TOM CLANCY, 1947-2013

Tom Clancy, whose name is synonymous with the modern technical military and spy thriller genre, passed away on October 1, 2013 near his home in Maryland, after a short illness. He was 66.

Clancy was born April 12, 1947, in Baltimore, MD, into a middle-class family. Even as a child, he was fascinated with naval and military history, passing up typical juvenile reading material for the types of detailed journals and technical books that were aimed at career military officers or experts in engineering fields. His pre-teen and teen years were filled with reading fictional and non-fictional accounts of submarine warfare, cold war espionage and politics, and high-tech military equipment.

Clancy's own hopes of serving in the military were stymied when it turned out he was too nearsighted to qualify for military service. Instead, after graduating from Loyola College in Balitmore with an English degree in 1969, he took a job working in the rural insurance agency founded by his wife's grandfather. His passion for the military, military history, and the backdrop of modern day espionage convinced him to write, which he did in his spare time.

In 1984, his first novel, The Hunt for Red October, achieved instantaneous success. It was received well by critics, but received its most positive buzz when President Ronald Reagan was seen to be reading it and commented on how much he enjoyed the novel. Clancy's next several thrillers, Red Storm Rising, Patriot Games, The Cardinal of the Kremlin and Clear and Present Danger all became blockbuster bestsellers, and inspired a large number of imitators, establishing Clancy at the top of the technothriller genre.

Many of his books have been turned into feature films, the first being **The Hunt for Red October**, starring Sean Connery and Alec Baldwin in 1990. Harrison Ford took over the role of Clancy's primary protagonist Jack Ryan (the hero of most of Clancy's novels) for two films in 1992 and 1994, followed by Ben Affleck in 2002. Clancy's earliest novels mirrored the real world's political realities, however partway through his Ryan series, his novels set up their own internal continuity that dramatically diverged from the real world.

Clancy's works have inspired dozens of military thriller-styled video games, and his name appears on a number of tie-in novels authored by others. He was also the author of 10 non-fiction volumes that explore elements of the United States' military in great depth. The booklist that follows this biography includes only those books directly attributed to Clancy.
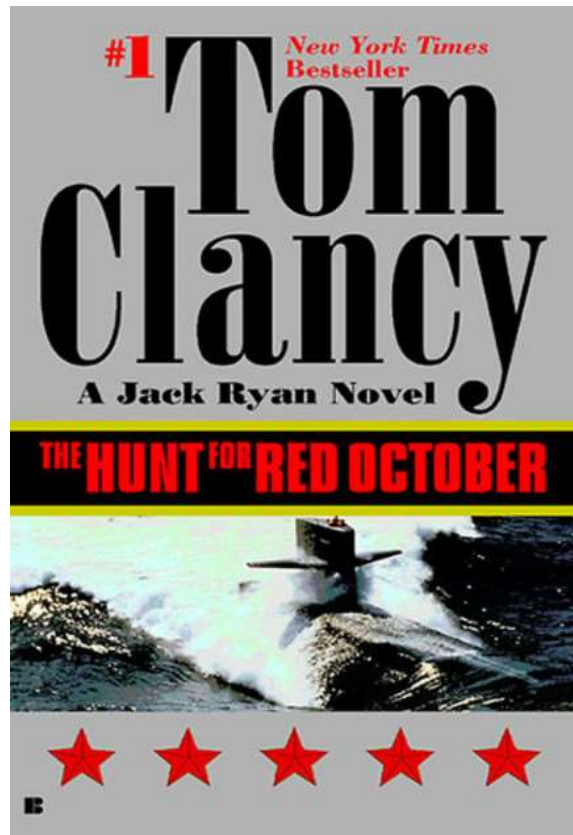
Clancy was often accused of revealing classified military techniques or secrets in his novels – a claim he flatly rejected. He had unprecedented support from friends in various military branches, who were fans of his work, and often got lots of inside information. However, he prided himself on never revealing any military secrets. Which makes the events of 1994's Debt of Honor seem eerily prescient in having a terrorist use a fuel-filled passenger jet as a weapon in an attack against U.S. political figures in Washington, D.C. – something that came to pass in real life on 9/11.

Tom Clancy's official website is located at: http://www.tomclancy.com

Tom Clancy's novels:

The Hunt for Red October [1984]
Red Storm Rising [1986]
Patriot Games [1987]
The Cardinal of the Kremlin [1988]
Clear and Present Danger [1989]
The Sum of All Fears [1991]
Without Remorse [1993]
Debt of Honor [1994]
Executive Orders [1996]
Rainbow Six [1998]
The Bear and the Dragon [2000]
Red Rabbit [2002]
The Teeth of the Tiger [2003]
Dead or Alive [2010]
Against All Enemies [2011]
Locked On [2011]
Threat Vector [2012]
Command Authority [2013]

Tom Clancy's Non-Fiction Books

Armored Cav: A Guided Tour of an Armored Cavalry Wing [1994]
Flight Wing: A Guided Tour of an Air Force Combat Wing [1995]
Marine: A Guided Tour of a Marine Expeditionary Unit [1996]
Into the Storm: On the Ground in Iraq [1997]
Airborne: A Guided Tour of an Airborne Task Force [1997]
Every Man a Tiger: The Gulf War Air Campaign [1999]
Carrier: A Guided Tour of an Aircraft Carrier [1999]
Submarine: A Guided Tour Inside a Nuclear Warship [2002]
Shadow Warriors: Inside the Special Forces [2003]
Battle Ready [2004]