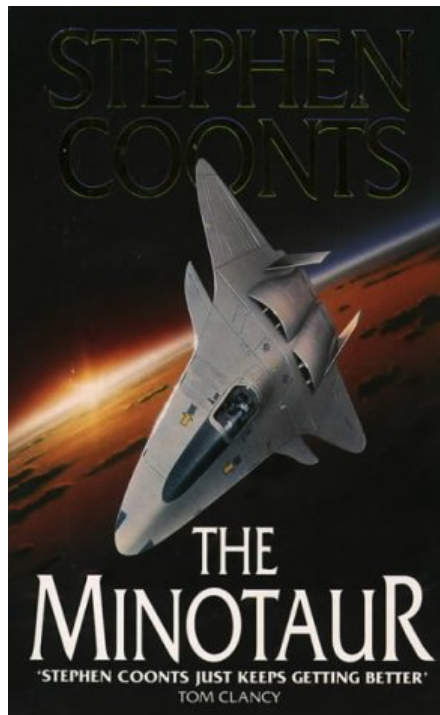




The Minotaur

Stephen Coonts

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Fighter-jock Jake Grafton has survived his share of airborne death duels. Now he's grounded. As head of the top-secret Athena Project, he's now in charge of developing the navy's next-generation attack aircraft-a carrier-launched stealth version of the A-6 Intruder. But deep within the labyrinth of the Pentagon, a cunning Soviet network is trashing U.S. security. Behind it is the ultimate spymaster called The Minotaur: his sights are on Jake's aircraft...and his plans are for one last kill.

The Minotaur Details

Date :

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Author : Stephen Coonts

Format :

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, War, Military Fiction, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Minotaur for online ebook

John says

Jake Grafton, after recovering from a near fatal F-14 crash is assigned to duty at the Pentagon. As a program manager for the development of a new fighter plane, he is confronted by leaks of classified information, both to competing contractors, and to the Russians. There is some action, a couple of car chases, an airplane crash, and several bodies in the wake of Grafton's investigation. How he manages to uncover the source of the leaks, and move his project to completion is Stephen Coonts at his best.

Elyse says

Thought I'd try another in the Jake Grafton series. Again, this one was ok, but a little hard to follow some of the secondary characters. Maybe that's because I read it over a period of a few (busy) weeks; maybe it's just that the writing isn't as crisp and the plot isn't as tight as some of his other novels.

Either way, a fun read. I'll keep hoping that the Deep Black series becomes available as e-books from my library!

Hijacking Of says

Stephen Coonts is a fabulous translator of aviation-speak into the written word. Minotaur was a little difficult to follow because of the large number of characters. Still a great read and his insight into the Washington DC swamp with regard to procurement is priceless

Terry Blanz says

Great book

David Arch says

A bit dated but a fun read of espionage, military secrets, government bureaucracies, the Cold War and spies and the heroic US serviceman

Michael Smith says

A very good book, it goes into the world of military procurement of new planes. It's full of twists and turns, that will make you look at the process in a whole different light. Well worth the read!

Jeff says

Weak book. Poorly developed characters. Horribly written female characters. Some characters know how to accomplish things that they would probably never know. This is a wannabe Tom Clancy book. However, while he really enjoys discussing the technical details of the aircraft, he doesn't have the same skill at making it accessible to the average reader. This book wasn't really awful but I am kind of bummed that I spent time to finish it. The few good moments were too few and far between to make it at least a fun read.

Ruth says

"I love the names of the characters in this book - Jake Grafton, Toad Tarkington and Rita Moravia. Jake the main protagonist, Toad the affable almost side-kick and the love interest, strong but feminine - Rita. From the authors own thoughts ""I wanted Rita to be an ace pilot, all business and damn good at her job. Toad, of course, would be drawn to her like a moth to a candle."" Stephen Coonts was born in 1946 and trained as a pilot. After leaving the navy, he retrained as a lawyer and started writing in 1986. The book was published in 1989 and is a good story involving flying, computers and espionage. Favourite quote from the book: - "":"""Politicians.If you rendered the lot of em,you wouldn't find a thimblefull of scruples."" "

Judy Short says

This was my husbands book that I read to him when we travel. We both enjoyed the suspense and the intrigue.

Nigel says

I think it would be fair to say that this book intrigued me more than entertained me. There are two main plot threads within this book. The first involves Grafton's first Pentagon posting where he is challenged to evaluate prototypes for the Navy's new A-12 stealth aircraft before making a recommendation and having to justify that recommendation in Congressional hearings. We see Grafton struggle with the politics of the situation whilst trying to get the best aircraft approved that he can. This half of the plot line covers most of the book and it felt dragged out to me, whilst I like technical detail as it adds a level of realism there was too much detail and not enough action for me.

The second plot line is the hunt for Minotaur, who appears to be a Soviet spy high in Pentagon given the level of secrets he can give away. This was the element of the novel that intrigued me as the author revealed the identity of several minor players in the drama from the get go leaving only the puppet master pulling the strings behind the scenes as an unknown. We see the FBI agent in charge of the investigation make curious (if not downright dangerous) decisions and the investigation appears to be going nowhere for large parts of the book.

There is an unexpected twist /revelation at the end of the book but whilst it was a novel ending to what was largely an espionage thriller it lacked realism and credibility.

All in an OK book that didn't light work in parts and in others felt a bit long.

Marcia says

I really liked this book! This is an early Jake Grafton story, which deals with Grafton's new assignment to the Pentagon. Instead of just pushing papers, Grafton is assigned to choose which of two prototype planes the US Navy will buy. Lots of information about the planes went over my head, but other readers with some knowledge of aviation will find the passages interesting. Grafton tries to find the murderer of his predecessor in the job and a spy who is funneling top secret information to the Russians. Tangentially, Tommy Carmellini marries; he & his new bride are almost killed in a test flight of one of the two planes. Every character is well defined and interesting. The motive for the espionage is the usual one: money. The novel speeds along with some twists & turns in the plot, but the clues are there for the careful reader.

Tiffany Robinson says

Maybe if I read the books before this one I would have liked it better but I'm not sure. I liked nothing about this book. It was long and tedious to get through. Very boring. A big waste of my time.

Daniel Bratell says

Jack Grafton (who seems to follow the same career path as Jack Ryan) survived the last book and is put at a desk in Pentagon. His mission, should he choose to accept it, is to figure out the specification for the next navy attack plane (ATA, A-12) while fighting trying to keep everything secret. All this in the middle of the hunt for soviet moles and industry infiltrators.

(In real life A-12 was cancelled in 1991 and replaced by F/A-18E/F Super Hornet)

In this book the author makes no secret of his ill feeling (to put it mildly) for politicians suggesting cuts of the military. It's a bit over the edge and is one of many reasons these books are pulp literature.

Still, I enjoy the books so 3 stars. Not recommending them to random reader though. You have to like military fiction.

Patty Westfall says

Mixed feelings

This fast paced, intricate story never got boring, though it did get a bit confusing at times. It got hard to keep track of some of the characters, and some of the details. I found myself rereading and going back to make sure I had things straight.

The characters, especially at the beginning of the book, we're not realistic. I thought Rita was bi-polar, but

no, just poorly written. This is not a story for anyone who appreciates character development.

But if you like a detailed story that keeps moving and isn't easily predicted, this should be right up your alley.

BoekenTrol says

From one of the book boxes that Moem sent to me. This one will stay here untill I've read it.

I liked this book. Not the best espionage book I've ever read, but it was okay.

What I disliked most, was the fact that I could not quite follow the who did what in the espionage part. The main thread was easy to follow, Grafton and his task to be completed.

The spies, the counter spies, the Minotaur.... for me they were a bit shady in motives and who did what. But spy business is always a bit shady, so I coped the best I could. The book left me with the question why it was written like this.

Okay, money is a very important motivator for the person who sells secrets and preventing the other side from getting too far ahead technologically for the person / country who buys. I did not find anything spectacular, surprising in this book, so I'm a bit disappointed.
