

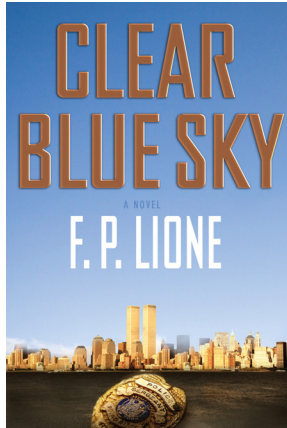
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Contact: Ben Laurro, Pure Publicity
818.753.4056 or Ben@purepublicity.com

Former NYPD Officer Who Survived 9/11 Pens Novel on Attacks

F.P. Lionese's *Clear Blue Sky* is a moving story of hope and courage
Six years after terror struck the Twin Towers in New York City

New York City, NY—September 11, 2001 will never be forgotten.



It's been nearly six years since 9/11, "The darkest day New York City has ever seen," writes **F.P. Lionese** in the prologue to *Clear Blue Sky* (Revell), a stand-alone novel penned by F.P. Lionese, a NYPD vet who survived the World Trade Center rescue efforts.

"[9/11] forever changed not only our skyline, but also the lives of everyone in our city. The soft winds that blew that day were of smoke and fire and death," writes Lionese.

Clear Blue Sky continues the police adventures of Tony Cavalucci, an 11-year NYPD vet in his early thirties, from the Lionese's "Midtown Blue" trilogy, published in 2005–06.

Cavalucci, once "toying with the idea of eating my gun," was snatched from a life of desperation by his partner Joe Fiore, his best friend who helped him turn his life around and find faith. In fall of 2001, Cavalucci's finally sober, planning to marry Michele Pugan in November, a woman who also has a four-year-old son named Stevie.

Early September ethnic festivals in the Big Apple require extra overtime for Cavalucci and his lively crew, forcing him to reevaluate career versus Michele and Stevie. On top of dangerous work, his neurotic family disapproves of his upcoming marriage and fatherhood.

Then, on a clear blue September morning, everything changes. *Clear Blue Sky* follows the events of 9/11, from the first plane strike at 8:46 a.m., into the frantic rescue efforts. While fighting for his and other's lives, Cavalucci is forced to relearn the importance of faith, family and life. This fast-paced cop thriller ventures through the depths of good and evil.

F.P. Lionese shines in *Clear Blue Sky*, bringing readers into the chaotic streets of New York City on 9/11 and into the compassionate hearts of the heroes of September 11.

F.P. Lionese is actually two people—husband and wife duo Frank and Pam Lionese. Frank is an NYPD vet, and both are Italian-American offspring of NYPD detectives. They've been featured in the Associated Press and *Newsday* after penning the "Midtown Blue" trilogy, with novels *The Deuce*, *Skells* and *The Crossroads*. The Lionese's have two sons and split time between New York City and Brodheadsville, Pennsylvania, nestled in the Poconos.

About *Clear Blue Sky*:

Clear Blue Sky: A Novel by F.P. Lionese. Published by Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. September 2007, 352 pages, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-8007-1886-2, 6 x 9. \$17.99.

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About F.P. Lione:



F.P. Lione is actually two people—husband and wife duo Frank and Pam Lione. Frank is an NYPD vet, while Pam is a former medical sonographer. Both Frank and Pam are Italian-American offspring of NYPD detectives.

The Liones' have been featured in the Associated Press and *Newsday* after penning the “Midtown Blue” trilogy, releasing the novels *The Deuce* (2005), *Skells* (2006) and *The Crossroads* (2006). Ironically, *The Deuce* was en-route to the printers on 9/11.

Frank and Pam, who had no prior writing experience, readily admit that many of the characters entangled in their writing are based on elements of family, friends and fellow NYPD officers. In particular, Frank draws parallels to the character Tony Cavalucci.

“Tony reminds me of what my life was like when I first started out as a cop—but when I started to rely on my faith, I became a more caring, helpful and stable person like the character of Joe Fiore,” he says.

They lived in Staten Island, New York, while Frank was assigned to the NYPD’s Midtown South precinct, which covers Times Square. Today, the Liones’ have two sons and split time between New York City and Brodheadsville, Pennsylvania, nestled in the Poconos. The Liones’ attend the World Changers Church in New York City with senior pastor Dr. Creflo Dollar.

Behind the NYPD on 9/11:

Frank and Pam believe the NYPD was more prepared for 9/11 than the history books remember them for. “During the millennium celebration in Times Square, New York City was on the highest alert I’d seen in my career at that point. The city was ready for an impending terrorist attack. We had credible terrorist threats, so the city had body bags stockpiled, chemical showers in place, and bomb searches conducted throughout Times Square,” the Liones recall.

Praise for the Liones:

“Terrific insider look at New York City and the day-to-day work of policemen working the streets. The Liones have a knack for using humor to lighten some of the darkness of police work. The authors also excel at offering interesting, behind-the-scenes police factoids.”

—Cindy Crosby, Faithfulreader.com, on *The Crossroads*

“The bottom line? F.P. Lione is a fresh new voice in fiction.”

—C.J. Darlington, *InFuze magazine*

For an interview with F.P. Lione, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at Ben@purepublicity.com or 818.753.4056

Faith Testimony from Frank and Pam Lione (F.P. Lione).

Pam and Frank are both second generation Italian/Irish Americans.

Frank's family is native Staten Islanders and Pam's family was from Red Hook, Brooklyn. Both of their father's were NYPD detectives. Frank's father was under Mayor Ed Koch's administration and Pam from Brooklyn South.

Frank and Pam grew up less than a mile from each other and went to the same high school, but didn't meet until we were in our late twenties. Pam went to catholic school, Frank went to public school. He was an athlete and city champion in Pole Vaulting and gymnastics. Before joining the NYPD Frank was a carpenter in one of the Carpenters Local Union's in Manhattan.

Frank worked in Times Square from the late 1980's when it was the seedy, drug and prostitute infested capital of the city through the Disney invasion into the post 9/11 world. He worked many areas of the NYPD including patrol, anti-crime, and the bike squad to name a few.

Pam was one of five children, Frank was one of four and money was always tight. Pam's family lacked spiritual role models and many had a distorted image of God. Her family perceived God as angry and waiting to punish them for wrong behavior. Guilt was part of their faith.

Frank was raised in a conservative protestant church and grew up very involved with the church. As a result of some circumstances, Frank's family walked away from their church feeling wounded, betrayed, and abandoned. His parents divorced after 23 years of marriage, straining the family ties even further.

Pam attended Catholic school with no home teachings. During Pam's high school years a family member "found religion" but that possibly did more harm than good. Her family had been plagued by alcoholism and divorce, drugs, strife and division.

Frank and Pam met at the Rustic Inn, a cop bar on Staten Island. Both were both jaded and cynical, Pam had a failed marriage and a little boy to raise, and Frank was a hard drinking cop who experienced too much in life.

Frank and Pam both had failed relationships and were hesitant to start another relationship. After some time they began dating but Frank and Pam was protective of her son so they mutually decided to wait a year until Frank met Pam's son. Pam realized that God needed to be the center of a marriage if it was to survive. Despite his past, Frank was open to the biblical preaching through the church they attended and he committed his life to the Lord. They married in 1993 and had another little boy in 1995.

After a time of prayer and fasting, the Lord gave Frank and Pam a pressing to write together even though they had no writing experience. They felt led on what to portray them in an honest and realistic way but with hope. They believe they have received favor every step of the way with their books. The Liones' attend the World Changers Church in New York City with senior pastor Dr. Creflo Dollar.

Suggested Interview Questions

Frank and Pam Lione, authors of *Clear Blue Sky*

1. What are your respective heritage roots? What was it like growing up with parents who were NYPD detectives?
2. Frank, what was your experience as a NYPD officer? What made you retire?
3. Frank, tell us how your life was spared during 9/11.
4. Pam, what was your experience like on 9/11, knowing Frank was involved?
5. Was the NYPD better prepared for the 9/11 attacks than they get credit for?
6. Tell us about *Clear Blue Sky*. Where did the idea come from?
7. Writing about 9/11 is a sensitive topic. How did you approach it? What are the parallels of 9/11 through your other novels?
8. Six years later, how important is it for us to continuously remember 9/11?
9. Is *Clear Blue Sky* based off of personal events? Real people? Personal experiences?
10. How has the main character, Tony Cavallucci, evolved from the Midtown Blue series?
11. How authentic is the language in the book to the experience of the NYPD?
12. You do not have formal writing experiences. How were you able to write as a husband/wife team and with busy schedules?
13. What role does faith play in your writing? In your characters lives?
14. How difficult is it to uphold Christian values and be a police officer? Is it possible?
15. Pam, any advice for women who are dating or married to a cop?
16. What crossroads do most cops experience in their lives?

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