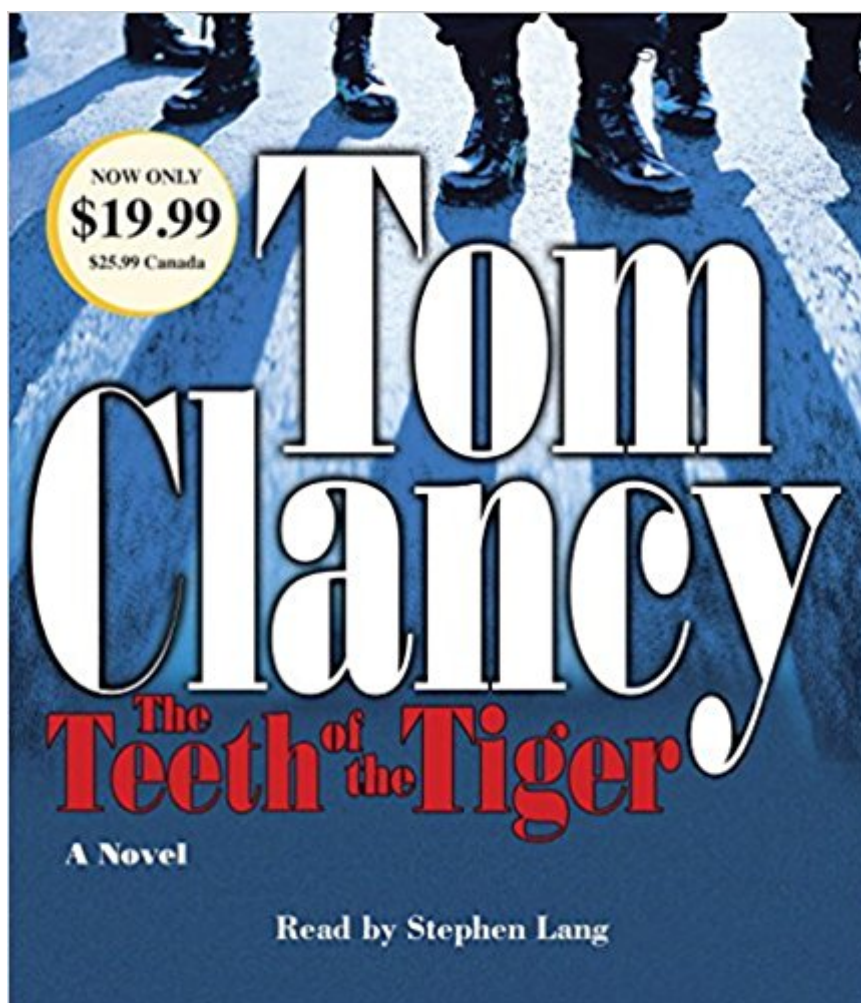


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The Teeth Of The Tiger (A Jack Ryan Novel)



Synopsis

A man named Mohammed sits in a café in Vienna, about to propose a deal to a Colombian. Mohammed has a strong network of agents and sympathizers throughout Europe and the Middle East, and the Colombian has an equally strong drug network throughout America. What if they were to form an alliance, to combine all their assets and connections? The potential for profits would be enormous – and the potential for destruction unimaginable. In the Brave New World of terrorism – where anybody with a spare AK-47, a knowledge of kitchen chemistry, or simply the will to die can become a player – the old rules no longer apply. No matter what new governmental organizations come into being, the only truly effective ones are those that are quick and agile, free of oversight and restrictions...and outside the system. Way outside the system. In a nondescript office building in suburban Maryland, the firm Hendley Associates does a profitable business in stocks, bonds, and international currencies, but its true mission is quite different: to identify and locate terrorist threats, and then deal with them, in whatever manner necessary. Established with the knowledge of President John Patrick Ryan, "the Campus" is always on the lookout for promising new talent, its recruiters scattered throughout the armed forces and government agencies – and three men are about to cross its radar. The first is Dominic Caruso, a rookie FBI agent, barely a year out of Quantico, whose decisive actions resolve a particularly brutal kidnap/murder case. The second is Caruso's brother, Brian, a Marine captain just back from his first combat action in Afghanistan, and already a man to watch. And the third is their cousin...a young man named Jack Ryan, Jr. Jack was raised on intrigue. As his father moved through the ranks of the CIA and then into the White House, Jack received a life course in the world and the way it operates from agents, statesmen, analysts, Secret Service men, and black ops specialists such as John Clark and Ding Chavez. He wants to put it all to work now – but when he knocks on the front door of "the Campus," he finds that nothing has prepared him for what he is about to encounter. For it is indeed a different world out there, and in here...and it is about to become far more dangerous. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While last year's Clancy novel, *Red Rabbit*, hit #1 first week out, sales reportedly were down from previous books, as were the thumbs of critics, who found the book slow, talky and lacking in action. In an effort to repair the damage as well as to revitalize his long-running Jack Ryan series, Clancy has scrapped his usual one-novel-every-two-years cycle to deliver a shorter, swifter tale featuring not Ryan but Ryan's son, also known as Jack, as well as two of young Jack's cousins, fraternal twins Dominic and Brian Caruso, the former an FBI agent, the latter a Marine. All three are recruited to a privately funded vigilante organization, Hendley Associates, that aims to strike at America's enemies-particularly, terrorists-when the Feds can't or won't. The narrative divides into two parts. The first concerns the training of the three, with young Ryan basically pushing his way into the organization while Dominic is signed on after taking the law into his own hands by shooting a child killer, and Brian after demonstrating smarts during combat in Afghanistan. Their grapplings with the moral and logistical demands of their new jobs alternate with a villains' plot, as Islamic terrorists cut a deal with Colombian drug smugglers, sneak into the U.S. and move toward their killing-field objectives, four shopping malls in mid-America. The plot strands tie up in a terrifically exciting sequence, the novel's highlight, as Dom and Brian, by chance shopping at one mall, take down four of the terrorists. But the terrorists kill scores of innocents, so the rest of the novel details American vengeance-the teeth of the tiger-as the twins fly to Europe, followed by Jack, to take out several of the terrorists' handlers. This isn't Clancy's strongest novel, but it's a big improvement over *Red Rabbit*. Geopolitical analysis and operational details overwhelm the few action sequences, perhaps to the chagrin of many Clancy fans, but the author knows this stuff like no one else and delivers it all in his inimitable clipped manner. Clancy's smart flag-waving and targeting of terrorists will please many, of course, and leaves plenty of room for sequels. Expect generally satisfied fans.

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A man named Mohammed sits in a café in Vienna, about to propose a deal to a Colombian. Mohammed has a strong network of agents and sympathizers throughout Europe and the Middle East, and the Colombian has an equally strong drug network throughout America. What if they were to form an alliance, to combine all their assets and connections? The potential for profits would be enormous--and the potential for destruction unimaginable. In a nondescript office building in suburban Maryland, the firm Hendley Associates does a profitable business in stocks, bonds, and international currencies, but its true mission is quite different: to identify and locate terrorist threats, and then deal with them, in whatever manner necessary. Established with the knowledge of President John Patrick Ryan, "the Campus" is always on the lookout for promising new talent, its recruiters scattered throughout the armed forces and government agencies--and three men are about to cross its radar. The first is Dominic Caruso, a rookie FBI agent, barely a year out of Quantico, whose decisive actions resolve a particularly brutal kidnap/murder case. The second is Caruso's brother, Brian, a Marine captain just back from his first combat action in Afghanistan, and already a man to watch. And the third is their cousin . . . a young man named Jack Ryan, Jr. Jack was raised on intrigue. As his father moved through the ranks of the CIA and then into the White House, Jack received a life course in the world and the way it operates from agents, statesmen, analysts, Secret Service men, and black ops specialists such as John Clark and Ding Chavez. He wants to put it all to work now, but when he knocks on the front door of "the Campus," he finds that nothing has prepared him for what he is about to encounter. For it is indeed a different world out there, and in here . . . and it is about to become far more dangerous. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

I think I've read all of the Jack Ryan books and I hate to admit it but I was a little disappointed with the first Jack Ryan Jr. book. With the possible exception of *Without Remorse* / *Executive Orders*, all of the Jack Ryan books were complete stories that often referred to events in other books. *The Teeth of the Tiger* is like an unfinished symphony. The book builds an interesting story and then just kind of ends - as if to meet a publishing deadline. There were a lot of unanswered questions which, hopefully, are addressed in *Dead or Alive*.

This book lacks meaningful tension to a truly remarkable degree. Spoilers ensue. The protagonists are never in the slightest danger, no matter how hastily and unpreparedly they act. I kept waiting for one of the *numerous* hints that there would be a complication to pay off, but not one did.

Examples: the narrator flat out writes that the terrorists are overheard shooting at the coyote's house after crossing from Mexico (it never came up in the ensuing investigation), the terrorists in the mall haven't a clue about small unit tactics but somehow the Marine and the FBI guy who are trained in totally different ways work together seamlessly, during one hit Enzo/Aldo (who can remember which is which?) distracts the target's friend -- who turns out to be the next target -- by running into him and having a brief conversation with him (but the guy never sees them coming), the last victim's set up as some kind of an espionage genius (he kills a senior Mossad guy in the opening pages) but doesn't see the rank amateurs shadowing him in their flashy car and conspicuous suits. And then there's the totally unearned (the Emir's never on stage for a second) cliffhanger.

Very hard to believe Tom Clancy wrote this book. I'm a huge Clancy fan and even enjoyed the new non-Clancy written novels. But "...Tiger" was a stinker. If this had been his first it would have one-and-done. Most every other book is worth your time but bring Nodotze if you want to get through this amateurish boor-fest.

If you like Tom Clancy novels, this is a good one to avoid - you probably won't like it. If this were Tom's first ever novel, it might be easy to overlook the deficiencies in this book. It really reads like it was ghost written. There are a couple of hallmarks of Clancy novels: character development, and a plot that gathers velocity for a fingernail biting finish. This book lacks either. As a follow on to the Jack Ryan universe, the attempt is made to introduce the next generation. Jack Jr seems to be afraid to step out of his parents' shadow, yet his peers and bosses see him as a child wonder and give him praise and assignments that have little evidence he is capable of. We are introduced (suddenly) to his two cousins: an FBI agent and a Marine. Somehow, the two seem interchangeable, and their adventures would be more at home in a James Bond book than a Clancy novel (they even allude to this). But the plot is so thin and one-dimensional it is hard to believe Clancy really wrote it. The introduction builds up this idea of collaboration between terrorists and a drug cartel, but this turns out to be a very minor part of the story. Then, along the way, it looks like there will be a major battle between the US and a terrorist organization. There are subtle hints about where this is going, but the story line never develops. All of the previous Clancy novels I've read spend the first 2/3 of the story setting up an action-packed ending that leaves the good guys clear winners, the bad guys clear losers, and readers eagerly anticipating the next novel. This one ends as the first 2/3 of a novel: The stage seems to be set for a dramatic ending, but it never comes. In

fact, I couldn't believe that the story doesn't end - it just stops. As I said at the beginning, if you like a good Clancy novel, this will be a major disappointment.

Haven't read the series in order, so maybe that changes my view. Good story, interesting character building, but I think the series gets stronger over time.

Tom Clancy novels always intrigue me. The apparent authenticity of details with the plots are amazing. I always feel as though I've learned more about the world we live in.

Clancy's last novel moves its characters to the next generation featuring Jack Ryan Jr. An action-packed read.

I made the mistake of reading books two thru five before I read book one. In comparison, this book was slow. It is full of the struggling steps of The Campus' search for field operatives and the situations which caused their selections. It was extremely slow and hard for me to keep interested. I think it would have been different had I read the book in its order. I enjoyed the action sequences and some of the intelligence research portions but like I said, it was difficult to get into. If this is your first Jack Ryan Jr. Book, I think you will enjoy it. If not, you will get the history and establish context for the rest of the books but little else.

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