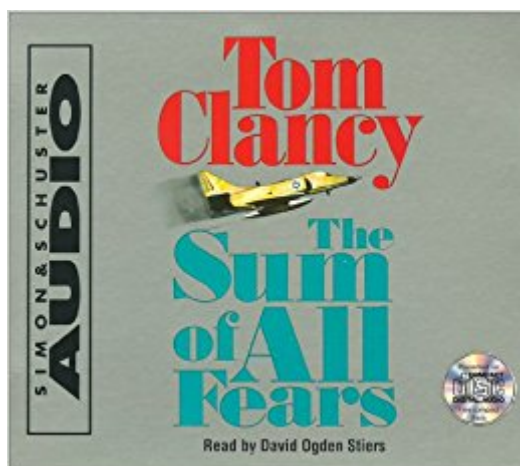


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The Sum Of All Fears



Synopsis

A new world order....on the brink of destruction Peace may finally be at hand in the Middle East -- as Jack Ryan lays the groundwork for a plan that could end centuries of conflict. But ruthless terrorists have a final, desperate card to play; with one terrible act, distrust mounts, forces collide, and the floundering U.S. president seems unable to cope with the crisis. With the world on the verge of nuclear disaster, Ryan must frantically seek a solution -- before the chiefs of state lose control of themselves and the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Once again, Tom Clancy manages to add new twists to the alternate U.S. history he initiated in *The Hunt for Red October*. In *The Sum of All Fears*, the center of conflict is the perpetual hot spot the Mideast, where a nuclear weapon falls into the hands of terrorists just as peace seems possible. Clancy realistically paints an almost unthinkable scenario--the bomb is planted on American soil in the midst of an escalation in tension with the Soviet Union; the terrorists hope to rekindle cold war animosity and prevent reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Despite such a dramatic story line, Clancy doesn't neglect the individuals who drive his tale. Jack Ryan's problems are as much domestic as they are part of the international crisis that is the ostensible narrative: National Security Director Elizabeth Elliot has the president's ear, and she has convinced him that Ryan's ethics are questionable. She hints at marital infidelity and an insider-trading scandal. Of course, both accusations are false, but her arguments have enough evidence behind them (e.g. some photographs of an innocent embrace with a friend) to cause a strain in the Ryans' marriage and a

flurry of media attention. While "Mr. Clark" tracks the terrorists, he also provides some needed intelligence to heal the Ryan family. The Sum of All Fears is the stuff of nightmares but contains enough verisimilitude to terrify sober minds. Ryan has matured into a complex protagonist as Clancy's writing, too, has matured. Ryan is plagued by stress and self-doubts that test even his dauntless moral compass and make him a more interesting subject for readers' attention. Those fascinated by military hardware, from nuclear submarines to atomic weapons, will find almost enough here to start their own army. And Clancy's understanding of international politics seems chillingly correct. --Patrick O'Kelley --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Clancy evolves from storyteller to novelist in his latest techno-thriller, as gadgets take second place to politics and personalities. In the late 1990s the world is cautiously emerging from the Cold War; even the Arab-Israeli conflict is being resolved, thanks to the cleverness of Clancy's hero Jack Ryan. But as confrontation yields to cooperation, what becomes of displaced terrorists? Palestinians without a cause and East Germans without a country seek to rekindle U.S.-U.S.S.R. animosity. A small nuclear device is exploded at the Super Bowl; in Berlin American and Russian troops are tricked into firing on each other; residual suspicions carry the action from there. After the solution of the Middle East crisis serves as an exciting preliminary to the main plot, the novel's middle parts seem a recycling of situations and characters from Red October and Cardinal of the Kremlin. But in the last third of the book Clancy integrates story lines, taking readers on a nonstop roller-coaster ride to a nail-biting finish. Fundamentally, Clancy is writing about a vital and elusive quality: grace under pressure. Whether terrorists or statesmen, Clancy's characters face a common challenge--situations that break down pretensions of rank, power and ideology. Their responses, carefully and empathetically constructed, make this book compelling instead of merely ingenious. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I'm used to Clancy and his details and slow writing style, but this one was just way too slow for me. If you want to enjoy this book, start at about 75% of the way through. Honestly the first 75% of this book is details, details, details and way too much background. Once you get past that... It's interesting in a good read.

This is the high-watermark of techno-thrillers and probably Clancy's best. It's nothing like the movie, more adroitly written, more precise in its details (of how to build a small nuclear device; how a submarine sonar works; how chain of command works, etc.). He also gets the political mind-set

right, including the downside of political ambition. Perhaps one or two characters aren't as well-drawn as they could be, but the ones that count, Clancy gets right. Great fun, quick read despite its length.

OK, it does take time getting into the story, please tell me what Clancy novel doesn't? It certainly is not a detriment to his style as it lays a bedrock foundation. I believe this is the BEST Jack Ryan story, next to "Executive Orders" as it brings out the true spirit of Jack Ryan. The so called "movie" of this book is trash and that's the kindest words I can use online. Stand alone, with total ignorance to Clancy's works, the movie is OK (Love Morgan Freeman, Affleck.....well it's "Daredevil" all over again) but it is not based on the novel. I too would love to see this movie made true to this great book. Harrison Ford, William Dafoe, etc. Unfortunately I can't get enough Clancy. Have read all the books from "Red October" to "Bear & Dragon" as well as "Rainbow 6" 5+ times.

While necessary for the story line, the scientific details were difficult reading

One of Clancy's best Jack Ryan books. Don't trust me. Read it yourself. Great title, too. One day the world will come to the brink, and we will understand more what Tom Clancy meant.

another classic Clancy novel. #3 on my list behind "Executive Decision" and "Clear and Present"

My personal review is its too descriptive. Too much time describing things, I got bored Stopped reading about 10% into it. Sorry.

I thought this book began slow; wasn't sure I would like it; but later I had a hard time putting it down so I could keep my appointments. There are multiple tales and he switches from one to another, from one paragraph to the next; sometime making the transition without this reader realizing it. I am always amazed by the knowledge of the navy, Russia, nuclear physics, and etc. that TC puts in this book. Great book, long.

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