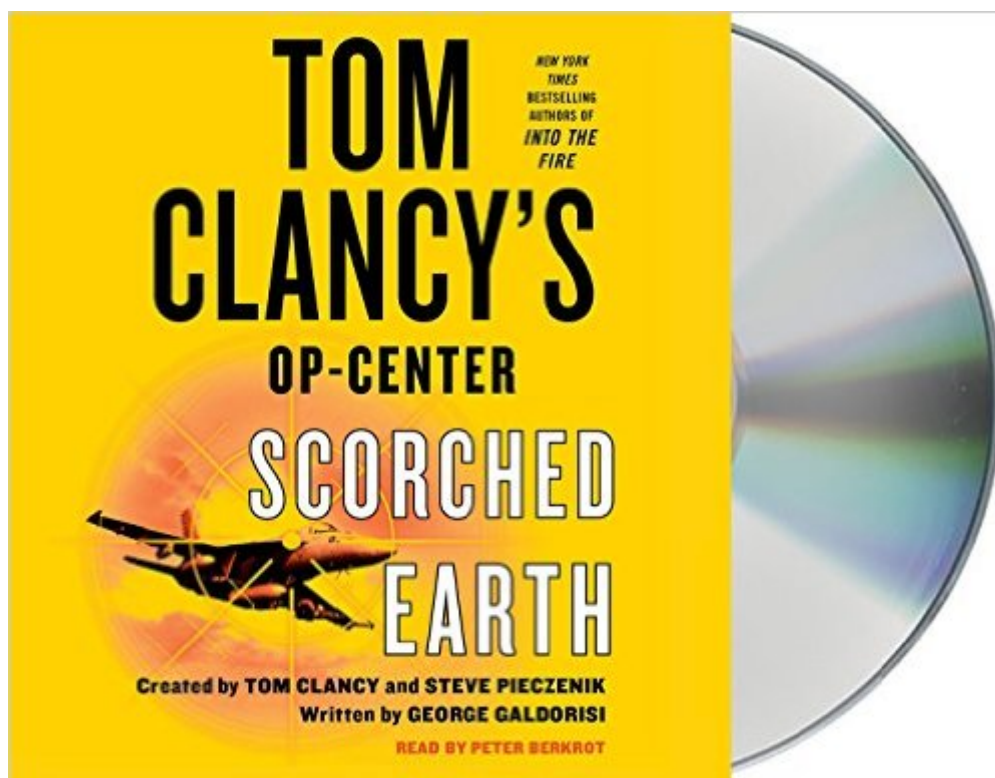


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Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Scorched Earth



Synopsis

In this gripping thriller from the New York Times bestselling author of *Out of the Ashes*, an Islamic extremist is on a quest for vengeance after his only son is killed and it's up to Op-Center to stop his lethal plot. General Bob Underwood, a special presidential envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, is en route to the Syrian city of al-Bukamal when a rocket-propelled grenade strikes the side of his Humvee and the heavily armored convoy comes under attack. The general's bodyguard is brutally murdered, and Underwood himself is kidnapped. Hours later, the President and top officials watch in horror from the Oval Office, as the general is viciously beheaded by an ISIL leader, broadcast on live television through a direct feed from Al Jazeera. The world is stunned by the bloody scene, but even more so that this supposedly loose-knit terrorist organization was able to orchestrate a lethal attack on the world's most powerful military. American forces go into high gear on land and sea to retaliate, but when the ISIS leader's son is killed in an American bombing raid, his rage knows no bounds and he determines to wreak vengeance on the American homeland itself. With everything in the balance, Op-Center must assemble both its domestic strike force, as well as its international intervention force, built around a seasoned squad operating out of the secretive unit that captured Osama bin Laden, to stay one step ahead of a ruthless enemy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of the Op-Center series of books that Tom Clancy originated. So, upon his death I

wondered how they would fare. They had been written by others most of the time, but without Clancy's influence would they drop in quality. I think this latest addition to the series answers the question, the quality has not dropped off it remains the same and presents an exciting read for Clancy fans of Op-Center. After an act of terrorism POTUS approves an air strike against the leader of ISIS and the compound in which he is believed to be with his top advisors. The air strike doesn't kill the leader, instead it kills his first born son. This drives the leader of ISIS to put together a plan to bring the war of terrorism onto U.S. soil and to exact revenge against the American President and the American People in an effort to demoralize them and take the fight out of them. It is decided to kidnap the Navy Commander who orchestrated the attack on ISIS. This man is now back stateside and working at the Pentagon. Thus ISIS comes to the U.S., takes his captive, and works to get him exfiltrated out of the U.S. and back to the Middle East where they can behead him on camera. When conventional methods of law enforcement can't track down the kidnap victim and bring him home the President turns to Op-Center and gives them the green light to try to find and rescue the victim. There are many small twists and turns that will surprise the reader. There are political statements made in the story regarding how we should go about fighting terrorism and whether or not certain agencies should be given broader powers to operate both in country and outside of the country. It is an excellent read and one that I am sure you will enjoy.

Tom Clancy's (Op-Center) *Scorched Earth* written by George Galdorisi is the first in the series that I have read. The book is all Navy, mostly SEALs with some Army Rangers thrown in for good measure. As a former career naval aviator, Galdorisi is well qualified to write on the subject. The story begins with the president approving an air strike against an ISIL headquarters compound. The successful strike kills the number one son of ISIL leader, al Dosari. In retaliation, al Dosari recruits five home-grown Islamic terrorists living in America to kidnap the admiral who directed the strike. While al Dosari wants his captive flown to him in Syria so he can make a production on al Jazeera TV of the admiral's beheading, the FBI is on their trail as the kidnappers try to sneak the admiral onto an aircraft and out of the country. However, the Bureau falls short in the chase and the president turns to Op-Center to have a go at it. Without giving away the story I'll just say that if you like cover-to-cover intense combat operations and nail-biting rescues then this is the book for you. Galdorisi also brings in the human aspect of a warrior's mind in deciding who to kill and who to let live. Op-Center is a military thriller with suspense, intense action and a bit of humanism. I give the book a 4-star rating.

Galdorisi points to the near future with ISIL attempting to create its caliphate in the historical Levant region. Galdorisi describes events full of human nature and mistakes, in spite of brilliant staff and expensive weapons. In this story line, a number of characters have second chances at their careers after willful but creative failures to follow protocol. The bad guys include five home grown, midwestern wannabes who are eventually funded and trained by terrorist cells - very scary and very possible. I like the admiral's off-the-radar son better than the president's rogue son Jack Ryan Jr portrayed by the other Clancy writer. The admiral's son, Dale, can come back to future novels, as can most of the other characters except the veteran special ops who dies in this story. The mis-steps, near misses, and successes kept me reading and breathless. Would we really crash a drone in extreme efforts to save a life?

â œScorched Earthâ • becomes heartily satisfied reading for those feel distress at rampant ISIL over the world media. George Galdorisiâ ™s non-stop plot never set us free until the last sentence. Chase Williamsâ ™ Op-Center steadily build up itâ ™s social position within the Midkiff administration. The scene, when Williams delivers his gratitude to Sullivan, is suggestive of a delicate distance between Paul Hood and Ann Farris in the original series. The JSOC team lost itâ ™s leader in this episode. Is Dale Bruner going to be recruited for his make-up? What conflict in the real world does Galdorisi pick up for the next story. Feel impatient for the fourth episode.

This was an exceptionally fast read. The topic was more than timely almost as if on the front pages. The character development was great where you felt and cared for the people going through the terrorist ordeal. If you are a fan of the OP Center novels this book will not disappoint.

This is a story of fighting ISIL in the Middle East using American technology and force. I wish there had been more character development and less description of the equipment, but it was still a story that kept me reading past my bed time.

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