



Ruthless.com

Jerome Preisler , Tom Clancy (Series Creator) , Martin Greenberg (Series Creator)

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Encryption technology keeps the codes for the world's security and communication systems top secret.

Deregulating this state-of-the-art technology for export could put a back-door key in the pockets of spies and terrorists around the world. So when American businessman Roger Gordian refuses to put his sophisticated encryption program on the market, he finds his company the object of a corporate takeover--and to say it's hostile doesn't even come close. Only Gordian stands between the nation's military software and political extremists who want to put the leadership of the free world out of business--for good...

Ruthless.com Details

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Joe White says

The book jacket indicates encryption technology and lead me to believe that this would be a technical thriller of networks and data collection.

Not so. This is just a regular spy novel with tradecraft operations, body counts, shootouts, Indonesian gangs, and some thrill in timing of a large forces operations raid. Naturally an advanced US sub is used as a backdrop very remotely tied to the story as is the President. Since that wasn't what I was looking for this was a huge letdown, and I could easily have rated the book down to a 1 star.

Bob says

More of Tom Clancy's Power Play yarns. Rival corporations battle for control, one of them is being backed by an Asian group with help of Asian gangs which means murders attacks on the rivals buildings and the possible attack on a US submarine, the local for a meeting of the President and Asian leaders.

Peter says

International plots, violence, cut-throat business tactics and heavy bribery fill this book that follows the employees of two competing companies.

This book was terribly written, had a terrible plot and was just generally not worth reading. It did not seem like a book Tom Clancy would have put his name on. The worst part was that the plot was not explained in the beginning; the reader was supposed to piece it together as they went along, but then it was never adequately explained until the end. I would guess this was to give you an "aha" moment or the satisfaction of figuring it all out. Instead, it just made 3/4 of the book confusing.

Preston says

Not a horrible novel, again I feel like my opinion of the book is buoyed by the fact that I got it from a library for free so I am more inclined to not be upset from the quality I would expect from a purchased novel. My favorite aspect of the novel was the setting in Singapore, which I could relate to through my time there while on deployment.

Jane J. Janas, Ph.D. says

Did not (at all) enjoy this book. The violence was too much for me! It was obvious that Tom Clancy had not written this book.

Debbie says

I felt there was something missing from the narrative of this book

Leonard says

An exciting novel. Lots of action in the ending and it lets us peek into a lot of computer cyberspace intrigue. The intellectual talk using computerese was way over my head and this is over 10 years ago technology!! I enjoyed it.

Dan says

For my first Clancy book I am disappointed and reluctant to pick up the others I have on hand

Alfredo says

Este es el libro que me hizo decir "hey, no todos los libros de Tom Clancy son El octubre Rojo". Mi amor incondicional por la obra de Clancy se convirtió en aprecio condicional.

A años de haberlo leído, sólo recuerdo algo de un computador, un sr. de terno que hablaba, unos terroristas hacker genéricos plantilla número 6 y miles de bostezos. Ni siquiera recuerdo si la fuerza de voluntad me permitió terminarlo, y la verdad no importa.

Lo único que me gusta de este libro es la tapa con el mapa de USA en pintura plateada. Podría usar el resto del libro para hacer papel maché o cortarlo para hacer una caja secreta. Sería un avance.

Brian says

I think Tom Clancy is one heck of a writer. When he puts the word on the paper, I find myself quite upset to have to put the book down. This is an action suspense thriller about complicated involvements in drug smuggling, family, and political and economic power. UpLink International CEO Roger Gordian is under attack from the Quiros men, a family of renowned Mexican smugglers. One anti-smuggling SWORD operator of his has deeply offended the Quiros's, and they get their revenge on him, leaving his brain-blown body in the trunk of a car at a demolition company. This sparks a war where biology is used, and Gordian is infected with a hantavirus mutation meant to kill. I think this piece of writing was a no-put-downer, and shocking at every turn.

Cess Que says

I've read Tom Clancy books since I was a kid. All heavy ofcourse. Ruthless is not my favorite of his books but it's still pretty good. Story is a little dragging but maybe with the right pacing it can be quite the thriller. Typical corporate espionage that attempts to take down a high-tech company with a very clever plot.

Anne-Marie says

Ik vond het moeilijk om dit boek te raten: ik twijfelde tussen twee en drie sterren. Het zijn er twee geworden omdat ik het boek tussentijds eigenlijk liever niet uit wilde lezen, maar het uit een soort plichtsbesef toch heb gedaan. Een Clancy leg je toch niet weg?

Het leek een veelbelovend verhaal en omdat er in koeienletters 'Tom Clancy' op de cover staat moest het wel een spannend boek zijn (ik heb eerder boeken van hem gelezen en die waren altijd goed). Maar helaas, hij blijkt het niet alleen geschreven te hebben en dat was te merken. Zeker in het begin zijn de stukken over technologie en hoe bedrijven elkaar in de tang proberen te nemen te lang, te droog en te technisch. Ook wordt het verhaal vanuit zoveel verschillende perspectieven beschreven, dat je niet de kans krijgt om sympathie op te vatten voor één van de personen. Sterker nog: de hoofdpersonen krijgen nauwelijks meer ruimte dan de nevenfiguren en het personage waar ik het in het begin van het boek het beste mee kon vinden, overleeft de eerste helft van het boek niet!

Tenslotte merk je dat meerdere personen verschillende blokken van het boek hebben geschreven: sommige stukken lopen gewoon niet lekker terwijl het in andere hoofdstukken ineens weer een soepel verhaal is. Het laatste deel, met de ontknoping, was het beste. Toch nog beloofd dat ik het vol heb gehouden.

Dit boek bevestigt een stelregel waar ik me al langer aan houd vanwege eerdere tegenvallers: geen boeken meer lezen van schrijvers nadat ze na een lange succesvolle schrijverscarrière zijn gaan 'teamen' (om het stokje over te dragen?), zoals Clive Cussler en, in de Power Plays-serie: Tom Clancy.

Tenslotte: in Goodreads staat dat dit boek door Jérôme Preisler is geschreven, maar na enig nazoeken omdat ik die naam niet terug kan vinden in en op het boek, blijkt dat niet te kloppen: het is geschreven samen met Martin Greenberg.

J says

MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS.

What I learned from this book -- I don't like when Clancy franchises out his writing. Or maybe he's getting stale. Or maybe my tastes have changed.

Not much memorable at this point -- shortly after reading it, I forgot most of the plot.

Interesting that a key character would die fairly early on - Max Blackburn.

Lots of formulaic characters and plot developments. Stupid dialogue lines like, "Stop, you bitch!"

Plot centers on a technology company, owned by Roger Gordian, that U.S. enemies acquire in an attempt to attack U.S. president while he's overseas in Southeast Asia.

Jenna says

Ruthless indeed..... a business expansion with dirty tricks, deceit, and merciless games played by Marcus Caine. An encryption technology system that keeps the world record top security secret code.

When Roger Gordian find out that his company was an object of a corporate take over. He must find a way to bring down the gang of pirates, spies, drug lords, political extremists and the terrorist around the world. It's a universal marketplace where greediness is not good.....but it's great.

Chad Layon says

Not a very good timeline
