

Bobby Patterson

Wednesday, December 02, 2009  
3:15 PM

Bobby Patterson

- Thirty-four years old
- **Allergic to shrimp!**
- Yes, he served in the army for ten years, mustering out as a master sergeant. Yes, he had been stationed overseas many times during his ten years, including two tours of duty in the Middle East, a posting in Germany for six months, and England for two years. No, he had never been to Vegas. Yes, he had been skydiving, if his Airborne training in the army counted for skydiving. No, he had been born right here in Middle Tennessee.
- He had only been waiting in the car for the pastor's son, the sheriff's son, and the judge's son when those three decided to rob the convenience store. Even though he hadn't set foot in the store and was sitting in the backseat of the car, most of the blame was foisted onto Bobby as the "mastermind" of the crime by boys who knew the system better than he, and who'd already been in trouble with the law and would have faced much more severe punishment. The judge managed to convince his colleague to place blame on Bobby, but the presiding judge gave Bobby an option. Trial as an adult with several years' prison time, or enlist in the military. Bobby and his parents knew he wouldn't get a fair trial in their small hometown of Franklin, Tennessee, so Bobby decided to enlist in the Army—something he'd been thinking about doing anyway, since he didn't know what he wanted to do with his life after high school. He passed the GED test the first time he tried, and started Boot three months before his eighteenth birthday. After a couple of exemplary years of service, his aptitude evaluations led the Army to transfer him to White Sands Missile Range so he could start learning computer systems and programming, which put him under the direct command of General Mitchell.
- Bobby almost didn't go when the general invited him home for Thanksgiving dinner. But the moment he stepped through the door and saw the general's tall, curvaceous, timid second daughter, Bobby's whole life suddenly made sense.
- Bobby knew after just a few weeks that he was supposed to marry Zarah and take her away from her harsh and neglectful father to love her the way she deserved to be loved the rest of her life. Due to her influence, he started attending chapel services on base, and renewing his faith that he'd let slip away in his "wild" high school years. He didn't tell his parents any more than that he was dating someone (never mentioned her name), knowing they'd "encourage" him to wait a few years before marrying her; and he didn't want to wait. He took what little money he had in savings and bought Zarah a small, plain diamond ring and planned on proposing to her at the special dinner he'd already arranged to take her out for on her eighteenth birthday, a few weeks before her high school graduation.
- Unbeknownst to them, a young female Air Force officer, who liked both Zarah (from a few times they'd met before) and Bobby (from working together on the same project) saw them together on one of their clandestine dates down in El Paso, and accidentally spilled the beans to Zarah's father when she happened to mention seeing Zarah there to the general. Furious, the general called Bobby in and threatened to have him dishonorably discharged—meaning Bobby would face having to return to Tennessee and serve the remainder of years he'd agreed to stay in the military in prison—if Bobby didn't break it off with Zarah. And the General led him to believe Zarah was the one who told him.
- Bobby still held the hope that the general might be lying to him, that Zarah still wanted to see him. On the night he planned to propose, he sat and waited at the restaurant, but she never showed up. When he went to work the next day, the general pulled him aside and told him Zarah had confessed everything to him because she realized she'd made a mistake. He had sent her away to protect her from Bobby. Though the sudden outpouring of concern for his daughter's feelings and protection seemed false to Bobby, he was too hurt by the fact she'd stood him up on the night he planned to propose to process it and figure out it probably hadn't been her fault/idea.
- Ended up doing two tours in the Middle East. Went to college while still in the army and got his degree in Criminal Justice. Stationed at Fort Irwin in California and when he mustered out of the service, he was recruited by the California Bureau of Investigation as an internet-crimes investigator. He moved from that into fraud and white-collar crimes, doing a lot of undercover work infiltrating companies and organizations to bring them down. Worked for them for six years.
- Tired of the social atmosphere of Los Angeles and being so far from his family, when a job in the fraud division of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation came open, he jumped at the chance to move back home to Nashville.

**Music:**  
Old, classic Country (Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Waylon, Willie, etc.)

**Books:**  
Not much of a reader

