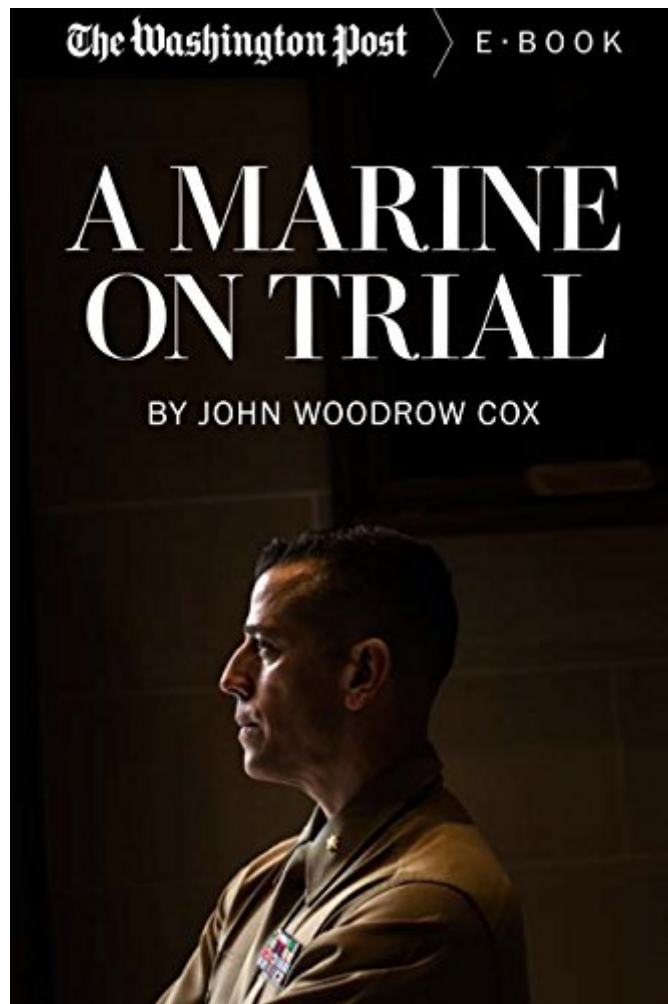


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A Marine On Trial (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

After a flawed sexual assault investigation, a Naval Academy instructor fights to prove he has done nothing wrong. But did he? Innocent. That's what Marine Maj. Mark Thompson declared the first time he met with Washington Post reporter John Woodrow Cox. He'd been fighting to prove it ever since two young women accused the former history instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy of having sex with them while they were students. One of the women said the 2011 liaison was consensual and part of an ongoing relationship. The other called it rape. In 2013 at his court-martial, a nine-member jury acquitted Thompson of the sexual assault charge but still found him guilty of charges including conduct unbecoming an officer and indecent conduct. But Thompson's story didn't end there — and what happened to him next, involving deep faults in the military justice system, a critical missing piece of evidence, and belated confessions, makes his story unlike any other. John Woodrow Cox is a reporter on the local enterprise team at The Washington Post. Prior to joining the Post, he worked at the Tampa Bay Times in Florida and at the Valley News in New Hampshire. He attended the University of Florida, earning degrees in journalism and business. In 2014, he won first and second prize in the Society for Features Journalism's Short Feature category and was named a finalist for Scripps Howard's Ernie Pyle Award for Human Interest Storytelling. Cover image photo by Nikki Kahn/The Washington Post

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Customer Reviews

John Woodrow Cox, the author of "A Marine on Trial," is a journalist for the Washington Post. The book is an engaging piece of investigative journalism in which Cox examined the court martial of Marine Major Mark Thompson, a former history instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy. Major Thompson had been acquitted of sexual assault charges but was found guilty of five lesser offenses, included conduct unbecoming an officer, indecent conduct, and fraternization - all related to his relationship with Naval Academy midshipman Sarah Stadler. After his conviction and a short prison term, Major Thompson had contacted the author, hoping the Post could bring new attention to his case and perhaps uncover new evidence that would lead to a retrial. The reporter found that the prosecution had been very sloppy in its investigation, but he also found evidence that Major Thompson had lied to him about certain facts. At this time, Thompson's case is being considered by the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. It's a very interesting case and a fine piece of investigative journalism by the author.

Great in depth article on a fallen hero. The Major should have kept his mouth shut and just retired and live happily ever after. Now if faces a prison sentence and loss of his pension. I hope his sexual exploits and lies were worth the multi-million dollar pension he will lose.

White House Staffer Ben Rhodes must feel vindicated for his arrogant dismissal of the poor quality of Washington Press Corps if this book is any indication. Cox is quite right to be angry upon discovering he has been deceived by by Major Thompson. But the reportorial tone always present with the accuser Midshipman Sadler, even with the implausible explanations, quickly vanishes in his dealing with Thompson.

This piece digs into a case of he said she said and proves without a doubt what NCIS and Military Prosecutors couldn't. A great piece of journalism that is sorely lacking in this day and age.

Short but good book, the ends makes the rest of the book seem like a mute point but overall it was a good read.

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