



Out of the Ashes

Dick Couch , George Galdorisi , Tom Clancy (Series Creator) , Steve Pieczenik (Series Creator)

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Tom Clancy's Op-Center is back with this new thriller written by the "New York Times" bestselling authors of Tom Clancy's *Act of Valor* and featuring a chilling, ripped-from-the-headlines scenario.

Before 9/11 America was protected by a covert force known as the National Crisis Management Center. Commonly known as Op-Center, this silent, secret mantel guarded the American people and protected the country from enemies. The charter was top secret and Director Paul Hood reported directly to the president. Op-Center used undercover operatives with SWAT capabilities to diffuse crises around the world, and they were tops in their field. But after the World Trade Center disaster, in the interest of streamlining, OP-Center was disbanded--leaving the country in terrible danger.

But when terrorists detonate bombs in sports stadiums around the country leaving men, women and children dead or mutilated, the President executes an emergency order to bring back Op-Center--an Op-Center capable of dealing with the high tech crises of the 21st Century, and there is a lethal one brewing in the Middle East. A renegade Saudi Prince with ambitions of controlling the world's oil supply has an ingenious plot to manipulate America into attacking Syria and launching a war against Iran. Next, they would ignite a sleeper cell to attack the America homeland, resulting in a bloodbath unlike any other. Only the men and women of Op-Center, using sophisticated technology, realize what is about to be unleashed. Only they have the courage to issue a warning no one wants to hear. But will anyone believe them?

Out of the Ashes Details

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From Reader Review Out of the Ashes for online ebook

Lindsey Silvestrini says

I just finished The Kraken Project read by Scott Sowers so I was happy to see his familiar name on the newest Tom Clancy Op-Center: Out of the Ashes.

We begin with the horrible beating of a couple from the Middle East leaving the wife in a coma and the husband in a rage. Clancy makes you feel compassion and sympathy for this couple and what they go through simply because of their race. But then what happens next will leave you feeling sick and enraged.

Instead of seeking revenge on just the men responsible, the husband punishes our country and innocent lives are lost. Clancy is the master at making you connect with and see each of these victims as individuals and not just a number. A little girl at a stadium with her dad watching a game witnesses the gruesome terrorist attack on our Country and personally; her father. You can't help but feel devastated on her behalf. And your former sympathy for the grieving husband turns to anger at the way he handles it.

The Government, the President and all responsible for the protection of America's citizens are at a loss as to where the attacks are coming from. The normal chatter that will point them in a certain direction of whose responsible is silent. In this silence, an old Op-Center program is resurrected to solve the mystery. Who will be in charge? The previous commander has recently gotten some devastating health news so who will rise in his stead?

This story bounces between the exciting action and the slower politics of the government and it's planning. I of course preferred the action and was eager to get back to it when some of the other more political parts seemed to drone on. Sowers does justice to Clancy's characters and is excellent at the accents and pronunciations for those from other countries.

Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Out of the Ashes was a thrill ride and one I couldn't stop listening to! I literally sat in my car and listened in my garage long after returning home just so I could find out what happened next!

Maureen says

Very disappointed. What a huge let down by these writers bringing Op Center back under Clancy's name and to drown it with characters that you wonder why they are even in the story line, let alone the redundancy of it all. They repeat the same thing over and over and go into non important or information that has no bearing on the story. It jumps willy nilly all over the place, you never know why, and you scratch your head wondering "When the heck is the story going to begin" when just for a few minutes at the beginning of the book it looked like it had a good plot, then suddenly, after 4% read, and when you have read 57% of the book, suddenly I realized it most likely would never give me more interest than the 4%. An insult to the writing of Tom Clancy and I keep asking myself why these authors managed to get this story past the editorial desk. I have an expression I use a lot. Meat - it has meat or there is no meat. In this case, in the lack of a fluent plot, a good story line like the old Op Center, "IT HAS NO MEAT WHATSOEVER"! I tried to like it. I honestly did my best and yes, for a few minutes here and there, for example, the beginning when the terrorists for hire to help a man get revenge for the brain dead injury of his wife while visiting America, I thought it was going to be a great read, then suddenly it starts down the road of no return. Very sad, very disappointing and I

would never recommend this book to anyone.

Jane J. Janas, Ph.D. says

enjoyed the action, HOWEVER, it was very obvious that this was not written by Tom Clancy, as it may have become a bit tedious as the story unfolded. MAJOR COMPLAINT is that: the authors didn't write the rape its effects, as a woman would have felt and recorded it.

Charles says

I hope the author kept his day job

Bob says

Typical action adventure as new authors keep alive Clancy's Op-Center novels. Terrorist plots and attacks on the US and other countries by Islamist extremists. Heavy on the Initials of Military and government agencies but readable.

Richard Crowe says

RIVETING!

I rated Op-Center: Out of the Ashes five star because from the first paragraph to the last, the story was compelling, believable and extremely well written. I don't usually like Clancy's Op-Center books because I get lost in all of the foreign name. But this book didn't pose that problem. The story was easy to follow and frightening believable. I loved it and would recommend it to all Clancy followers and even those who have never read one of his books. This book is an excellent representation of his skill as a writer.

Shane Amazon says

It is clear from the very get-go that this book is simply a rehash of what had once made Tom Clancy the best military writer ever. Back in the day there was once a book called Sum of All Fears. It was a simple story of a man bent on setting Russia and the US against each other in a nuclear conflict. There were key parts of that book, and movie, that I will list here. There is a scene in the movie (Sum of All Fears) that showed the President and his staff in a nuclear war drill, a scene where an attack takes place on a football stadium by smuggling a nuclear device in a cigarette machine into the stadium, and the President's close staff acting widely and fantastically unprofessional in the face of these attacks, to name a few. So what should we find in the first five chapters of Out of the Ashes but nearly the exact same scenes. An attack on football stadiums by smuggling explosives into the food concession stands, a scene where the President's National Security Adviser acts frantically by recklessly driving through Washington DC putting his wife in great jeopardy, a scene describing how the President and his staff just partook in drills for situations like this. I could go on

and on about how the scenes in this book read like copy and paste storylines from other Clancy books but I'm sure if you decide to read this you'll find them all for yourself.

But beyond the rehashed plot points is a fascination by the authors to make every character a, well, caricature of who people are and who they should be. Characters are thin and superficial and read like they are portrayed by d-list actors in a low budget flick. Scene descriptions are incredibly over grotesque and morbid. There seems to be no comprehension that kids are young and inexperienced rather than dumb and talking puppets. Everything in this book reads like it is written by amateurs that are imagining what people would do and say in any given situation rather than actually reflecting how actual people would act and talk. There is no effort put into make the characters real.

From beginning to end the book is superficial, repetitive, unimaginative, and unnecessarily morbid. it reads like fanfic by people that just wanted to rehash past works in new a binding.

I rarely rail on a book given I have huge respect for any author that can get their creation to print. However, I actually loathed just about every aspect of this book. I still respect the authors of this book, but their creation is far from fitting of the Clancy name.

*I received this book in ARC for an honest review.

Kevin Long says

Very weak writing. I read half and returned it. Dialog is about as wooden as it gets.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Even though this book is written by 2 different authors, it was created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik and it reads much like a traditional Clancy novel we are used to picking up. Op-Center is the newest series in this military action, suspense filled story where the authors pull the story from the headlines and create a decent read.

One of the things I noticed is that while Clancy had innate ability to tell and craft interesting in depth characters, the characters that the authors created in this book were a bit flat. There was not a lot of in-depth, behind the scenes knowledge of the people in this book and there were many folks you had to keep track of. That is why books like these are perfect to be listened to in audio because the reader, Erik Bergmann, took this story into a new light with his voices, cultural inflections and really made the story come alive.

The story line is very interesting on its own and there are many areas that catch your breath and keep you riveted but there are many others, especially in the conversational areas, that could have been developed much better. However, for me, by listening to the audiobook, it was a very entertaining read and one that I thoroughly enjoyed.

If you love suspense, military thrillers written with a nod to Clancy, then Out of the Ashes is one that you will enjoy. My whole family loves this genre, so I know this will be listened to time and again.

I received a copy of the CD in exchange for an honest review.

G.H. Eckel says

The book starts out fast with moronic Americans upset from their football team losing, who savagely beat up some middle easterners. But they were the wrong ones to beat up because they have connections. Then, with little transition, the destructive events set in motion appear. Then the book slows to a snail's pace. Most of the middle chapter are about administering the new Ops Center, e.g., chapters about who to lead it, how it's going to operate.... all of this with very little action. There's about 5 pages of details about a helicopter landing on a bobbing ship. The book pays token tribute to Clancy with the occasional specification of a piece of military equipment, but there the similarity ends. The dialog is not great, there's just too much of it. Clancy is action/suspense. That part was forgotten in this novel. Obviously, parts of the book are fine. I just kept reading with the expectation that something was going to happen soon. and it just took too long to happen!

Jean says

The original "Op-Center" by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik ended in 2005. Tom Clancy died in 2013. I see that the "Op-Center" has been brought back to life by authors Dick Couch and George Galdorisi, but still under the Tom Clancy copyright. In this story a new President Wyatt Midkiff decided to reactivate Op-Center after a devastating attack to NFL stadiums while games were in progress. Chase Williams, a four star Navy Admiral is appointed to head the new center. After the center is up and running a crisis develops in the middle east and America is about to attack Syria, the Center uncovers a plot by a Saudi oil pipeline Czar Prince Ali-al-Wandi to trigger the whole event. There is lots of action, suspense, large amount of detail about weapon systems, military acronyms along with some interesting dialogue. No information is provided about how the terrorist manages to carry out his coordinated attacks; the same applies to the oil Czar. The authors have provided in-depth information about each of the main characters to provide a base for the new series. The book is heavy on action and politics but is light on a plausible plot; overall it makes for a light fun read, a good break from more intense reading. I read this as an audio book downloaded from Audible. Scott Sowers does an excellent job narrating the book.

M. Gary Berg says

Another great book in the Opt Center series.

Paul says

This was interesting and kept my attention, but wasn't quite up to the par that I expected for Tom Clancy novels.

Vaughan says

Dialogue is written for outsiders, not how people actually talk. The action was mild, and the plot took turns in the last 1/3 weren't compelling and kind of defeated the whole purpose of an Op Center...

Michael West says

I've read other books that were part of the Tom Clancy empire but were not written by Clancy himself. They were not bad. This book, however, felt like reading an episode of 'Criminal Minds' or 'CSI.' A lot of style, very little substance. The pace picked up towards the end, but it just wasn't that good.
