Summary of the Novel VERY PUBLIC DATA by Matthew Eberz

Major Sam Call, now retired from the United States Army, has become full-time partners in an investigation firm with his friend, David Lytle. David was instrumental in helping Sam uncover the identity of a former German POW who had escaped from a World War II POW camp at Fort Sheridan, and in doing so partially solved a war crime that had remained hidden for forty-five years, and also bring home a soldier who had been lost since 1945.

Now in the civilian world, Sam Call, in his new role as investigator, is sent to investigate the financial dealings of a Public Records company. IdentityPoint is a major player in the relatively new world of computerized public records that has grown from a small warehouse of insurance information to the largest provider of public records data in the United States. IdentityPoint provides government, private companies, as well as individuals with reports on individual personal data including: names, aliases, address history, relatives, property ownership, dates of birth, death, marriage, divorce, and social security numbers. If a client wanted to know the ins and out of an individual, IdentityPoint could provide the report that would reveal everything from the person's birth, to their death, and everything in between.

By acquiring nearly a hundred small data gathering companies over five years, IdentityPoint had become the largest single warehouse of public records in the United States. Believing one of the senior officers has been illegally benefiting from a string of acquisitions, another corporate officer contracted LNMB Investigation, to go undercover to seek out the financial data to prove her suspicions. Along with David's long-time associate. Bob, a small, unassuming but extremely resourceful man, Sam goes undercover in a mesmerizing world of data and computers.

While seeking data that would determine if there were illegal activities involving acquisitions, Sam quickly discovers the vastness of the public records data systems, the immense power the company, and the data, have over the lives of typical and not so typical citizens. This huge, almost unchecked repository of personal data, properly inquired can provide the entire life's history of an individual including their connections with other people, property, and companies. While using the powerful reporting tools, Sam unknowingly comes across individual names that when inquired alert the F.B.I., and Sam once again finds himself the target of those who would wish to silence anything Sam has to say, as well as silencing Sam–permanently.

Set in Georgia, British Virgin Islands, and Washington D.C., *Very Public Data*, explores the world of Public Records, secret organizations, the world of personal identities, those that build them and those who abuses them.

The story of *Very Public Data* unveils both the positive and negative power of public data; and while this is a tale of corruption, murder, and deception, it is also a celebration of the love of a man and a woman, the unbreakable bond of soldiers, and the undying strength that honor brings to the human spirit.