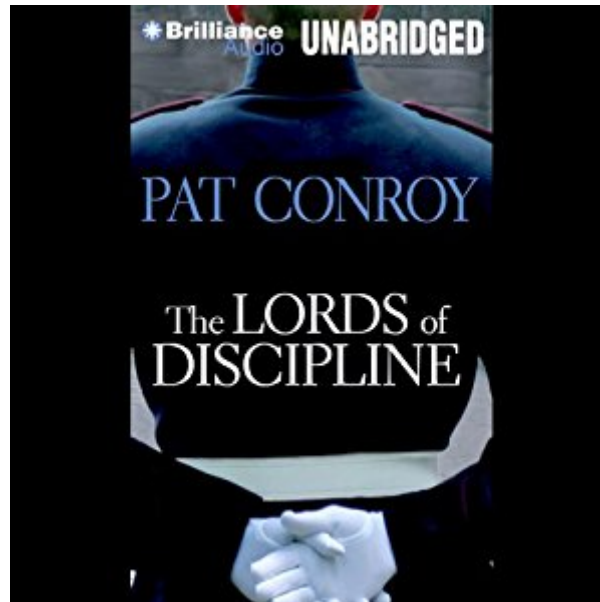




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The Lords Of Discipline



Synopsis

This powerful novel is the story of four cadets who have become bloodbrothers. Together they will encounter the hell of vicious bullying and the rabid, raunchy and dangerously secretive atmosphere of an arrogant and proud military institute. They will experience the violence. The passion. The rage. The friendship. The loyalty. The betrayal. Together they will brace themselves for the brutal transition to manhood...and one of them will not survive. Based on Conroy's own experiences at The Citadel Military school in Charleston, *The Lords of Discipline* is a remarkable novel. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pat Conroy has been my favorite author since I read and re-read "The Prince of Tides," followed by "Beach Music," "South of Broad," and all of his others. What I've come to realize is Conroy has been the master of voice since the inception of his literary career. His is language mastered in fluid, conversational prose sprung from his command of vocabulary. He's the kind of descriptive writer that weaves in what he's thinking and feeling throughout the story, and in so doing, gives you permission to identify and embrace your own humanity. His books are commentaries on life and the way we wade through it, and he constructs them relentlessly through the nuances of case and point. Typically, Conroy's narrators are outsiders going through the isolated motions of trying to fit into the unbalanced premise of the story. *The Lords of Discipline* is such an example, when Will McLean walks into his fourth year as a cadet of a South Carolina military academy called The Institute. By

this time, Will McLean is a confirmed nonconformist, in it but not of the regiments of this insular college dedicated to beating into its attendees the soul-crushing, disciplinary rules of The Institute, where the cadets subsume their own identity in favor of fitting into the system, which tears them apart before it puts them back together. In flashback, Conroy takes the reader through every step of The Institutes plebe system, where bewildered novices are captive in what is a brutal but sanctioned game of survival. And all around are well-drawn, malicious characters running the show; they are the cadets who have survived the plebe system and are now hell-bent on inflicting the same misery upon freshmen who are inductees into a type of consciousness aimed at making men out of boys. In the midst of this paradigm, Will McLean becomes a member of a brotherhood comprised of himself and his three roommates. They create a cooperative world within a world in a bond that will forever sustain them. In a wider sense, *The Lords of Discipline* is both metaphoric and axiomatic of the larger truths of life, wherein the inflexible demands of society threatens individuality, or else. Will McLean enters the process with innocence that scratches its way to a wisdom that knows how to game the system. His is a triumphant coming of age in a jeopardous environment that lends a frame of reference for the rest of his life. And just as in life, it's not what you say, but how you say it, and Conroy is the master of this. There is not a weak sentence in this spell-binding book; it handles craft and language and story so seamlessly as to be, yet again, another Conroy classic.

The Lords Of Discipline by Pat Conroy is a riveting story about young cadets at a military academy coming together. The story takes place during the late sixties in Charleston, South Carolina at a highly respected military academy. At this academy a young cadet named Will McLean and his schoolmates form a bond that brings them together as blood brothers. The story chronicles Will's survival of a brutal tradition of hazing at the school and his role as a mentor to the school's first black student. In my opinion this book took awhile to get interesting. The first half of the book is devoted to getting to know the characters, the school, the city of Charleston, and the social climate of the time. This really did help my understanding of the second half of the book, but at the time I thought it was quite slow. It wasn't until I was through the entire book that I appreciated the importance of all the background information. Conroy spends a great deal of time with setting and character development in the first half of the book. Even though the characters are very well described and have very different backgrounds, they seem similar in that they are all smart, clever, and witty. Conroy's clear voice is strong in all of them and they lose their distinct personalities. Perhaps this reflects the goal of the military academy itself in producing "the whole man" but devoid of diversity from each other. It was in this context that Conroy's Will discovers a truth about himself.

Conroy writes " I felt I had a power - or a weakness, I could not be sure - given to very few human beings. I could put myself in the place of others and ask myself how I would feel if I were in there place."(Conroy iBook)It was with this knowledge that Will propels himself into the second half of the book and finds that even though his ability to empathize was strong, his own ego was stronger. Both characteristics give rise to a sequence of events that ultimately ends in tragedy. As a reader I found this part of the book to be compelling, interesting, and thought-provoking.Overall The Lords of Discipline by Pat Conroy is a incredibly profound but tragic book. It's depth and emotion pulls you into the story and makes you feel all the things that the characters go through. You travel with them through their years at The Citadel and feel all their emotions and experiences. I would recommend this book to mid-teens and up. While this book is very readable and interesting, the story includes many difficult scenes involving brutal violence, racial hatred, and very foul language. It is these aspects the have resulted in the book being banned in the past. I feel people should read this book because it is a story you can connect to and it provides a glimpse into way of life foreign to many of us. Overall The Lords of Discipline was an intriguing, adventurous, and well written book that everyone should read.

There were parts of this book that I loved! There were times that I was reading it and I couldn't put it down! Then, I would come upon a part where the author would take me away from the characters that I was caring about and invested in and expound upon South Carolina and Charleston in such minute detail that it would completely pull me out of the "place" I was in. I would then put the book down and not pick it up for days. I am satisfied with the three stars as I really did enjoy this book and even picked up another Pat Conroy book right after, I was just disappointed from where he went from time to time into his reverie of Charleston. I get his point about making the surroundings a character in the book because of its substance and influence on the actual characters, I just thought it pulled me away too much from the people I wanted to know more about.

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