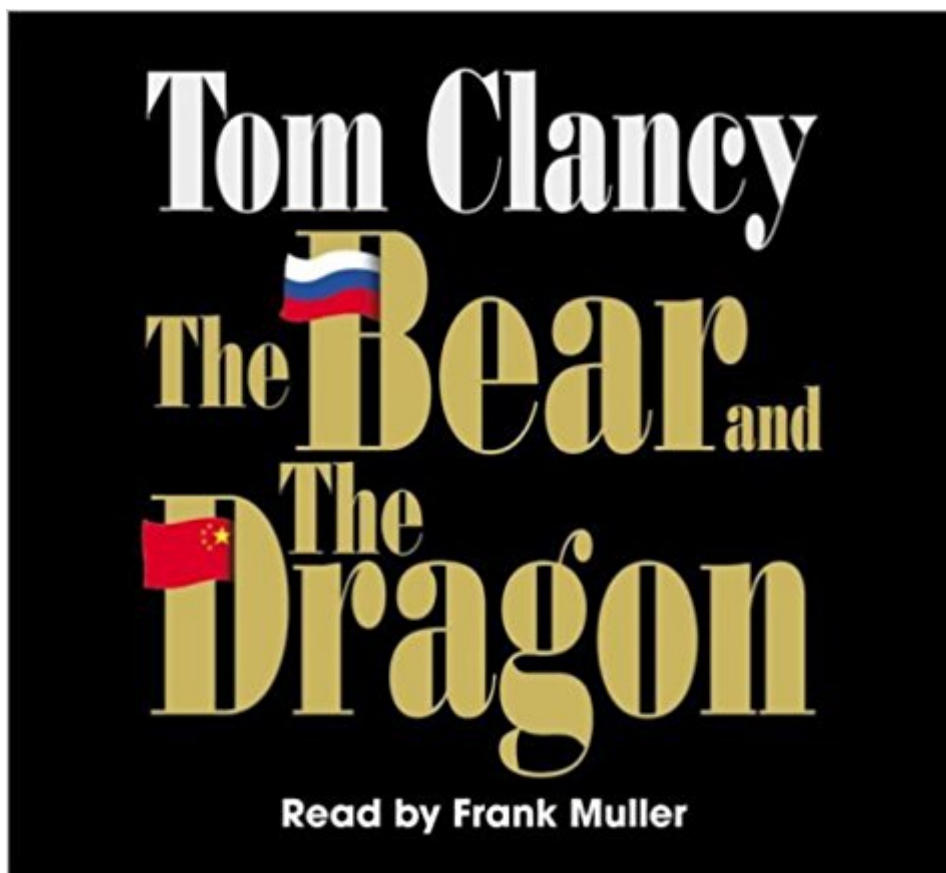


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The Bear And The Dragon (Tom Clancy)



Synopsis

Five CDs, 6 hours Time and again, Tom Clancy's novels have been praised not only for their big-scale drama and propulsive narrative drive, but for their cutting-edge prescience in predicting future events. In *The Bear and The Dragon*, the future is very near at hand indeed. Newly elected in his own right, Jack Ryan has found that being President has gotten no easier. Domestic pitfalls await him at every turn, there's a revolution in Liberia, the Asian economy is going down the tubes, and now, in Moscow, someone may have tried to take out the chairman of the SVR - the former KGB - with a rocket-propelled grenade. Things are unstable enough in Russia without high-level assassination, but even more disturbing may be the identities of the assassins. Were they political enemies, the Russian Mafia, disaffected former KGB? Or, Ryan wonders, is something far more dangerous at work here. Ryan is right. For even while he dispatches his most trusted eyes and ears, including black ops specialist John Clark, to find out the truth of the matter, forces in China are moving ahead with a plan of truly audacious proportions. If they succeed, the world as we know it will never look the same. If they fail--the consequences will be unspeakable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Power is delightful, and absolute power should be absolutely delightful--but not when you're the most powerful man on earth and the place is ticking like a time bomb. Jack Ryan, CIA warrior turned U.S. president, is the man in the hot seat, and in this vast thriller he's up to his nostrils in crazed

Asian warlords, Russian thugs, nukes that won't stay put, and authentic, up-to-the-nanosecond technology as complex as the characters' motives are simple. Quick, do you know how to reprogram the software in an Aegis missile seekerhead? Well, if you're Jack Ryan, you'd better find someone who does, or an incoming ballistic may rain fallout on your parade. Bad for reelection prospects. "You know, I don't really like this job very much," Ryan complains to his aide Arnie van Damm, who replies, "Ain't supposed to be fun, Jack." But you bet *The Bear and the Dragon* is fun--over 1,000 swift pages' worth. In the opening scene, a hand-launched RPG rocket nearly blows up Russia's intelligence chief in his armored Mercedes, and Ryan's clever spooks report that the guy who got the rocket in his face instead was the hoodlum "Rasputin" Avsejenko, who used to run the KGB's "Sparrow School" of female prostitute spies. Soon after, two apparent assassins are found handcuffed together afloat in St. Petersburg's Neva River, their bloated faces resembling Pok-A-Mon toys. The stakes go higher as the mystery deepens: oil and gold are discovered in huge quantities in Siberia, and the evil Chinese Minister Without Portfolio Zhang Han San gazes northward with lust. The laid-off elite of the Soviet Army figure in the brewing troubles, as do the new generation of Tiananmen Square dissidents, Zhang's wily, Danielle Steel-addicted executive secretary Lian Ming, and Chester Nomuri, a hip, Internet-porn-addicted CIA agent posing in China as a Japanese computer salesman. He e-mails his CIA boss, Mary Pat "the Cowgirl" Foley, that he intends to seduce Ming with Dream Angels perfume and scarlet Victoria's Secret lingerie ordered from the catalog--strictly for God and country, of course. Soon Ming is calling him "Master Sausage" instead of "Comrade," but can anybody master Ming? The plot is over the top, with devastating subplots erupting all over the globe and lurid characters scaring the wits out of each other every few pages, but Clancy finds time to insert hard-boiled little lessons on the vileness of Communism, the infuriating intrusions of the press on presidential power, the sexual perversions of Mao, the poor quality of Russian pistol silencers ("garbage, cans loaded with steel wool that self-destructed after less than ten shots"), the folly of cutting a man's throat with a knife ("they flop around and make noise when you do that"), and similar topics. Naturally, the book bristles like a battlefield with intriguingly intricate military hardware. When you've got a Tom Clancy novel in hand, who needs action movies? --Tim Appelo --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Klingons" is how hero Jack Ryan describes the villains of the Communist Chinese Politburo of Clancy's mammoth new novel; other Yanks refer to Chinese soldiers as "Joe Chinaman." It's not for subtlety of characterization, then, that this behemoth proves so relentlessly engrossing. Nor is it for any modulation in the arc of its action, which moves insistently from standstill to hurtle. Nor is it for

the author's (expressed) understanding of life's vicissitudes; in this Clancyverse, no white hat with a name dies, but every black hat gets whopped bad. Partly it's for the sheer bulk. If ever a book should come equipped with wheels, it's this one which plunges readers into a sea of words so vast that, after hours of paddling happily through brisk prose, the horizon remains hidden from sight. Mostly, though, it's because that sea glitters with undeniable authority. Clancy has demonstrated in earlier books (Rainbow Six, etc.) that he towers above other novelists in his ability to deliver geo-political, techno-military goods on a global scale and here he's at the top of that war-gaming. With aplomb, he spins numerous plot strands. Among them: a Sino-American spy seduces his way into Politburo secrets; enormous oil and gold reserves are discovered in Siberia; the new Papal Nuncio to Beijing is murdered; the Politburo orders a hit on a top Russian official that lead to a Chinese invasion of Russia and a credible war scenario that occupies the novel's last quarter and that culminates in a nuclear crescendo. Each thread carries a handbook's worth of intoxicating, expertly researched seemingly inside information, about advanced weapons of war and espionage, about how various governments work, complemented always with ponderings about the tensions between individual honor and the demands of state. Add to that the excitement for Clancy fans of this being the first novel to feature not just Jack Ryan but also, in significant subordinate roles, Jack Clark and Ding Chavez of Rainbow Six and other tales, and you've got a juggernaut that's going to hit #1 its first week out and stay there for a good while. 2 million first printing; BOMC main selection; author tour. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This was my second reading of this novel, I read the hardcover when it first came out. I know I am old and my memory is not what it used to be, but I swear there are minor differences in the hardcover and this online edition.

Wish that Tom Clancy could have gotten over his affectation to use full Russian names and to have the Russian characters give the American characters Russian names. This practice complicates trying to keep track of the characters, and makes the story line much more difficult to follow (not the only book where he has done so). Also, after all the story development, the denouement seemed very short, superficial and rushed. Also, I had already read *Teeth of the Tiger*, where it is mentioned that Robby Jackson had been assassinated. *The Bear and the Dragon* was the immediate preceding book according to the lists I could find, and I read this book hoping to find the details, but the assassination did not take place in this book.

I like the way this book opens with a mystery and we are taken along with the characters as they solve it and deal with the ramifications. Okay, America wins, one of the things I like, but the principles put forth in this book are the guiding principles which should be ours in reality.

Very slow moving. When some real action happens then it's followed by more dragging instead of reaction. I keep reading because I know how Clancy writes so I know it's going to get really good soon.

I liked this book. Now I will continue the series. Tom Clancy is a super author who I enjoy reading.

To me this one was a real disappointment on so many levels. I love Clancy but at times this was just long winded and when it went down that path it wasn't much of a page turner. The ending was predictable. And although this was "supposed to be from the John Clark series" there was little by way of him or Rainbow that overly impacted this book. It became quite interesting in the last couple hundred pages.

I personally enjoyed this tome. Having read some of the other reviews, I am seeing a lot of readers think this trivial, boring, trite, etc etc. One thing to consider- I think Clancy was always somewhat utopian and generally styled his books around a somewhat "perfect world". Keeping that in mind, I enjoyed his books for what they were; a "feel good" yarn which tried to make the readers appreciate his characters as "do good" guys in an imperfect world.

Overall a good read but not one of Clancy's best. I felt like I could predict the ending when I was about half way through the book and indeed there were no surprises. The Kindle version calls it a "John Clark book" but Clark, Ding, and Rainbow Six are not the main focus of the story. Some aspects of the plot really stretch believability but in the context of the Clancy world they might make sense.

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