



Splinter Cell

David Michaels (House Author) , Raymond Benson (Writing As) , Tom Clancy (Series Creator)

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FREEDOM HAS A COST. ONE MAN PAYS THE PRICE.

In response to the growing use of sophisticated digital encryption to conceal potential threats to the United States, the National Security Agency has ushered forth the new dawn of intelligence-gathering techniques. The top-secret initiative is dubbed Third Echelon.

Its existence denied by the U.S. government, Third Echelon deploys a lone field operative. He is sharp, nearly invisible, and deadly. And he has the right to spy, steal, destroy, and assassinate to protect American freedoms.

His name is Sam Fisher. He is a Splinter Cel®.

Splinter Cell Details

Date : Published December 7th 2004 by Berkley (first published December 6th 2004)

ISBN :

Author : David Michaels (House Author) , Raymond Benson (Writing As) , Tom Clancy (Series Creator)

Format : Kindle Edition 417 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Action, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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From Reader Review Splinter Cell for online ebook

C.T. Phipps says

The Splinter Cell series by Ubisoft has about as much to do with Tom Clancy as I have to do with the proliferation of grimdark fiction. Which is to say, not much other than my name on a few works. Tom Clancy created the character of Sam Fisher as well as Third Echelon but everything after that was the work of Ubisoft's writers. Despite this, the Tom Clancy name has a good deal of clout in literary circles and they wanted to see if there would be an audience for it. There was, albeit not as large as the video game audience.

While the series is officially written by David Michaels, this is a pseudonym for a variety of authors of which the first was Raymond Benson. I am a huge Raymond Benson fan from his time on the James Bond books as well as his Hitman novel. He's a great writer and the perfect guy for writing spy stories of a slightly exaggerated nature, which is what the Splinter Cell games are all about. So, is it any good? I think so, albeit more of a satisfying hamburger than lobster bisque. Call it Tom Clancy-lite, if you will.

The premise for Splinter Cell is Sam Fisher is a 47-year-old ex-CIA agent and Navy Seal who has been recruited in his middle-age to serve as a spy for a secret branch of the NSA. Sam is not an assassin but someone who is designed to use his covert ops skills to go behind enemy lines and undercover to gather information from hostile situations. You know, what actual spies are supposed to do.

A secret techno-savvy Arabic terrorist organization known as the Shadows (basically, ISIL before ISIL existed) is threatening Western-allied countries around the world. The Shadows are assisted by a Russian-backed crime syndicate known as the Shop. It's the sort of alliance which you'd find in a Splinter Cell game and Sam swiftly finds himself in-between the two. Sadly, in a Kiefer Sutherland's 24-like twist, his daughter Sarah ends up becoming a pawn to use against him.

The biggest appeal of this novel is the fact it gets into the head of Sam Fisher, a character who is too often ignored in the games in order to focus on gameplay. Raymond Benson creates an image of a reserved taciturn man who has been isolated by his job but loves what little time he gets to spend with his family. Unlike James Bond, Sam is forced to be near-celibate because his job means he can never allow anyone to get too close without endangering them or the secrecy of his work.

While threatening Sam's daughter Sarah is a somewhat easy way to create drama, it works well here as we get to know her before it happens as well as suffer through her ordeal. It's her plot rather than something which is designed to give Sam motivation to rescue her. The fact Raymond Benson was able to craft so realistic a character is something which makes the scenes where she is imprisoned and tortured all the more moving.

The villains are nothing to write home about with Arabic terrorists and renegade Russians being played out by Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare. Even so, Benson adds his own twists to the formulaic foes by having the leader of the Shadows more interested in his vendetta against Iraq than fighting America. The Russians are also businessman first and foremost, uninterested in the specter of a fallen Soviet Union. I found the would-be honeypot Eli to be the most interesting of them as he finds himself less than happy with the fact he's led his fake girlfriend to her (apparent) doom.

In a very real way, this book reads like Tom Clancy-lite with realism juxtaposed against dangerous spy adventures. It's a fun little popcorn thriller and one I recommend to anyone who wants to enjoy reading about

a semi-realistic spy against only slightly exaggerated terrorists. Certainly, I'm going to read the rest of the series.

9/10

Bryce says

This action packed thriller is set in 2004 in the middle east. Third Echelon (group covert agents called splinter cells) is out to stop The Shop from selling weapons into the wrong hands. The shadows (Iranian terrorist group) is on a mission to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The summary of the book is the shadow trying to turn the region and its people against the U.S. in any way possible. The shop is aware of splinter cells and tries to capitalize on any opportunity to eliminate one and make their business easier. Sam Fisher is sent in to investigate the murder of a splinter cell and infiltrate the shop and shadows. This book is an excellent read and very well written.

Paul Dabrowski says

I'm a huge fan of the games and when I saw that Clancy (ghost wrote by Raymond Benson under a pen name) made it a full fledged novel, I had to have. And I wasn't disappointed.

Balter says

This is one of the coolest book I ever read. I kind of bit disappointed when I find out that it's not Tom Clancy who write this book, but some fellow writer named Raymond Benson a.k.a David Michaels. Reading the book, I immediately hooked by the easy-flow narration and perhaps also because I love martial arts (especially Krav Maga, yea, that's why it's easy for me to enjoy the story), I like action with terrorism, politic and spy actions. It's like a perfect book for me.

Setelah selesai baca buku ini, gua yakin sekali kalau si penulis ini bukan asal penulis. So I do some research and--surprise, surprise--it appears that Raymond Benson is an official author for James Bond series from 1997-2002. Tapi hebatnya, karakter James Bond dan Sam Fisher tidak mirip (seperti penyakit kebanyakan penulis yang sulit terlepas dari trope "hero has 1000 faces"). Sam bukanlah seorang playboy flamboyan yang dikelilingi cewek-cewek, dia hanya seorang ayah yang punya pekerjaan berbahaya dan anaknya perempuan, masih muda dan lugu. Mangsa empuk buat siapapun yang punya dendam kesumat bagi Fisher atau Echelon.

Secara keseluruhan gua suka sekali dengan apa yang dimasukkan ke dalam narasinya, tidak sekadar pameran pengetahuan mengenai alat-alat spy-kit yang super canggih--Ketimbang merasa sedang dipamerin kalau si penulis tahu ada ini atau itu, gua malah kepengen jadi agen NSA sekalipun hanya dalam mimpi!

Cara berantemnya juga oke, aksi namun santai. Gua belum main gamenya, dan bisa enjoy baca ceritanya. Maka gua yakin siapapun yang belum main gamenya dan suka isu politik, terorisme, spy dan matrial art, bakal enjoy buku ini juga.

Tentang plot dan cerita, konfliknya mengenai isu di timur tengah, tentang terorisme berbasis agama, hostility

terhadap westernisasi, dan ada beberapa tokoh yahudi di dalam novel ini yang involved dalam kehidupan Fisher. Tapi buat gua ini worth banget untuk dibaca, karena endingnya tidak mengecewakan dan yang terpenting, terlepas dari temanya, konten di dalamnya tidak menghasut atau bias. Beberapa bagian sukses bikin gua ngakak, terutama waktu mengadu domba antara dua orang tycoon, dan yang paling menyenangkan adalah waktu Fisher ke Jerusalem untuk menyelamatkan putri tercintanya and play as angry dad! Don't mess with his daughter!!

5 stars for me, David Michaels!

Abram says

A very Good spy novel . A fun fast paced sam fisher

Jhon(Original) says

Maybe because I am such a big fan of the game, I loved the book. I have to say that playing the game is fun, but reading the story that I usually ignore in the game is interesting because then all the gameplay and missions make more sense to me. The plot was basic, but it gave a lot of substance which makes this book enjoyable. It tells of a world where these splinter cell operatives are called upon to diffuse a grave situation. These are considered the heroes that we never really hear about. I find it interesting how this world works, which is why I like this book a lot.

Christa says

I ended up liking the book, but I can't bump it up to 4 stars because, in the beginning, Sam just felt a bit out of character. Also, some of the earlier info dumps were far more tedious than they could have been. It certainly picked up, though, and the book hit its stride at about the 1/3 mark. Once it did, any awkwardness receded and it just took off.

Juan Hidalgo says

Poner el nombre de Tom Clancy en letra grande en un libro *que no es* de Tom Clancy es un sucio truco, pero una vez que hojeas el libro sabes que no es suyo, así que eres libre de leerlo o no, aunque probablemente para entonces ya nos haya enganchado la curiosidad.

Aparte de eso el libro está bien, es entretenido, tiene mucha acción y bastante información que parece veraz sobre armamento y sobre los países de Oriente Próximo.

Como pega, diría que tiene ese aire de producto comercial demasiado correcto y bien planificado (a partir de un videojuego). También es como las típicas pelis de Hollywood (el bueno se carga a cien malos y no le toca ni una de los millones de balas que le disparan :-)

En suma un libro ligero y entretenido como típica lectura veraniega. A quien le guste le recomendaría No Easy Day, estupendo libro de acción bélica... sólo que se trata de hechos y operaciones reales de los SEALs estadounidenses.

08andreb says

There is a top secret organization within the U.S. government called Third Echelon. This organization works by deploying a single highly trained spy, called a splinter cell, who does whatever is necessary to complete his mission. This book is about one splinter cell named Sam Fisher as he tries to bring down a quickly rising terrorist army, shut down a group of weapons dealers, and stop a mad man from destroying Baghdad.

This book takes place all over the world from London to Cyprus in the near future. Most of the action occurs in Europe and the Middle East. The book begins in Hong Kong, where Sam Fisher is trying to find out more information about a group of weapons dealers known as the "Shop." The story ends in Jerusalem after some dramatic personal events.

The main character is Sam Fisher. He is a man with a dark complexion and dark hair which helps him blend in while he is in the Middle East. He is divorced with one daughter who is about 19 years old who he raised after his ex-wife died tragically. Because of his work, he is anti-social and doesn't like to get close to people, other than his daughter. He is one of the most highly trained spies in the world.

One of the main villains in the book is Tarighian, the Iranian leader of a terrorist organization called the "Shadows." He is very wealthy and has assumed the identity of a Turk called Mr. Basaran. Mr. Basaran ironically is the leader of a charity that helps victims of terrorism. Tarighian's family was killed in an Iraqi air raid on his hometown and he has spent the rest of his life fixated with revenge against Iraq.

The book is filled with intrigue, action and adventure. Sam Fisher is like a more high-tech James Bond. He has lots of amazing gadgets that keep him under the radar of his adversaries. All-in-all this is a great book and I would recommend it to anyone who is a fan of a good spy novel.

Sonya says

I enjoyed Splinter Cell by Tom Clancy and David Michaels. I don't know whose story or imagination this was - Tom Clancy or David Michaels, but it was a very interesting and fast read. I had Christmas things to do and couldn't read it non-stop like I would have wanted. The book is written in a different way than I'm used to. The main character reads in first person and then changes to the traditional writing when it's not pertaining to the main character directly. The best part - I didn't need a dictionary next to me to understand. However, the author does go into detail about the different weapons. It's great for those understanding or interested in weapon details, but it's way over my head. At least I learned a tiny bit about them. I have no idea how much is made up or real. Sounds real, though.

P.S. I read over some of the other reviews. I had no knowledge where the story or character, Sam Fisher, came from. I picked up the book to read from my husband's personal library because it sounded good and had Tom Clancy's name written large across the book. I hadn't read one of his books in a long time and thought it was time. After reading one or two reviews that went into detail where the story comes from I got the drift. That's why the book was easy to read; it's not a true Tom Clancy book. Whatever! It's still a good book.

Renaë says

At page 50, I find this book to be a tremendous disappointment. This is not literature, and this book was not written by Tom Clancy.

It turns out that Clancy now sets up a book story line based on a video game then farms out the actual writing to apprentice writers.

The quality of work here is pedestrian. I've read longer, more developed sentences on twitter. There is no nuance, no development of scene or character. Page 30 reads. "Maybe I'm just not very hip. I'm not a social guy. I don't go out and I stay pretty much to myself. " The whole book follows in this way.

I understand that the new Clancy audiences are the persons who enjoy the video games. Is Mr. Clancy's stamp of approval on this piece of work an admission that he believes gamers to be of a lower intellect than those who would otherwise recognize this body of work to be the literary equivalent to a letter home from summer camp?

Mujahid Khan says

One-man Army!

That's what this book is all about.

Sam Fisher is a lone wolf and he is hunting The Shop, the largest arms supplier to terror groups.

Story was taut, well-written. Particularly the settings were interesting. From Macau to Baku and Tel Aviv.

This was one fun read!

Recommended for all military thriller buffs!

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Elizabeth says

This one was my pick for week 6 : a book being released as a movie in 2017, this one has been on my TBR for a long time , and I can't believe it took me this long to read it, I actually liked it. It was better than I thought it was going to be.

Paul says

After playing the games I decided to take a risk & read the first Splinter Cell book. The pseudonym David Michael's means there is a different author for almost every book in the series. This book was strongly

written & I enjoyed having the mental pictures of the video game before I read the book. Usually seeing a movie before reading a book taints the mental pictures I have when reading it myself, but not in this series. Highly recommended.
