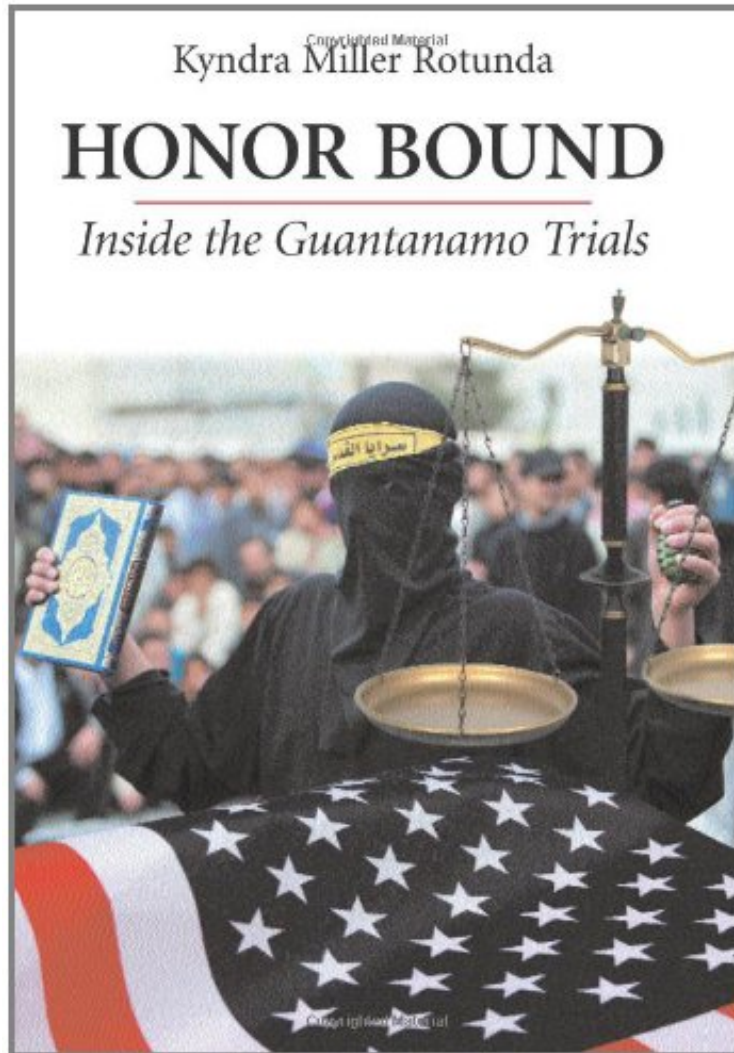


[Free and download] Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials

## Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials

*Kyndra Rotunda*

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**Kyndra Rotunda : Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Eye-Opening First-Hand Account By TigerTCKyndra Miller Rotunda's "Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials" is an eye-opening first-hand account of a small slice of the "legal" war on terror fought at Guantanamo Bay. This book shows a different side of Guantanamo Bay and the military commissions - a side that has never been told in the popular press. Rotunda was an Army JAG officer that served a tour at Guantanamo Bay and a tour as a prosecutor on the military commissions. Her story is personal and at times very much of a memoir as she discusses her personal journeys and even some of her military training. It is not a

scholarly discussion of the legal issues regarding the detainees, although it does contain succinct (but somewhat shallow) discussions on many relevant points of international law. Rotunda is very defensive of the way the detainees were treated at Guantanamo Bay. She is also very critical of the way the military commissions have been run by the government; she says that the government has bent over backwards to give the detainees more rights than they are entitled to or (or deserve), while also sitting back and not defending itself against baseless charges made by the detainees, by the media, or by international organizations. At times you can tell she writes from frustration with the many hurdles that the Department of Defense and the government placed on the prosecutors. She is also extremely critical of the two judges she dealt with as a prosecutor for their inconsistent rulings, their efforts to bend over to help the detainees, and even their checkered past as military judges. While an interesting and enlightening read, it does suffer from a few weaknesses. For one, Rotunda played minor role for a short period of time as a prosecutor for the military commissions, so there was a lot more going on "inside the Guantanamo Trials" than Rotunda is aware of. At one point, Rotunda implies that if the Supreme Court decision "Brady v. Maryland" had been handed down before World War II, the Nuremberg prosecutors would have had to abide by it. Another weakness is the tiny sidebars called "JAG Facts" which are really little factual nuggets regarding whatever is being discussed in the text and often have nothing to do with Army lawyers. Also, one chapter is entitled "The Justice Department Back-Peddles [sic] on Torture" and the book uses inconsistent footnoting styles; I can't help but wonder how a self-entitled "academic press" allowed those errors to get to print. Ultimately, this is a very good book that tells an interesting story about the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay. However, this story is just a tiny piece of the real story, the view from one lawyer's foxhole that completely omits the larger policy questions and discussions that were going on in higher levels of the government. Anyone with an interest in the inside story, even just a small piece of it, of the military commissions should read this book, and it will certainly serve as a good primary source for future chroniclers.

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Liberating Account By Tyler J. Ruby This book is a HISTORICAL first hand account of an experience with the trials in Cuba. This book is easy to read and Kyndra allows a reader with little understanding of the world of a lawyer to understand what is happening. Extensively referenced with supporting information. Pictures add to the compelling nature of the book. This story is hard to put down. I appreciate the true account of Kyndra's experiences.

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Eye opening and sad but I am sure true ... By KugI saw this lady on a talk show, perhaps John Stewart and The Daily Show (the only news I watch anymore) ... good book that takes you inside the insanity of what our government and parts of our military have become. It takes a JAG Officer's eye view of one having been there and tells you how bad the Supreme Courts recent decision on these detainees really is since they all have trials, reviews and more rights than the soldier guarding them. I found it fascinating and worth reading if you want to know whats really going on down there in Gitmo because the media sure as heck isnt telling us!

Honor Bound is an intriguing book that explains the law of war and the inside story of military commissions. The author is a former JAG lawyer who served on the prosecution team, worked in Guantanamo Bay, and was legal advisor to an elite team of war crimes investigators. Through a series of entertaining vignettes, Rotunda discusses and analyzes the laws governing the war on terror, the Geneva Conventions, and the laws related to detainees held in Cuba. Readers will look at Marine Corps training in Quantico, Virginia; learn about Gitmo's detention camp through the author's experiences with real detainees and real interrogators; travel the globe with 'terrorist hunters' following investigatory leads; see what went wrong in Gitmo and with the military commissions; meet Private Jessica Lynch; and learn about laws that protect the combat wounded. Scholarly and informative, this book is also a fascinating and engaging read.

Honor Bound is an engrossing, first-hand account of military justice in an age of terrorism and what it takes to defend liberty as a JAG officer today. And though Major Rotunda pulls no punches where criticism is due, she (and we) can be justly proud of the underlying integrity of our military services and the honor-bound system of our men and women in uniform. --Edwin Meese, Former U.S. Attorney General

Major Rotunda has written an immensely readable and stunningly valuable book about terrorism, terrorists and the extraordinarily difficult and demanding task our military faces in dealing with captured enemy combatants. I have twice visited Guantanamo, and participated in our Government's defense against some of the legal challenges to our nation's efforts to protect us from another--possibly vastly more dreadful--September 11. Nevertheless, this book was a page-turning eye-opener for me. No American should miss the opportunity--and responsibility--to read it. Bravo! --Theodore B. Olson, Former Solicitor General of the United States, Former Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, and partner at Gibson, Dunn Crutcher

Kyndra Rotunda provides a unique perspective, having served in three different capacities. She was the legal advisor in Guantanamo Bay to the detention camp commander in 2002-2003, where she provided legal advice to the Commander and worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Later, as a member of the Criminal Investigations Task Force, she was legal counsel to the military law enforcement agents who interviewed detainees and developed cases for possible prosecution. Finally, as a member of the Office of the Chief Prosecutor, she

prepared war crimes charges against alleged al Qaeda and Taliban members designated for trial at Guantanamo Bay. No one else saw things unfold from these three distinct vantage points. --Morris Davis, Former Chief Prosecutor for the Military Commissions at Guantanamo Bay

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About the Author

Kyndra Rotunda, a lawyer, is a Major and JAG Officer in the U.S. Army Individual Ready Reserve, and a leading expert in military law. She has served three tours in the Global War on Terror, including one as a prosecutor at the Office of Military Commissions and one in Guantanamo Bay. Rotunda is in private practice and devotes much of her time to advocating for wounded troops and military families. She has represented hundreds of soldiers before their disability boards at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and was the lawyer assigned to Jessica Lynch after Lynch's rescue. Rotunda was recently recruited by the National Veteran's Legal Services Program to produce a series of instructional DVDs about military law, to be published by Lexis Nexis. She is an avid writer and her op-eds have appeared in the Wall Street Journal and the Christian Science Monitor.