

MEDIA KIT



MIKE KRENTZ

HER SHOW OF FORCE

ABOUT

HER SHOW OF FORCE

She can stand her ground with the best of them. But she'll need all her strength to keep her family and her sailors afloat...

An international crisis in the West Sea. A family emergency back home. She's determined to rise to the challenge, no matter what it takes...



PRODUCT INFORMATION

Genre: Military Fiction. Women's Fiction

Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Shop: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple, Kobo

Page Count: 479 pages

Retail Price: eBook \$6.99

Paperback \$18.99

ISBN: 978-1621812029

Publisher: Purple Papaya

EARLY PRAISE

HER SHOW OF FORCE

"Kick-ass Navy Captain and single-mom, Kate Mahoney, refuses to abide by the old-boy rules as she assumes major Navy leadership while also striving to protect her teenage son across a vast ocean. Sharp, intense, character-driven military action-drama."

— Jayne Ann Krentz, NYT Best-Selling Author.

"From start to finish this is a solid story and one worth picking up if you enjoy good military fiction with contemporary themes."

— Jamie Michele for Readers' Favorite (5-Star Review)

"Accurate depiction of staff officer conflicts mixed with real time military threats. Great read for both the avid military buff and those who relish a thriller."

— Dr. Roland Powers

"Kate Mahoney is a strong military heroine, but not in an unrealistic Hollywood way. A courageous leader, she takes on daunting challenges at work and home."

— Paula Dunn

"Accurate account of military interactions. Enjoyable read that reflects the geopolitical picture our country faces in the Pacific. Having three daughters, all natural and strong leaders much like Kate Mahoney, the book clearly resonated with me."

— Mike Mittelman, Rear Admiral (retired), MSC, USN

"As a former female naval officer, I relate to the main character and many of the struggles she endured."

— Dr. Jodie Spencer

"Complex personal decisions with life-changing ramifications collide with high-stakes international diplomacy and threats of war. You'll get swept away by the characters on this gripping voyage."

— Rob Samborn, Award-Winning Author of The Painted Souls Series

"In Krentz's deft hands, the story moves back and forth in seamless fashion, the scenes building in tension as Kate surmounts one problem only to find another blocks her way. Krentz is a master

of pacing and effective shifting of point of view and the reader will be pulled along the tide in this story of a conflicted mom and her even more conflicted son."

— Susan Paxton

MIKE KRENTZ

AUTHOR

Mike Krentz writes medical suspense, psychological thrillers, and military women's fiction based on his experiences as an emergency physician and US Navy medical officer.

Born and raised in Arizona, Mike earned a classical degree in English from the University of San Francisco, a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and a Master of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Following a civilian career as an emergency physician, Mike rededicated his professional life to serve America's Navy and Marine Corps heroes and their families. His last active-duty assignment was as Seventh Fleet Surgeon on board the USS *Blue Ridge*, based in Yokosuka, Japan.

After retiring from the US Navy, Mike continued his service as a consultant to the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, Health Analysis Department. Upon completion of that mission, he returned to his earliest life passion as a full-time writer.

Mike sits on the Board of Directors of The Muse Writers Center, where he also teaches fiction writing and leads an advanced fiction studio. Mike is a member of Hampton Roads Writers and Military Writers of America.

Mike, his wife Kathryn, and miniature schnauzer Yoshi live in Norfolk, VA.

Mike's Dr. Zack Winston Series of medical conspiracy thrillers transports the reader into the stressful environment of emergency medicine, where life battles death amid terrified screams, plaintive whimpers, and shouted orders; where fallible humans strive to postpone death, restore life, or eliminate misery. These would-be heroes sometimes fail. They suck it up and move on to quiet a frightened child, relieve pain, straighten a broken limb, repair a laceration, or reassure the worried well. What evil might lurk amid such chaos?

The first book in the series, [DEAD ALREADY](#), launched from TouchPoint Press in 2020.

The second book, WARM AND DEAD, will launch later in 2022.

Mike's psychological thriller, [ANGELS FALLING](#), published from TouchPoint Press January 10, 2022. The ritualistic murder of a Catholic archbishop scrambles the lives of an ex-seminarian criminal profiler, a

renegade priest cult leader, and the former nun they both desired. Shakespeare, Poe, and Donne add commentary.

Mike's MAHONEY & SQUIRE SERIES portrays the lives of servicemen and women, their challenges, and interactions; and their wounds—physical and emotional—that evolve into professional and personal conflicts more daunting than combat. Can essential human relationships survive such brutal demands on hearts and souls?

The first book in this series, HER SHOW OF FORCE, will launch October 3, 2023.

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INTERVIEW

WITH MIKE KRENTZ

How did you, a successful emergency physician and naval officer, decide to become a writer?

I've wanted to be a writer since high school English classes. In college, I took the unorthodox route to pre-medical studies by majoring in English and taking the required science classes as electives. My medical and US Navy careers exclusively provided non-fiction opportunities: academic articles, reports, briefings, and such. Near the end of my Navy career, when I was Seventh Fleet Surgeon on board the flagship, USS *Blue Ridge*, a colleague and I talked about writing a TV series about Navy life. That never came about, but the concept morphed into my character-based military novels. After I retired from the Navy, I did some consulting in public health, then took the plunge into writing full-time.

*Why did you write **Her Show of Force**?*

This novel is an improved second edition of **Riven Dawn**, the first novel in my earlier **Flagship Series**. It started out as a script for a TV pilot. I soon discovered that novel-writing provides a better platform for a character-based story. I can get inside my characters' heads in a way a script cannot. I didn't want to write a shoot-them-up military thriller, but to portray the real-life challenges that military people face, on and off the battlefield—aspects of their humanity that I know well from serving them as a physician. It became a short jump from there to casting Kate Mahoney, a female naval aviator, as my main character. I've seen what it takes for a woman to succeed in naval aviation. She has to double down on the Navy core values of honor, courage, and commitment. The women I was privileged to know in the Navy did just that. Kate Mahoney epitomizes their challenges and conquests, not only in naval air, but throughout the military.

*How would you describe the themes of **Her Show of Force**?*

The primary theme is reconciliation. The main character, Kate Mahoney, suffers the effects of difficult life events, a traumatic childhood, toxic marriage, troubled teenage son, among others. She's also a rising star in her profession. That provides opportunities, but also challenges, both personal and professional. Another theme is the value of friendship, trust, and vulnerability to one's personal growth. Finally, there's the core theme of good against

evil, truth against lies, life against death; and the frequent difficulty of figuring out which is which.

Will there be a sequel?

Yes. Three, to be exact. The next book, *Her Pacific Showdown*, should launch after the holidays. It continues Kate's story, and also introduces a new main character, naval aviator Lieutenant Commander Jessica "Cricket" Squire. She faces her own personal and professional challenges.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Her Show of Force Expertly Infuses Danger and Suspense into a Compelling Drama Featuring a Woman Naval Aviator

Norfolk, VA – October 3, 2023 – **Her Show of Force**, slated for an October 3 release, is the first in former Navy physician Mike Krentz's "Mahoney & Squire" series of military women's adventure fiction. This gripping tale showcases Krentz's abundant first-hand knowledge of both human and military experience. Such an intimate understanding lends an overwhelming sense of authenticity to the military operations and characters of this story. As a result, readers will feel like they are an integral part of a team headed by Navy Captain Kate "Scarlett" Mahoney as they face a looming international crisis in the Western Pacific. This second edition of Mike's previous novel, **Riven Dawn**, celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of women's incorporation into naval aviation.

Her Show of Force weaves a twisted narrative that features an international crisis in the Western Pacific and a family emergency in the US. To win, Kate must overcome both the professional challenges of her role as Director of Operations for the US Seventh Fleet, but also her rebellious teenage son's acting out back home. This exciting adventure will appeal to a myriad of readers, whether they be mainstream audiences, or those who enjoy commercial fiction, mysteries, thrillers, suspense novels, military thrillers, or women's fiction. Readers who enjoy complex, flawed characters, compelling character arcs, and complicated relationships will especially find this narrative a treat.

The enthralling tale takes place in 2012, soon after Kim Jong Un assumes power in North Korea. Navy Captain Kate Mahoney, who never backs down from a challenge, is determined to prove her mettle as the new Director of Operations for the US Seventh Fleet. A divorced single mom who fled her toxic ex-husband, she entrusts her sister to care for her fourteen-year-old son in California. After arriving on the Japan-based flagship, her strategic expertise proves vital when two rival Korean warships attack each other and fuel a looming international crisis.

Devising a bold plan to de-escalate the conflict, Kate braves ruthless sexism from male colleagues just as news arrives from home: Police arrested her rebellious teenager for taking his aunt's car on a joy ride with two teenaged girls. Caught between personal and global emergencies, the selfless leader struggles to protect both her child and her country from danger.

Can this courageous woman claim victory on opposite sides of the Pacific?

About the Author.

Born and raised in Arizona, Dr. Mike Krentz earned a classical degree in English from the University of San Francisco, a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and a Master of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins University. Following his successful civilian emergency medicine career, Mike served the nation as a US Navy physician and fleet surgeon. Serving in hospitals, ships, and air wings, he earned ten personal decorations, including five awards of the Legion of Merit. Upon retirement, he continued his service as a navy public health consultant. After completing that mission, he returned to his earliest life passion as a full-time writer of character-based fiction.

BOOK EXCERPT

CHAPTER ONE

Chapter One

March 21, 2003, Persian Gulf

Weapons spent, the F/A-18 Hornet streaked over the coast of Iraq into total blackness over the Persian Gulf.

At the controls, Lieutenant Commander Kate "Scarlett" Mahoney announced "feet wet" into her helmet microphone, climbed the jet to three-thousand feet, and let herself relax for the first time since the mission began three hours ago.

Flashes of warning lights from the instrument panel interrupted her in mid-breath.

Left engine fire.

Kate pushed the fire extinguisher button and shut down the engine. The jet rolled left, as expected when flying with an unopposed right engine. She made the proper control corrections, confirmed the fire was out, and continued a gradual single-engine flight toward USS *Constellation* (CV 64), the aircraft carrier from which she had launched three hours earlier.

The photo of Patrick smiled at her from where she'd pasted it to the instrument panel. "Almost home, kid."

The Hornet lurched into a violent left roll. Kate pushed the control stick to the right.

No response.

Kate reached between her legs as she announced her dilemma. "Lost controls. I'm, uh, ejecting."

She yanked the yellow/black-striped handle. The jet's canopy blew away a second before the ejection seat holding Kate shot into the overcast night. The crippled jet fighter plunged away toward the Persian Gulf.

Hang on tight, Patrick.

The acceleration force caused her to black out. In seconds, the seat separated, the parachute deployed, and Kate's limp body transitioned from projectile to falling leaf. The sudden deceleration and the groin straps yanking on her distended bladder jerked her into consciousness. So did the intense pain in her dislocated left shoulder.

Patrick had disappeared from her mind.

She peered up to confirm the dim outline of a full parachute. Her wingman circling overhead would report “good chute” to *Connie*.

Overcoming the pain in her shoulder, Kate inflated her flotation vest and snapped the waist lobes together. A glimpse of the carrier’s distant light appeared against the black horizon, no doubt launching the rescue helo in her direction. She steadied her breathing.

Less than a thousand feet before water entry.

When her boots hit the water, Kate released the parachute straps just before her body submerged. In seconds, she popped through the surface and used her uninjured arm and two muscular legs to swim away from the parachute.

She floated on her back. Euphoria rolled over her in harmony with the sea swells.

“Woo-hoo!”

Besides her first combat sortie, delivering “shock and awe” to Saddam Hussein’s Baghdad on this night, Scarlett Mahoney had survived an engine fire and shut-down, single-engine flight, catastrophic hydraulics failure, loss of flight controls, and low-altitude ejection. A water rescue would complete the scenario.

The docs would fix her shoulder. Scarlett would fly again. She would reunite with Patrick.

What more could a girl want?



Chapter Two

March 22, 2003, San Bruno, CA

“Happy birthday, dear Patrick. Happy birthday to you.”

Aunt Colleen set the cake in front of Patrick as his friends and their mothers gathered around the table. He took a big breath and blew with all his might. Four candles went out right away, but he needed a quick second puff to put out the fifth one. Everyone clapped and cheered. Patrick stared past the chocolate-frosted cake to the presents on a side table in the mall’s party room. He couldn’t wait to open them, especially the one in blue wrapping tied with a white ribbon. Aunt Colleen had said Mommy sent it all the way from Eye Rack. That must be far away. Mommy had been gone forever. Why didn’t any of his friends’ mommies ever go to Eye Rack?

His aunt dished out the cake and ice cream. Patrick gobbled it down. Once they all ate, he could open presents. He got mad when some kids wanted seconds.

Time came to open the gifts: a dump truck, an ambulance with flashing lights and a real siren, Power Rangers action figures, a Transformer, and a tablet he could draw on then erase. Aunt Colleen had saved the present from Mommy for last. She made him listen to her read the card first.

"Dear Patrick. Happy birthday. I miss you very much. They don't have malls or toy stores where I am, but I found something I hope you enjoy. I love you. Mom."

He tore open the wrappings. His fingers touched something hard and leathery. A strange animal with a long neck and a lump on its back. Patrick wrinkled his face as he turned it over in his hands.

"It's a leather camel," Aunt Colleen said. "Camels are animals that live near where Mommy's ship is. She got it on liberty in Bah Rain."

Patrick searched all over the animal, but he could not find a switch. Maybe it needed batteries. He didn't see a battery hole. He tried to move the legs, but they were stiff as pencils. The neck too. He handed it to Aunt Colleen.

"How does it work?"

The mommies giggled.

"It's a model, a beautiful leather model. It doesn't move or have batteries. Put in on the shelf in your room so when you look at it, you can think of Mommy."

Patrick stuck out his lip and turned back to his new Transformer.

Later, Patrick and his best friend, Mei Li, helped her mother and Aunt Colleen pack up the presents. He held onto the leather camel. Outside the party room, he saw a man watching them.

At the mall exit, Aunt Colleen turned to Mei Li's mother. "I'll get the car and pick you up here. No point in carrying all this stuff through the garage."

As soon as Patrick's aunt left, Mei Li had to go to the bathroom, "real bad." Her mother sat Patrick on a bench. "Wait right here while I take her to the ladies' room. Don't move. Your aunt will be right back." She took Mei Li's hand and rushed into the bathroom.

Patrick sat and examined his camel.

"Hi, son." The same man who had watched them leave the party room. His smile made Patrick shrink against the bench.

The man pointed to the box of presents and the camel in Patrick's hand. "Someone had a birthday party."

Patrick nodded.

"How old are you?"

Patrick held up five fingers.

"Five years old. You are a big boy, aren't you?"

Patrick looked away. He felt like crying.

The man dropped to one knee. "What's your name?"

Patrick stared at the floor. "Patrick Walker."

A car pulled up outside, and Aunt Colleen got out.

When Patrick looked back, the man had left.

