



## A Time to Stand

*Robert Whitlow*

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In a small Georgia town, lines are drawn and tensions mount. Can one woman stand in the divide and find truth in the face of hate?

Adisa Johnson, a young African American attorney, is living her dream of practicing high-stakes law with a prestigious firm in downtown Atlanta. Then, a split-second mistake destroys the world she's created. Left with no options, she returns to her hometown so she can care for an aging aunt recovering from a stroke. Once there, Adisa is confronted with a much more brutal reality—a young unarmed black man has been shot by a white police officer and now lies comatose in the hospital. As a former assistant district attorney, Adisa is itching to jump into the fight as a special prosecutor. But she's being pulled in another direction by equally powerful forces urging her to do what she considers unthinkable—defend the officer.

Tensions in the local community are at the boiling point with Adisa trapped in the middle. As the case unfolds, everyone must confront their own prejudices. For Adisa, it means seeking counsel from her Aunt Josie and charting her way through the labyrinth of a relationship with Rev. Reggie Reynolds, a charismatic young preacher and leader of the local movement seeking justice for the young man who was shot. For the police officer, it means confronting why he acted as he did.

Some problems have no solution. Some people don't know where to look for answers. Some people are called to be lights in the darkness.

## A Time to Stand Details

Date : Published September 12th 2017 by Thomas Nelson

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Author : Robert Whitlow

Format : Kindle Edition 413 pages

Genre : Fiction, Christian Fiction, Mystery, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review A Time to Stand for online ebook

### Adrienne says

A wonderful Christian themed legal thriller

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### Lisa Johnson says

Title: A Time to Stand

Author: Robert Whitlow

Pages: 416

Year: 2017

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

My rating 5+ out of 5 stars.

This is a riveting page-turner that packs a punch of truth and faith set in a tale that could easily be taken from newspaper headlines of today! Robert Whitlow's novels have been a favorite of mine for many years and I look forward to whatever he writes. This novel really puts the bar high, setting this novel apart from his other works. Why? The author takes readers behind possible headlines and society issues to learn and consider the way individuals are impacted by violence, job loss, work politics and how we can live out our faith. The living out of an individual's faith on both sides of the case involving a police action shooting in the story shows just how tough it can really be.

What Robert Whitlow also shares in the book is a powerful way to bridge two opposing sides in a way that glorifies God. Adisa is the main female character who is a lawyer and a brilliant one, too. She cares for the aunt who raised her and her sister, who now requires aid in her later years of life. Reggie is a pastor who leads a congregation and at one point in the novel comes face-to-face with what he believes and how powerful forgiveness can be.

Officer Nelson and his wife go through some troubled times, financial demands and an uncertain future. Each character in the book must come face-to-face with the prejudices they carry in their heart in a very truthful manner that is very difficult. I think the novel points out how quickly people judge or decide a matter before all the facts are in or known.

Read Robert Whitlow's newest gripping, heart-pounding adventure set in a rural town as it will really touch your heart like it did mine!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### Skip says

A legal thriller with a racial theme. A white police officer shoots an black kid, after the suspect failed to yield, the officer hearing a gunshot and fearing for his life. No gun is found. A young black female attorney from the town, returns to take care of her caretaker Aunt and is horrified along with the entire black

community. Then the victim's mother forgives the cop, and the attorney decides to defend him. A number of twists and turns that kept me guessing, but too slow and way too much religion, at least for my liking.

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### **Becky says**

Unputdownable. That's a great way to describe Robert Whitlow's writing. When I wasn't reading *A Time to Stand*, I was thinking about it and wondering how it would all turn out. The concept of an African-American attorney representing a white police officer who shot an unarmed African-American teenager is intriguing, and I thought Whitlow handled the topic well.

Adisa, the attorney, is such a fascinating character. Longing to prosecute but feeling God calling her to work for Luke's (the officer's) defense, Adisa's emotions and struggles struck me as incredibly realistic. The reaction she faced from her own community as she defended the officer (even while being unsure if he truly was innocent) coupled with the prejudice she encountered drove much of the plot.

As I read, I wasn't sure if Luke would end up serving time, even as I was fairly certain he had acted appropriately (based on how the shooting scene unfolded). However, I didn't like Luke very much; perhaps I wasn't supposed to. The final resolution wrapped up the case satisfactorily without being too predictable, and Luke did end up becoming more likable.

The one portion of the novel that didn't ring true to me was a subplot involving Adisa's relationship with a local pastor. Their relationship progressed incredibly quickly without much evidence as to why, and I think I would've enjoyed the book more if the pastor hadn't been a love interest for Adisa.

Overall, *A Time to Stand* feels very timely, and it's a compelling read. I've seen Whitlow compared to John Grisham, and that seems accurate to me. Fans of legal thrillers will find much to love in *A Time to Stand*.

Disclosure of material connection: I received a copy of this book for review. I was not required to write a positive review, and the opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Kristi says**

As someone who reads books predominately written by female authors I'm always a bit hesitant when I start a book by a male author. I always wonder if I will be able to relate to the characters and the writer through their writing. I was excited to read this story by Robert Whitlow (my first by this author) because on the cover it suggests fans of John Grisham will enjoy this story. I enjoyed the book but there were a couple things that prevented this from being a perfect read.

When I started reading the book I was really interested in it. The storyline could have been ripped from the headlines of newspapers across the country. I liked that the book was very in the moment and the author presents the story with the emotions and feelings of both the white police officer and the black attorney and does so equally. It was easy to understand how both sides felt and at times the tension seemed to jump off the page. This was something I really enjoyed about the book as it made me feel part of the story.

As far as the characters go I liked Adisa right away. She's an intelligent and confident woman who is good at

her job yet hasn't forgotten where she came from and has a strong sense of loyalty to her family. I also liked Luke, the police officer. Not only does he have to worry about what will happen to him and his young family but he also has to worry about Adisa who is one of the attorneys representing him in court. The tension and conflict between the two was written in a way that made it seem real and completely understandable. As the story went on though I was puzzled at some of the things that happened. Would it really be ok for someone to try to be a special prosecutor against the officer and then be able to take a job defending him? Would it be acceptable for the Adisa to have a friendship with Pastor Reggie when he is close to the shooting victim's family? Not being a lawyer I had to take the author's word that this was all acceptable and it added some tension to the story but weren't aspects that I really cared for. Tension could have been presented in different ways. Also, why does the detective want to wait a couple of days to return to a crime scene to look it over? Wouldn't it be best to do it immediately?

Parts of the story involving Aunt Josie seemed to drag on a bit. She's a central character to the story as her medical condition is the reason Adisa makes changes in her life but I felt like at times there was just too many hospital scenes that didn't add to the story. I did like Aunt Josie and she added a bit of humor to a story with a very serious storyline.

My main issue with this book was the ending. There was such a buildup to the climax and then once the climax of the story was reached the book just kind of hurriedly ended. And I think the ending was a bit too perfect for "real life". It is easy to see the author thinks there should be equality and peace between everyone but the ending was just too sweet for my taste and I'm not sure things would have happened as they did in the epilogue.

As I said earlier this was my first book from this author and I enjoyed the story enough to give his books a try. I liked his writing style and his ability to pull me into the story from the first page. I would probably recommend this book to readers who enjoy legal stories or those about current events.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher and was not required to write a review. All opinions are mine.

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### **Miriam Lozano says**

A Time To Stand is a very timely and provocative novel. This relevant and compelling story tells a very real and modern story about prejudice, racial tensions, and judgments made without all the facts. When this small community in Georgia faces a very real and unfortunate event: a white cop shoots an unarmed young black boy, they are forced to confront prejudices they did not know existed.. As the investigations and court proceedings are taking place, blacks and whites are pitted against each other and their beliefs. Adisa, the young black lawyer is faced with decisions of her own. When she makes the unpopular decision to defend the white cop, tempers flare and families are torn apart as sides are taken. All the characters are forced to face their own inner turmoil and make hard decisions about forgiveness and justice and how the two can work together to bring love and reconciliation instead of death and destruction. This novel is well written and considerate of all emotions and feelings that come with this most unfortunate issue. A story about how God's love and mercy are needed to resolve the issues that threaten to destroy our families and communities.

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### **Sherry Ledet says**

I was only disappointed in the formatting of this e-book. Someone doesn't know how to divide a word when needed at the end of a sentence. It made the story become a little disjointed as I reached a word that's division made it make no sense. However, the story was very very good as Robert Whitlow's books always are.

This is a story of race relations in the form of a legal thriller and it works. The characters find themselves in situations and with relationships they would never have expected as a white cop is accused of carelessly shooting a young black teen, and a black female lawyer who will defend him. She doesn't want to defend him, she is sure the shooting was racially motivated but she finds herself in the unexpected position of accepting the roll. Luke feels her dislike for him and sees her sympathy for the other side. Only the older lawyer from the firm who hires her, and has agreed to defend Luke pro bono keeps this defense on track.

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### **Nora St Laurent says**

“White cop shoots African-American youth” – racial tensions rise. Everyone reacts from their understanding of the situation. Hatred is fueled and things get heated. We see it in the news. This author takes readers on an unexpected journey as characters seek justice, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

The story kicks off with readers getting into the police car with Officer Luke Nelson as he goes about doing his job. He responds to a possible 211 – armed robbery in progress. He's too far to go to the crime scene but hears the dispatcher give the fleeing assailants description and the direction they head. Tension builds and emotions escalate as readers scout out the area with Officer Luke to find the suspects. He'd worked on the Campbellton police force for 18 months and this was his first 211. When he worked in Atlanta he responded to calls like this every week. He knew the drill.

After Officer Luke Nelson tries to capture the assailant the story switches and readers are introduced to Adisa Johnson; a young female African-American attorney who has taken a break from her “dream job of practicing law with a prestigious firm in downtown Atlanta,” to take on a pro-Bono case she believes in. All is well until a split-second decision changes the course of her life and career.

While reeling from her work situation Adisa gets a call concerning her Aunt Josie. She headed to the hospital in Campbellton as fast as she could. When she got there the town was in an uproar about a controversial case. She felt bad about what happened but she didn't have time to think about it. Her life's dream had just blown apart and her heart ached for her Aunt's health condition.

“Lives are at stake; can one lawyer stand up for justice against the tide of prejudice on every side?” This author did a brilliant job of showing this horrific situation from many viewpoints. It is a multi-faceted story that takes place in a small town in GA. I was apprehensive about reading this book because I didn't know where the story would take me. The author has the gift of getting readers to instantly connect with and care for his characters. I liked that he gave readers a front row seat as the facts unfold in the case.

This author acutely shows how fast hate and miss-conceptions can fly every which way! The situation can

quickly become bigger than the small town. The author shows what happens in the church and how the boy's family handles things. The reader sees Luke and his family struggle with what happened and sees the backlash from the community.

This situation seems impossible until the people let God intervene. God can do far more than we could ever imagine. Both Adisa and Luke struggle with letting go. Do they leave God out of this and handle it themselves? What could it hurt to seek God's counsel? Pray. Lay it all down at His feet.

A Pastor says this in the middle of the storm, "It's time to stand! To look past differences the Lord created and come together in the unity of God's spirit! To stand in agreement that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. To stand together on earth as we will one glorious day....."

This is an amazing, heart-wrenching, hopeful read that shows how God can intervene if we let him. This is not a preachy book. It's an honest look at what could happen if people pray and let God move in their lives. When He intervenes, hearts change so does our perspective; no matter what storm we face. I liked the plot twists and surprises inside this powerful drama.

This novel will get you thinking and praying. This is a must read for everyone. It will make a great book club pick as the author includes seven discussion questions to help navigate your lively book club meeting. Robert Whitlow hits it out of the park with this one. It will move your heart and have you look at life differently. If you haven't read this author before I highly recommend this book. It's a keeper.

**Disclosure of Material Connection:** I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent  
TBCN Where Book Fun Begins! [www.bookfun.org](http://www.bookfun.org)  
The Book Club Network blog [www.psalm516.blogspot.com](http://www.psalm516.blogspot.com)  
Book Fun Magazine  
SVP Promotions

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### **Amy says**

I really love Robert Whitlow's books and he is a great writer. While this book was very well-written, I just didn't feel the plot or the mystery itself. The subject was whether a shooting by a white police officer in rural Georgia against a seemingly unarmed black teenager was justified. A high-profile black female attorney native to the town but living in Atlanta had recently been downsized and decided to stay in her hometown to care for her ailing aunt. Her hiring at a local firm is contingent on her being co-counsel for the defense in this case.

With the author, there are always twists and turns, and this book doesn't disappoint. I do hope you will give it a chance and if this is the first book you have read of this author, please read his other books.. He is just excellent!!

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### **Staci says**

A Time to Stand is an opportunity to see the various points of view and impacts following the shooting of a young black man by a white police officer. While we hear about such events on the news and social media, we read about it or hear about it and perhaps spend some time in prayer for those involved, but then we return to our regular lives. In this novel, readers have the opportunity to linger a bit and feel the frustration, uncertainty and other emotions involved.

The main character is Adisa, a successful, young attorney in Atlanta. The development of her character was well written.

There was a lot to admire about this novel and I look forward to my next Robert Whitlow novel.

My gratitude to publisher Thomas Nelson for a complimentary copy of the novel. I was not required to post a review and the opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Carol says**

A Time To Stand what a dynamic, Prolific, entertaining, phenomenal story. This one starts off in the past to lay the ground work to your story and may I say - well done - it was awesome. Then comes Chapter One and then you are off and running and that ain't no lie. You have a convenient store, a high school jock, an obstinate customer, and a group of ne'er do wells and something happens and then the ball keeps rolling from there and it is incredible. The author brings the LORD in at just the right points and that means a lot to me; It is so enjoyable and may I say it is so totally worth your time. I received a copy of this book from the Publisher and Netgalley; all the opinions expressed in the review are all my own.

if you would like to read more of my Christian book reviews go to [christianlybookreviewers.blogspot.com](http://christianlybookreviewers.blogspot.com)

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### **Debbie says**

"A Time to Stand" is a legal novel. The first half of the story was Adisa dealing with her aunt's stroke, doing her job, losing her job, and trying to find a new job. Frankly, this just dragged. About halfway through, Adisa had her first significant interaction with the preacher love interest and finally got involved in the police shooting case. Until then, she's "leave me out of this" about the case. At this point, the story did pick up pace and got a little more suspenseful. Unfortunately, I'd already figured out how the case was going to end and what evidence would be critical to this outcome, so all the ups and downs getting to that point didn't create the suspense they were meant to. And the robbery case seemed to disappear from the story as if we wouldn't care what happened.

I wasn't engaged by the characters, either. Adisa is supposed to be analytical, yet she acted impulsively left and right (usually causing problems later on). She comes across as emotionally cold. Her aunt, who she cares about, has a major set-back and the text tells us she's "disappointed." She has a tight job deadline but also has to go to the hospital; I'd be working on my laptop, but she's sitting back and reading the local newspaper. But if she's not stressed, neither am I, so no suspense.

Luke just never felt like a real person. He has major trust issues and is a jerk to the people who are generously helping him. He's prejudged as racist and hates it, yet he does the exact same thing to others. And Adisa loses her job due to poor reporting in a newspaper article, yet she believes the newspaper articles about the shooting. Hmm. The overall message was good, but the writing just didn't engage me in the story.

I received an ARC review copy of this book from the publisher through Amazon Vine.

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### **Rebecca says**

"Ecclesiastes states that there's a time for everything under the sun . . . It's a time stand! To look past differences the Lord created and come together in the unity of God's Spirit"!

The small town of Campbellton, Georgia is reeling from the news that a young unarmed black teen was gunned down by a white police officer. The officer insists that he fired in self-defense, but the victim remains unresponsive in a coma.

Through no fault of her own, Adisa Johnson, a young aspiring African-American attorney, has moved back to her home town of Campbellton, after her brief employment in a prestigious Atlanta law firm was terminated. While becoming reacquainted with a well respected local attorney is promising for her career, there is a troubling "string" attached; he requires her assistance in representing Officer Luke Nelson.

When racial divides become increasingly clear in the case, and Alisa's attraction to the charismatic black pastor leading the charge for indictment become public, the line between truth and justice for all becomes terribly muddled.

From cover to cover, Whitlow has carefully wrapped and unwrapped a potentially explosive social issue with skillful legal finesse and abundant grace. "Time to Stand" is a story that matters.

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### **Kelly Bridgewater says**

I haven't read a lot of John Grisham or Robert Whitlow, but on the cover of Whitlow's latest book A Time to Stand, there is a recommended from the Library Journal that fans of John Grisham will like this book. Not being a fan of either book, I knew what I was getting into. With Whitlow's book, it usually centers around a lawyer or two and takes place in a courtroom. With A Time to Stand, this proved true.

The world of the lawyer and the courtroom really comes through in Whitlow's newest book. I really enjoyed learning about the background work of a lawyer. All the research they have to. How many appeals and times they could appear before a judge before the actual court hearing. The inside look into the lawyer profession made me want to take a closer look at the lawyer world.

The plot for A Time to Stand could have been about any of the numerous police shootings in the nightly news. This has been a hot topic for quite a while now. It is all most of us hear about. Whitlow probably received the idea while watching a news broadcast, but I can be totally wrong about that too. I don't know Whitlow.

The story is told from the point of view of the lawyer, Adisa Johnson, and the police officer, Luke Nelson. I never once got confused on whose perspective I was in. I enjoyed getting to know Luke as a person. This put a name, a background, and the feelings of the cop who was being dragged into the limelight front and center for me. I loved seeing him interact with his wife and daughter. He was a nice guy who happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. Now his life could be ruined because of the mistake. As for Adisa, I really liked how Whitlow made her go into the opposite side's world and show how they feel too. Even had Adisa struggle if she should represent the cop or fight against him. It made her more realistic. As for the plot twist, which you have to read the book to find out, I knew before it was told to us. I had a feeling early on that was what happened. No surprise for me.

The story is ultimately about forgiveness. Can we, as the human race, move on from these horrific actions and learn to forgive? Or are we going to allow these issues to divide our country once again? I like how the element of forgiveness came from the most unlikely character in the story. I didn't see that happening, but I really liked it. This was a wonderful story that I enjoyed spending time with.

Overall, *A Time to Stand* by Robert Whitlow is a great and timely story about forgiveness that America desperately needs. I enjoyed the look into the lawyer and the cop's life and seeing what a struggle they had to go through. I believe fans of Whitlow's other books, *Rachel Dylan*, and *Cara Putnam* would enjoy this novel.

I received a complimentary copy of *A Time to Stand* by Robert Whitlow from Thomas Nelson Publishing, but the opinions stated are all my own.

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### **Olivia says**

I was initially intrigued by the synopsis because in a world where racial issues are so prevalent, I wanted to see how the author presented his case (so to speak ;)). Overall, I loved the fact that the author believed in all of us being created equal, and he stuck with that through the book.

The reason for the lower rating was the lack of good dialogue and strong characters. While the storyline is strong, I never grew close to any of the characters, and a lot of the dialogue was stilted. Luke, especially, seemed immature in a lot of the scenes (not as strong of a policeman as I might have imagined). This made it really hard to enjoy the story. I'm really impressed with how well the author presented legal matters, and it was the main part that I actually enjoyed from the book.

There is a little violence in this book-nothing extremely detailed. Some romance, but it wasn't the main storyline. I'm not sure if I will read another by this author, but I'm glad I gave this one a try.

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\*I received this from the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*