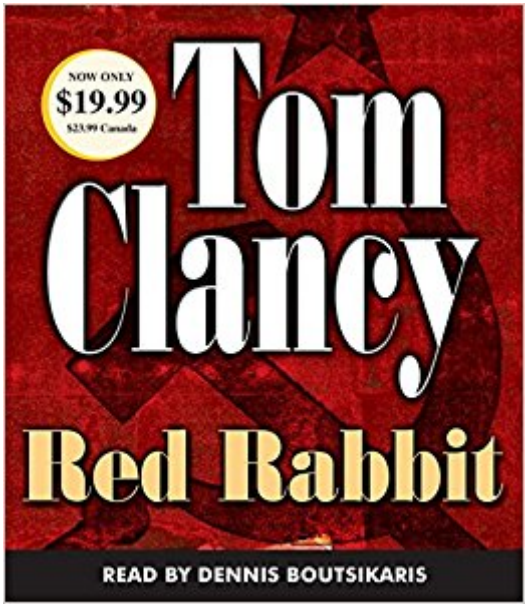
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Red Rabbit (Jack Ryan)



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Synopsis

Long before he was President or head of the CIA, before he fought terrorist attacks on the Super Bowl or the White House, even before a submarine named Red October made its perilous way across the Atlantic, Jack Ryan was an historian, teacher, and recent ex-Marine temporarily living in England while researching a book. A series of deadly encounters with an IRA splinter group had brought him to the attention of the CIA's Deputy Director, Vice Admiral James GreerÃ¢â ¬â •as well as his counterpart with the British SIS, Sir Basil CharlestonÃ¢â ¬â •and when Greer asked him if he wanted to come aboard as a freelance analyst, Jack was quick to accept. The opportunity was irresistible, and he was sure he could fit it in with the rest of his work.Ã Â And then Jack forgot all about the rest of his work, because one of his first assignments was to help debrief a high-level Soviet defector, and the defector told an amazing tale: Top Soviet officials, including Yuri Andropov, were planning to assassinate the Pope, John Paul II.Ã Â Could it be true? As the days and weeks go by, Ryan must battle, first to try to confirm the plot, and then to prevent it, but this is a brave new world, and nothing he has done up to now has prepared him for the lethal game of cat-and-mouse that is the Soviet Union versus the United States. In the end, it will be not just the Pope's life but the stability of the Western world that is at stake. . . and it may already be too late for a novice CIA analyst to do anything about it."Clancy creates not only compelling characters but frighteningly topical situations and heart-stopping action," wrote The Washington Post about The Bear and the Dragon. "Among the handful of superstars, Clancy still reigns, and he is not likely to be dethroned any time soon." These words were never truer than about the remarkable pages of his breathtaking new novel. This is Clancy at his bestÃ¢â ¬â •and there is none better.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There’s not a shot fired until page 602 in Clancy’s lumbering new thriller, and readers up on their history will know the outcome of that shot on page 17. What comes in between is a slow-moving but, given Clancy’s astonishing flair for fly-on-the-wall writing, steadily absorbing imagining of the back story behind Mehmet Ali Agca’s (real-life) failed attempt on the life of Pope John II in 1981. By going back 21 years, Clancy provides a fresh adventure for a young Jack Ryan, but Ryan fans (and presumably Ben Affleck) may be surprised to learn that Ryan is, until the final scenes, only a supporting player here. The book’s main heroes are the husband-and-wife team of Ed Foley, CIA station chief in Moscow, and his agent-wife, Mary Pat, and Oleg Zaitzev (code-named Rabbit), the mid-level employee in the KGB communications department who for conscience’s sake decides to defect to America when he’s asked to encrypt messages that reveal a plot, under the auspices of then-KGB chief Yuri Andropov, to kill the pope in response to the pontiff’s secret letter threatening to resign the papacy and to return to Poland to resist Soviet domination. In real life, the pope wrote such a letter, and analysts have long speculated that the Soviets, via Bulgarian controllers, dispatched Agca to kill him. It’s utterly fascinating to read Clancy’s playing out of that likely scenario is there a writer in the world who brings so much verisimilitude to scenes both high (Politburo meetings) and low (details of spy craft and everyday Soviet life)? But while Clancy delivers a believable and encyclopedic version of real-life events, the suspense is minimal a disappointment when other writers (Forsyth in Day of the Jackal, for one) have shown that there can be enough tension in a fated-to-fail assassination plot to give a stroke to a yoga master.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Clancy returns to Jack Ryan’s first days in the CIA, when the fate of the free world hung in the balance as Ryan discovered a heinous plot to assassinate the Pope. Clancy is so big that this new novel merits a special limited edition (ISBN 0-399-14914-7. $150). Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have been reading Tom Clancy novels since the late 80’s. And I have always been impressed with his ability to mix global-political intrigue with action, but with technical knowledge/research. It has always been clever how he has developed characters sufficiently such that he can draw on enough

previous definition to go back and write a prequel. Red Rabbit managed to combine factual history with fiction to make this a pleasurable, albeit, belated read in his Jack Ryan Sr. series. I have felt that some of his more recent books became (his passing 4 years ago is a great shame) a bit formulaic, as most authors tend to become, by the nature of time. However, this book was both engaging and a page turner because of, both the knowledge and links to familiar characters, and also it’s resonance/ integration with historical fact

I believe that this is the last "Jack Ryan" book that Tom Clancy actually wrote, however, it takes place earlier in Mr. Ryan’s history - after Patriot Games but before Hunt for Red October. It is a fictionalized account of the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. However, who’s to say where the history ends and the fiction begins. I like the fact that this book looked back to a time when Jack Ryan worked in the field, instead of sitting around the Oval Office, bemoaning the fact that he was the most powerful man in the world, yet constantly being told how to act like it.

This books takes place after Dr. John Patrick Ryan joins the CIA. He is residing with his young family outside of London. And he is placed as an analyst with Her Majesties Secret Service. From there the plot takes some curious twists and turns.I consider this book a must read for any die-hard Jack Ryan fan!!!

The first half of this book is somewhat slow as it explores the inner workings of British, US, & Russian intelligence services. The Russians hatch a plot to kill the new Polish Pope, as he is, they feel, unduly influencing his former homeland. The KGB is in charge of the plot, but a man of conscience in their own ranks sticks his hand in the raincoat pocket of a CIA chief of station during a ride on a commuter train.

It seems that this may be one of the first Jack Ryan book, or one of the first to be issued. He has been through the IRA debacle but has still not done any field service. My problem with the book is that there is too much repetition of routines (home routines) and office routines of the non Russian characters. I was also confused about the ’information’ carried by the defector as MI5 and CIA already had the information from the first telegram. That, I should think would be enough to put at least a warning into action. I have almost finished the book and it still seems that the key info the informer has are simply a few more details about the attempt at an assassinatioon (?sp). Why there was not more push for a greater range of information before the elaborate procedures to get the

Russian and his family out of the country seemed a bit odd as this exodus was hardly an easy task. In short, I think there is too much unnecessary repetitious padding here on the one hand and too little detail about the importance of the operation on the other. It’s a lot to do to spring someone as much on a hunch as anything else.

Great road trip listen. The story isn’t as intense as the movie productions so I kept waiting for a sudden plot twist which didn’t happen. But it is well done. This one is from back in the cold war time.

I like Clancy’s books but this one got a little tiresome. I didn’t need to be reminded every few pages that Jack was a Marine, he was an analyst and not "operations", he had to get a plan, his wife was a doctor, that he was a Knight, that he had broken his back in a helicopter crash, and any of a number of other details that should have been mentioned (and were) at the beginning of the book and left alone for the rest of it. Seemed to me like a book report one did in school; it had to have so many words and by gum we were going to make it one way or another. Other than that, not a bad read.

For Jack Ryan enthusiasts, book 2 stands alone as a solid story; exactly what a sequel should be like. As one of my favorite Jack Ryan books, the story moves and the characters remain fresh examples of a great mind.

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