

9800 SAVAGE ROAD

A NOVEL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

M. E.
HARRIGAN

TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR VETERAN OF THE NSA

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—Gen. Michael V. Hayden, U.S. Air Force (ret.), Director of the NSA (1999–2005)

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A TOM DOHERTY ASSOCIATES BOOK
NEW YORK

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—OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

In memory of my father, James Mears Sheen, 1914–1971.
The greatest man of the “greatest generation.”

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My first and greatest thanks go to my husband, Bill, who read and commented on every version of this book—and there were many. He calmly encouraged me to continue during the turbulent periods of rejection letters (or no letters) and joyously celebrated with me in the times of good news. He is, indeed, my sunshine.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

9800 Savage Road is a work of fiction set at a defining moment in our country's history.

The characters in this novel are all fictional, with the exception of several scenarios that include actual persons (such as Usama bin Laden) and a few passing references to other actual persons (such as Dick Lord, founder of the National Security Operations Center).

Although the book's NSA Director (DIRNSA), Lt. General John Murray, is also a fictional character, he was modeled after a real-life DIRNSA, General Michael Hayden. General Hayden was a breath of very fresh air during his term as DIRNSA (1999–2005) as he led an agency in turmoil and disarray through a period of enormous change both before and following 9/11. I admired General Hayden enormously for his integrity, openness, and his active role in returning the National Security Agency to a modern defender of our country's security. I am proud that he chose to include some of my recommendations for NSA's "transformation" in a briefing he presented to Congress.

I readily acknowledge that some of the dialogue between the characters in chapter 27 has been paraphrased from General Hayden's *Statement for the Record Before the Joint Inquiry of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, 17 October 2002*, which is posted on NSA's website, nsa.gov. As it is a public record and not copyright protected, and as General Hayden said it all better than I can, I borrowed part of his speech and gave it to the fictional NSA director, Lt. General Murray.

My career at the National Security Agency was both rewarding and challenging, with incredible intelligence-gathering victories and