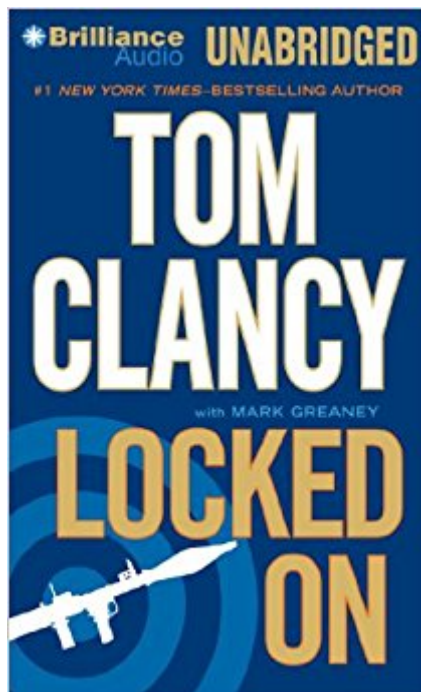


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Locked On (Jack Ryan)



Synopsis

Although his father had been reluctant to become a field operative, Jack Ryan Jr. wants nothing more. Privately training with a seasoned Special Forces drill instructor, he's honing his skills to transition his work within The Campus from intelligence analysis to hunting down and eliminating terrorists wherever he can—even as Jack Ryan Sr. campaigns for re-election as President of the United States. But what neither father nor son knows is that the political and the personal have just become equally dangerous. A devout enemy of Jack Sr. launches a privately funded vendetta to discredit him by connecting the presidential candidate to a mysterious killing in the past by John Clark, his longtime ally. A shadowy mercenary team is dispatched to capture the former Navy SEAL. With Clark on the run, it's up to Jack Ryan Jr., along with Ding Chavez, Dominic Caruso, and the rest of the Campus team, to stop a threat emerging in the Middle East: A corrupt Pakistani general has entered into a deadly pact with a fanatical terrorist to procure nuclear warheads, which can be used to blackmail any world power into submission. With the breakneck speed and military action scenes that have made him the premier thriller writer of our time, Tom Clancy delivers a novel of high-tech warfare in which the enemy within may be even more devastating than the enemy without.

Book Information

Series: Jack Ryan

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (December 13, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455865796

ISBN-13: 978-1455865796

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 1,168 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,779,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Clancy, Tom #2916 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #2953 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Terrorism

Customer Reviews

“Tom Clancy has passed the torch to a new generation.”—St. Louis

Post-Dispatch – “Clancy still reigns. – The Washington Post – “The man who virtually invented this genre. – Publishers Weekly (starred review) – This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Tom Clancy is America’s, and the world’s, favorite international thriller author. Starting with *The Hunt for Red October*, all thirteen of his previous books have hit #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. His books, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger*, and *The Sum of All Fears* have been made into major motion pictures. He lives in Maryland where he is a co-owner of the Baltimore Orioles.

There are no plot spoilers in this review. I started with Tom Clancy 15 years ago, and he’s been my favorite author since then. I appreciate his style of writing, technical accuracy, his character building, and his art of story telling. I am not as fond of the co-authored novels or the other series that bear his name. While generally better than most of the genre, they are not up to par with the Clancy of the early Jack Ryan and John Clark novels. I approached this book with a bit of caution, because with *“Dead or Alive”*, I walked away with the feeling that Clancy just didn’t care about the quality of his work anymore. I was encouraged that this was a book with Ryan Sr. in a prominent role, but discouraged by it being co-authored. Overall, I like this novel. The story telling, while not historical Clancy quality, is good. It draws you in, keeps you turning the page, and gets your blood pumping at times. Those who know Clancy’s style of writing and his attention to detail will certainly appreciate many parts of this story. I found myself with a smirk several times thinking “typical Clancy” or “that’s ingenious”. The last Clancy novel I read where I had similarly good thoughts was *“The Bear and The Dragon”*. As far as Ryan/Clark co-authored novels go, this is better than the others but far from being great. It was a very low bar that the Clancy/Greaney duo had to rise above. While it is “good”, I have an expectation for anything with Clancy’s name to be “great”. So many of Clancy’s earlier works fall into this “great” category for me: *Red Storm Rising*, *Hunt for Red October*, *Without Remorse*, *Executive Orders*, *Rainbow Six*. This doesn’t fit into the same category. There are gaps in this book with unanswered questions, which has been typical for the last several novels. The big ones? Chavez has previously-unknown expert skills, and it isn’t mentioned how he acquired them. Ryan’s resignation from his first Presidency still isn’t clearly explained, which is something I wish was in this book since it is about Ryan’s run for the White House, and, honestly, was something I was looking forward to reading about. The old Clancy doesn’t leave things unexplained like this, and he missed a prime opportunity to address this. I have read enough Clancy to know which parts are

written by Greaney in this novel, and they don't all flow well with the rest of the book. The difference in writing style, at times, threw me off and interrupted the story somewhat. The opening action sequence of the book is such an element. The difference in style is very apparent as the next element of the story is about Ryan Sr., and is clearly written by Clancy himself. I do not have an issue with Clancy co-authoring his books, I have an issue with the quality of those books. There is no reason a co-authored novel has to be of lower quality. It is undoubtedly hard work to make the work of two authors flow well together in a single cohesive story, and where Clancy fails is in the editing and proof-reading. The only explanation is that either Tom is losing skill, or he lacks the same level of intense passion he had before. As for my rating, it goes a little beyond just the star value I assigned to it. I like this book, I feel it's better than just "ok". As far as entertainment value, I feel it deserves the "I like it" four-star rating. If I were to rate it on five star scale against other Ryan/Clark novels, it would be a 3. While this isn't the Clancy redemption I hoped for, I can now see an author at least trying to get back to his roots. I hope the next one is a solo novel that ties up some of the loose ends from the last few. Final thoughts: I can't think of a reason to NOT recommend this book. Through it's flaws is a good story that is a page turner, and has some great moments with familiar characters. It leaves me glad I read it, and I'll probably read it again.

I found this book to be similar to many other reviewers and at this point it probably just needs to be the expected outcome. In its own right it's a decent book that can at times pull you in and make reading worthwhile. However, it is not what I would consider groundbreaking or anywhere near the level of intricate interwoven plot lines and details available in older Clancy novels. All too often there are specific contradicting details just a page or two apart which seems silly for a professional well developed novel. It has no impact on the overall story but when a BMW turns into a Mercedes or an UMP45 is suddenly a .40 caliber over the course of a paragraph or two it nags at my brain. As in several of the other co-authored books, greater levels of leeway seem to be taken in each installment with the history and back stories of recurring characters. Overall good enough read to be worth the couple of weeks I was picking it up to get in a few chapters here and there. They would probably avoid much of the outcry on these if they would stop trying to pass them off as TOM CLANCY novels. Just call it the Jack Ryan series or something to keep the history but stop being compared to the defining works.

This latest effort by Mr. Clancy's "apprentice" is an improvement from his last work. If you're looking for this novel to be akin to the previous Tom Clancy un-coauthored novels, then you will be utterly

disappointed. It seems those days are behind us. I am not going to bore you with a long detailed summation. Instead I will offer what I believe to be some pros and cons in a quick, bullet format.- Believable storyline. A real possibility in today's world.- Political characters resemble politicians in office today.- Author keeps you interested, doesn't go "off the deep end" with wild conjecture.- Fairly well researched on the main topic.- Unexplained and unanswered gaps. (i.e. Ryan Sr. resignation from first presidency)- Ending left too many unsettled or unresolved gaps in the plights of the main characters.- A touch "long winded" in some places. Some unnecessary paragraphs before the plot switches. All in all, I felt this book to be a pretty good read. It is not the Tom Clancy we all know and love. I understood and accepted this before I picked it up. But if you can set that aside, you should find this book pretty decent.

This fast paced book has lots of plots and subplots to keep you entertained, bringing them all together at the end. This book requires you to read in continuous go (as opposed to putting it down for a couple of weeks and picking back up) because it is hard to keep track of all the characters and the plots. It would have been good to see a more definitive outcome for a couple of the subplots at the end but they are somewhat implied.

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