

# MAJOR RODERICK

GAD

## The Leader of Men

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You went straight from high school into West Point. Your father made Colonel before his retirement, and you have always sworn to yourself that you would make him proud by being the first general in your long military line. The look on his face when you made Major last year was a moment you will treasure for the rest of your life. You were promoted to serve as XO of your battalion, just before your battalion was sent out to help the National Guard deal with the water riots.

Your father taught you how to be a good person, a good soldier and a good leader. The most important thing in your life is taking good care of the men and women under your command. If you can't do that, you are unfit to be leading them. Dealing with riots in your own country is one of the hardest jobs a soldier will face. Fighting thirsty men and women is hard, especially when those people are swearing at you and berating you. When Colonel Rothenberg talked to you about an experimental new non-lethal weapon that two of your companies would be trying out, you were excited. This could help your soldiers do their jobs with much less suffering.

Then politics got involved, and it took forever to get the new Resonance weapon. Your soldiers were demoralized in the fighting. When you finally got it after weeks of street combat, nothing seemed to go as planned. You volunteered to handle the job of going to the Pentagon and reporting on the problems with the new weapon. Resonance is dangerous. It's a great idea, but until it's controlled, it can never be used like this again.

**Colonel Rothenberg** is your boss, and is a pretty good boss. Rothenberg tries very hard to do what's best for both soldiers and civilians. You are proud to serve under Rothenberg as XO.

**Secretary Stern** is the Secretary of Homeland Security. Normally a Major in the Marines would have no reason to know such a highly placed politician, but Stern has taken a very strong interest in Resonance, and you were the one who had to break the news to the staff.

**Manager Edwards** handles communications for Resonance. Edwards simply doesn't seem to care about what has gone wrong.

**Director Mercer** is the head of the FBI. Standing in front of Mercer after being debriefed on Resonance was one of the most intimidating moments of your life.

**Ambassador Stepman** is an old friend of your fathers. Stepman helped out your dad in some difficult circumstances overseas while working in the Iranian embassy. Stepman tries to keep an eye out for you.

**Lieutenant Danbridge** is the sort of officer who gives the Marines a bad name. Danbridge only cares about glory, not the soldiers in the unit or the civilians they are sworn to protect.