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# Three Minutes To Doomsday: An Agent, A Traitor, And The Worst Espionage Breach In U.S. History



## Synopsis

An intense cat-and-mouse game played between two brilliant men in the last days of the Cold War, this shocking insider's story shows how a massive giveaway of secret war plans and nuclear secrets threatened America with annihilation. In 1988 Joe Navarro, one of the youngest agents ever hired by the FBI, was dividing his time between SWAT assignments, flying air reconnaissance, and working counter-intelligence. But his real expertise was "reading" body language. He possessed an uncanny ability to glean the thoughts of those he interrogated. So it was that, on a routine assignment to interview a "person of interest" a former American soldier named Rod Ramsay, Navarro noticed his interviewee's hand trembling slightly when he was asked about another soldier who had recently been arrested in Germany on suspicion of espionage. That thin lead was enough for the FBI agent to insist to his bosses that an investigation be opened. What followed is unique in the annals of espionage detection a two-year-long battle of wits. The dueling antagonists: an FBI agent who couldn't overtly tip to his target that he suspected him of wrongdoing lest he clam up, and a traitor whose weakness was the enjoyment he derived from sparring with his inquisitor. Navarro's job was made even more difficult by his adversary's brilliance: not only did Ramsay possess an authentic photographic memory as well as the second highest IQ ever recorded by the US Army, he was bored by people who couldn't match his erudition. To ensure that the information flow would continue, Navarro had to pre-choreograph every interview, becoming a chess master plotting twenty moves in advance. And the backdrop to this mental tug of war was the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the very real possibility that its leaders, in a last bid to alter the course of history, might launch a devastating attack. If they did, they would have Ramsay to thank, because as Navarro would learn over the course of forty-two mind-bending interviews, Ramsay had, by his stunning intelligence giveaways, handed the Soviets the ability to utterly destroy the US. The story of a determined hero who pushed himself to jaw-dropping levels of exhaustion and who rallied his team to expose undreamed of vulnerabilities in America's defense, *Three Minutes to Doomsday* will leave the reader with disturbing thoughts of the risks the country takes even today with its most protected national secrets.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fascinating true account of how greed, politics, and bureaucracy opens the door for a foreign power to annihilate the United States. It is one man's true account of a two year fight to arrest and prosecute those responsible while being stonewalled by the leaders of the agencies that are supposed to protect the free world. The hero maintains an exhausting, methodical process throughout and never takes "No" for an answer. It is also a tutorial in interrogation through non verbal communication. Once you start reading, it is very difficult to put this book down.

A stunning book to read and then later to read news snips posted in papers etc. of this case. Well written.

Wonderful Book! Applying Non-verbal communications skills and Psychological Elements to bring the narcissistic and brainiac criminal to self-admitting and justice.

Very well written. You live each moment with the author as he tells his story. Mr. Navarro is very intelligent and talented, and I'm sure the FBI misses his expertise.

If you watch a lot of FBI based movies and TV shows you should be interested in this authentic work with an eye to how the FBI really works, I found it fascinating and remember it's all TRUE. This is much better than a lot of the novels about crime that are around. The real deal. I recommend..

Exciting to read. Wonderfully written

A very compelling story...hard to believe it actually happened.

This book is better than fiction. This is the story of an intense criminal espionage case, the worst security breach in US history. This true life memoir showcases agent Navarro's expertise at studying and dismantling an interview subject. He studies subtle clues and body language to give a broader picture of what he is dealing with. The interviews in this book are of the cat and mouse variety, Navarro and his subject constantly try to one up each other and get into each other's heads. Navarro explains how he goes to great lengths to study his subject, as well as staging and orchestrating the interview rooms to establish psychological dominance and hierarchy. This was a fun and fascinating read that takes you into the actual interviews and along the rough and rocky road to justice. I would recommend this book to fans of thrillers, true crime, and espionage. I received this as a free ARC from Scribner on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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