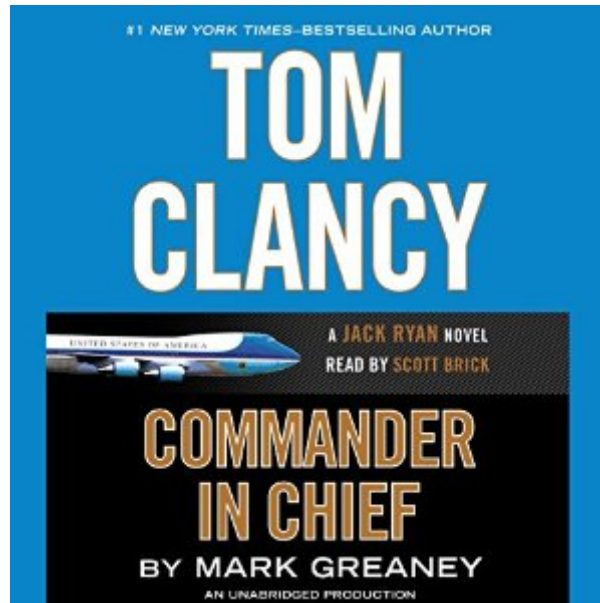


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Tom Clancy Commander-in-Chief: A Jack Ryan Novel



Synopsis

The newest electrifying thriller in the #1 New York Times-bestselling series has President Jack Ryan and his allies facing a treacherous foe threatening to unleash chaos around the globe. . . . When Russian President Valeri Volodin's ambitions are foiled in Dagestan, he faces a difficult choice. The oligarchs who support him expect a constant flow of graft, but with energy prices cratering, the Russian economy sputters to a virtual halt. Unable to grow the Russian market at home, his hold on power relies on expansion abroad-a plan that has been thwarted by the United States in the past. But this time Volodin has determined that an indirect approach is the best. A floating natural gas facility in Lithuania is blown up. A Venezuelan prosecutor is assassinated. A devastating attack on a Russian troop train kills dozens. A chaotic world is the best camouflage for a series of seemingly unrelated attacks. Only one man recognizes an ominous pattern in the reports of terror from around the globe. U.S. President Jack Ryan sees a guiding hand in the worldwide chaos, but before he can act he needs proof.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though it remains difficult not to compare Greaney's novels to original Clancy works, he has done a surprisingly good job of reinvigorating the franchise. They hit on many of the Clancy trademarks: thrilling writing, plot twists, espionage, and some good old fashioned butt kicking. Commander in Chief (also known as the 11th Jack Ryan novel) hits just as well. As most folks know, this is not Tom Clancy's work, Tom had not written a single book in a decade before he died. This is a franchise book, and another a good one. Mark Greaney is a talented writer, which he showed in his work in

the prior "Clancy" novel *Support and Defend* and *Full Force and Effect*. Greaney keeps the trend going with this book, evoking the Clancy style and keeping the franchise alive. In this novel, the plot revolves around oil and energy and its effects on global stability and a plot to manipulate the market to strengthen the Russians. Fiction? Sounds similar to the issues going on now. Just like Greaney did with *Full Force and Effect*, where the plot centered on the at-that-time issue of North Korea, these books rope in present events to make the plot feel current. Very much the plot of any classic Clancy novel. The writing is tight and well paced. If you liked Greaney's other Clancy interpretations, you will certainly like *Commander in Chief*. For those who have not given Greaney a chance, you should, at least to see if you like his take on Clancy works.

I've said before that Mark Greaney is my favorite of the Tom Clancy "co-authors" and the perfect choice to continue the Jack Ryan series -- however, I was disappointed with *Commander in Chief*. On the plus side, it is very true to the Clancy formula, which has many characters and disparate plot lines developing simultaneously. I have always loved this, because even if you knew what was going to happen, you also knew the plots were going to converge in a tense, dramatic way. But the problem here is that the convergence is completely void of suspense or any kind of tension. I'm not even sure why, because the story itself is actually good. It involves an out of control Putin-esque Russian president who is annexing former Soviet states and daring NATO to intervene. It's very much straight from the news and relevant to the times we live in ... but it's just not written in a way that's very exciting. I found much of the book to be predictable and boring, and was actually hoping for an ending reminiscent of *Debt of Honor* because otherwise the events in the book would be entirely forgettable. I was also disappointed with the way a number of characters are now being written: Clark, Chavez, Dom and Ryan Jr. are more like characters from a James Bond movie than the realistic, gritty characters from an old school Tom Clancy novel. And in *Commander in Chief* there are also two professional assassins from Amsterdam that, if I'm being honest, felt like they were from a really bad B movie or even a no-name dark comic book series. The plot is old school Clancy, but the characters are pseudo-Jason Bourne -- and I think that's why it fell flat for me. I will continue to read the series though, with the hope it gets back on track. 3/5 stars

This is a good book, very enjoyable and certainly worthy to be considered among the best in this genre. These post-Clancy Jack Ryan and Campus novels have been uneven with the book previous to this, *UNDER FIRE* by Grant Blackwood, being the worst. And frankly, it was just plain bad. However, *COMMANDER IN CHIEF* gets the series back on track with a well conceived story and a

tightly written narrative. Which is not to say that this or any of these books written by Blackwood and Greaney are anywhere near the quality of Clancy wrote in his heyday. They aren't. But none are and those days are but a fond memory. These books are as good as anything currently being published and Commander in Chief is better than most.

What did we get from a Clancy novel? We always got a complicated story line, with great characters, with great character development, written in a highly detailed and nuanced fashion, with the subject material ripped off the headlines, if not anticipating them. And so we continue, which is the greatest compliment we can give the author. We lost two great men, Tom Clancy, and Vince Flynn, but their legacies live on, and we are blessed. I won't go into all the details. Danger, Russia, Russia invading Lithuania, Politics, it's all there. Just enjoy it.

In another sweeping saga reminiscent of Tom Clancy's early works Mark Greaney gives us a story that is extremely well developed, has lots of different scenarios playing out yet they all seem to come together to weave a masterful story. The Russian President is on a direct course of conflict with the west and especially the United States. He wants to get back to having a major presence in world affairs and believes the best way to get that is to take back some of the territories that Russia controlled before the iron curtain fell. But before he can do that he will have to neutralize the United States to keep them from acting. He hopes to do this through intimidation of a new weapon sitting off their east coast. Also during this time he is wanting to get his personal assets out of Russia so that his adversaries in that government can't seize or put a hold on his money. To do this he is going to engage a master financial mind to turn his money into Bitcoin. The biggest hurdle to his efforts are going to be Jack Ryan, Sr. and Jack Ryan, Jr. and the whole group from the Campus. What they don't know is that their separate tasks are all going to converge into one big conclusion that will give the Russian President a real reason to have heartburn. I love the way that Greaney has learned to develop his stories and how they have that same flare and flavor that Tom Clancy gave to every military / spy / political thriller. This book is long, but it is one of his best so far. Enjoy!

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