

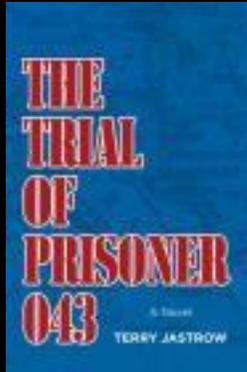
## Book Review:

by Michael Wisner, editor *The Piper*

### *The Trial of Prisoner 043* by Terry Jastrow

Publisher: Four Springs Press; ISBN 9781946241153

Release date: August 2017



This soon-to-be-released novel by multi-Emmy winning producer, screenwriter and playwright, Terry Jastrow is a welcomed addition to the otherwise recently barren landscape of legal thrillers. Not since *A Few Good Men* has the tension, consequences and gotcha moments of a take-no-prisoners trial been captured so expertly. This reviewer was fortunate to capture an advance copy for review from Mr. Jastrow who was fresh from a triumphant run in England of his riveting play, *The Trial of Jane Fonda*, starring his wife, Academy-Award nominated

actress, Anne Archer. Jastrow is well-known for his golf tutorials featuring Phil Mickelson and graced the Carmel/Monterey Peninsula with Tom Watson when they filmed a reenactment of Watson's immortal shot on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole at Pebble to win the 1982 US Open. He also recently wrote and directed the internationally distributed film entitled *Squeeze*.

The premise of this fictional thriller: What would happen if the International Criminal Court (ICC) with a Seal-like commando team snagged former President George W. Bush off Saint Andrews golf course in Scotland and ferried him to the Hague to stand trial for war crimes related to the Iraq war.? It might sound far-fetched at first. I think all great stories start that way. But Jastrow doesn't disappoint. His meticulous research, his refusal to take sides (a fault many political writers fall victim to) and his fast pace, more-than-believable narrative all combine to suspend disbelief – and you never know which way it is going to go. Hooked immediately. Condoleezza Rice, General Tommy Franks, intel chief Richard Clarke all appear and are portrayed so believable and in-character you'll think you were watching them on Sunday's *Meet the Press*. Jastrow delivers probably one of the most comprehensive dramatizations of both side's points of view in a damaging war. It reminds us how most wars don't have real winners and losers. The finale will stun readers. Trust me, you'll never see it coming. Don't look in the back to see, you will only rob yourself of a reader's satisfaction so richly deserved.

I found myself wanting to know more about the lead characters and their emotional underpinnings. But that would detract from its riveting pace. Perhaps Mr. Jastrow will grace us all with making this very readable summer novel into a movie.