuition/premonitions was one that intrigued us and made us think more about what the Bible has to say about it. A book that points to what God says is a big winner for us. We all loved our time spent with Frank, Parker and Layla. One member wished there could be a sequel. *The Witnesses* scores a unanimous thumbs up from By The Book! Highly recommended. Audience: adults.

Robert Whitlow has a way of surprising me with his unique tales. He tends to be classified as a purveyor of legal thrillers, but all of his books are a mix of relationships, Christianity and a hint of the supernatural. In *The Witnesses*, Whitlow ties in history to make his typical good read even better. I had a hard time tearing myself away from this one. The story, set in the not too distant past, allows an 82 year old WW2 surviving veteran to be a plausible character. But Frank wasn't one of "The

Greatest Generation". I wondered as I began to read how I would sympathize with a main character who "heils" to Hitler within the first few pages, but trust me, just keep reading. Whitlow's characters have depth, and lack perfection like the rest of us. Please buy this book! Do it for me so that Robert Whitlow will find it worthwhile to keep writing!

Dr. Whitlow writes great books and I can't wait for the next one. So much like John Grisham and yet entirely different. Well worth the read.

I'm a little conflicted on where the protagonist's gift belong in a work of Christian fiction. On the one hand there is the Bible's direct and forceful condemnation of divination. On the other hand, the gift of prophecy, both forth-telling and foretelling are real. Theological issues aside, the story is a good read, blending historical fiction with present day ethical concerns.

I could not put this book down. It is a quite different subject for Robert Whitlow to write about. I think it would be of interest to hear the story of how he chose this topic. It is a story about how the characters in this story made life altering decisions as older adults, young adults, successful adults or mixed up and lost adults who continue to follow pathways that are determined by their passion for political, religious, work related, or personal passions. The decisions made by previous generations and their choices have a profound influence on descendants who follow. Forgiveness of God of sins committed by a grand father play a influencing role on his grandson and the girl he loves. All of the characters in the book have profound need to obtain the elusive gift of forgiveness. The storyline shows how war and orders from military leaders produce guilt and remorse that stay in a person's mind until that person obtains the grace of God's forgiveness. Work relatedness decisions often shape a individuals goals that define a person's character. Personal choices determine the outcome of who each of us become. Life is a constant blur of choices, but the longer I live the more I am convinced that each person makes only one decision that determines the outcome of their eternal life. To follow the Lord or not to follow the Lord. This book is about those who made a choice to follow the Lord and those who did not. This book would inspire anyone who is wavering about seeking forgiveness and making life changing decisions.

"Witnesses" was breath taking from the beginning to the end. I am not a fast reader. But, I finished the "Witnesses" in 26 hours. Going to email all my friends that read all Robert Whitlow's books. This is a must read today. What an exciting journey through the writings of Robert Whitlow. Thank

you Robert Whitlow for the adventure.

Usually I absolutely love reading Robert Whitlow, this particular novel had a lot about war times so it wasn't my favorite. It was still a good book with a good theme.

More than I expected when I began reading this book. It really isn't a legal story, it's a tale like none other. I'm not going to elaborate, as that would ruin the whole story for other readers. I'll just say it's well worth the read. It's truly a wonderful story!

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