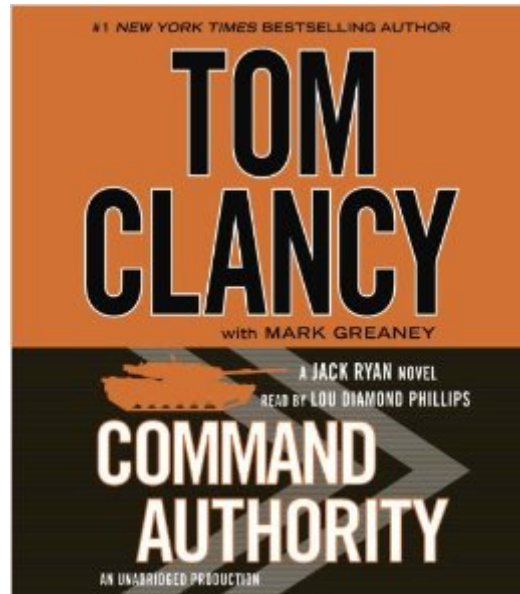


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Command Authority (Jack Ryan)



Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestselling author and master of the techno-thriller returns with his All-Star team. There's a new strong man in Russia but his rise to power is based on a dark secret hidden decades in the past. The solution to that mystery lies with a most unexpected source, President Jack Ryan.

Book Information

Series: Jack Ryan

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3,670 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #457,748 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Clancy, Tom #681 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #980 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

Command Authority is the 14th novel comprising the Jack Ryan Sr/Jack Ryan Jr franchise catalog, which began with The Hunt for Red October, published in 1984, and I have followed the series since that time. For me, Command Authority was a compelling read. The story first takes us back 30 years, to a meeting between a GRU Special Forces Captain and a special member of the KGB. The purpose of this meeting is not fully revealed until much later as events unfold, piece by piece. Present day finds Jack Ryan Jr in London working on not military or political but financial intelligence - and a case involving Russian intelligence and criminal elements that will ultimately lead him into the upcoming fray. Meanwhile, Ryan Sr meets with a former foe and now friend (a retired SVR chief) at the White House, who warns the president that the new Russian chief-of-state seeks to return his country to the days of old - just prior to dying due to being poisoned with a radioactive isotope. In Moscow, a Croatian assassin takes the fall after pulling off a devastating bombing that takes out someone in addition to, and much more important than the "targeted" UK finance man (and former British agent) - the current head of the SVR. Thus, the stage is set for

another action-packed, political/espionage thriller in this series. The new president of Russia has what most would call skeletons (literally) in his closet and he will do anything - everything - to keep those tucked away and out of sight as he continues executing his plans (and opposition) for what he envisions as Russia's domination. He will stop at nothing to achieve his agenda, including merging the separate FSB (internal) and SVR (foreign) intelligence agencies into one, under the leadership of his chosen man.

On October 1, 2013, author Tom Clancy passed away at the age of 66. His last novel, *Command Authority*, co-written with Mark Greaney, was published by Putnam on December 2. The author gained immediate recognition with the publication of *The Hunt for Red October* in 1984. The Cold War-era novel was claimed by then-President Ronald Reagan as "unputdownable" and soon made Clancy a household name. Several of his Jack Ryan novels, and the stand-alone work *Red Storm Rising*, owed much to the threat and paranoia of communism and told tales of US spies versus KGB agents and military heroes battling Russian enemies. As policies shifted following the fall of the Iron Curtain, Clancy adapted and responded to the new threats against American sovereignty: the war on drugs and the Columbian and Mexican cartels (*Clear and Present Danger*, and more recently in *Against All Enemies*), nuclear proliferation and dirty bombs exploded on US territory, trade wars turned into shooting wars, potential hostilities from Asian forces, and the frightening possibility of suicide bombing via hijacked airliners (a premonition in 1994's *Debt of Honor* that was ultimately realized by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001). However, in the wake of 9/11, it seemed that Clancy may have been lost in the new world order of terrorism. His 2003 novel, *The Teeth of the Tiger*, was a reaction to the shift toward non-state enemies and established a new hero, Jack Ryan, Jr., and the covert mission of *The Campus*, which operated independently of government oversight and gleaned intel by spying on the country's established spying agencies. But after that book, Clancy's output dried up until 2010's release of *Dead or Alive* (which I reviewed here).

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