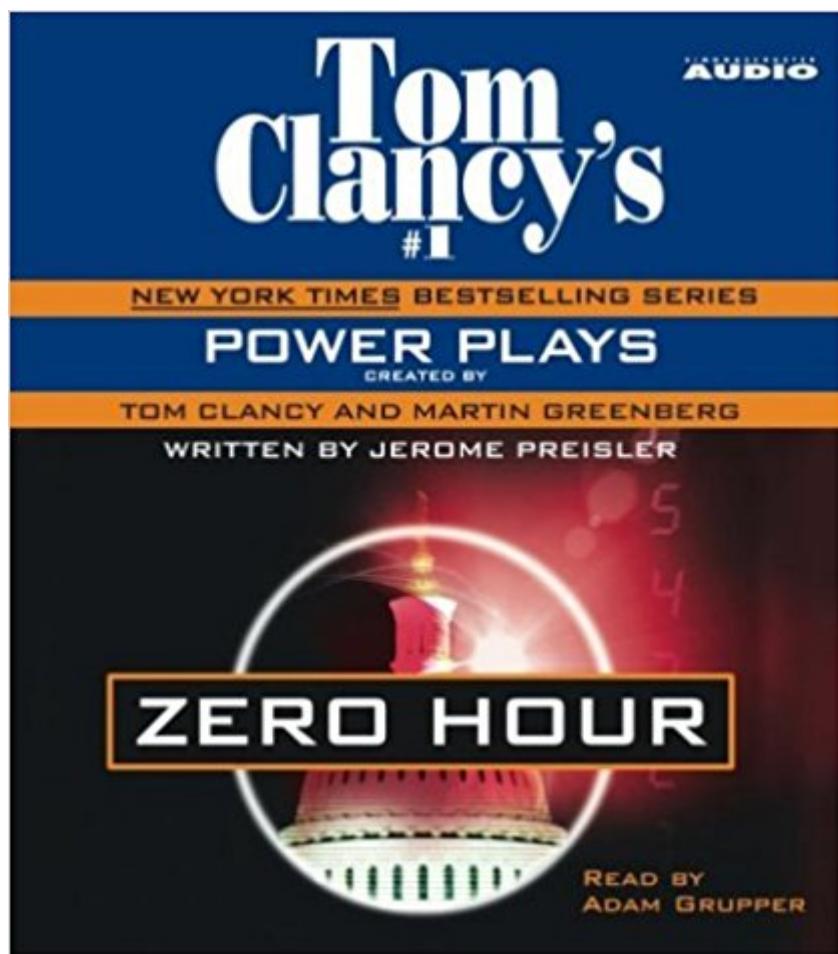


The book was found

Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Zero Hour



Synopsis

Competition is heating up between the powerful telecommunications company Uplink International and new technological giant Ambright Industries. To keep Uplink on top, owner Roger Gordian is not above a little "friendly snooping," especially when one of Ambright's corporate sales agents disappears under mysterious circumstances. On the surface, Ambright specializes in creating flawless artificial sapphires used in advanced laser development. But, a little digging by Uplink operatives reveals a major flaw: a Pakistani terrorist is using Ambright's laser technology to further his own political agenda -- and it's only a matter of time before he launches the ultimate attack...on U.S. soil.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is not worth reading. I made the mistake of not putting it down despite the horrible condescending tone of the author, waiting for the book to get better, hoping the rambling, unconnected attempts at a plot would congeal into something of substance. IT NEVER HAPPENED. I don't think I have ever been so disappointed and mad at myself for wasting my time on a novel before. Indeed, I have never been driven to write a review before but hope I can save someone the pain of reading this poorly written, uninspired pulp. How can Clancy let his name appear on the cover? I am also going for another first here. I'm going to tear the book apart and throw it in the trash. It needs to be recycled.

This writing was very difficult to follow ... LOTS of characters and names and subplots and distractions. It was a very difficult book to keep-up with and follow -- and while there was an ending -- its action seemed destined for a 15-minute mini-series on TV, and not worthy of correlating to Tom Clancy's heritage.

This novel was poorly written with an uninteresting plot. It is not even close to the quality of story that Tom Clancy wrote himself. The edition was poorly edited, but that is becoming a common problem.

This book could have been boiled down to about 50 pages. There was no industrial espionage, as touted on the back cover, between UpLink and the rival outfit (I can't even remember the company's name - a great indication of how forgettable this "book" is.) Uplink, and its employees seem to play a secondary role as the author seems to be more interested in showing off his knowledge of the New York jewelry community's inner workings. The author also seemed to want to show off his walking tour ability of New York, and to whine about restrictive smoking regulations and where to get a good cup of coffee. The parts with Gordian erecting a rock wall (and no explanations of metaphors, please!) are complete throw-away scenes intended to pad an already over-long, meandering, almost stream-of-consciousness novella. The fact that the author can keep a stream rambling for pages at a time is testimony to the fact that he was not interested in the main characters in the least. An entire paragraph devoted to the inventory of a Chinatown shop? Come on! I like meat on my bone. This awful story left me starving.

I really like the Power Play series. Its hero, Rodger Gordian, seems like a great example of a concerned businessman. Roger who? His appearances in this book were at best unnecessary. Or maybe it was necessary for him to play a REAL part in the plot instead of trying to build a wall at his retirement home. This book was just plain awful. I was more than half way through it and realized that I didn't even know what it was about. A salesman gets killed. Why? I don't know. His girlfriend gets killed. Why? I don't know. Somebody has some incredible gem stones and is worried about where they came from. Why? I don't know. And so it goes. I agree with other reviewers that this book could have been a very credible short story. Either that or we should have been told earlier why whatever was supposed to happen was so allegedly dangerous. Sorry, I really wanted to like this book, but I didn't and recommend that you don't buy it. Not worth it.

Wow! You got the name right, Keith -- didn't expect anyone to respond to my "challenge" so soon! I'd actually meant to talk about the plotline about the Diamond Dealer's Club before I got hot under the collar over some of those other comments. To my knowledge, there's virtually no access to this global economy-altering club by outsiders, yet the novel gives a great description of its inner workings, as well as the fascinating means by which its members police themselves. Also, the part about the chemical plants was fascinating -- I had no idea such a clear and present threat to our homeland security existed near virtually every urban and suburban community in America . . . and that it was being so dangerously ignored by our leaders. Finally, I wanted to say how much I also enjoyed "Avram's New York". Don't want to give too much away, but readers will know what I'm talking about. I guess these are some of the "details" some people actually didn't enjoy . . . go figure.

Zero Hour is one of the worst books that I have read in recent memory. I can't imagine Tom Clancy linking his name to book. There is next to no action. There are too many characters that have dead ends. The Pakistan characters add nothing to the book except to provide some graphic violence. The Roger Cordian presence and the rock wall sequence is nearly pointless. The climax was so ho hum. The villain has been shot in a previous scene and simply dies of blood loss before triggering the laser. The whole notion that a stockpile of chemicals in New York in this day and age that could be so easily targeted seemed unlikely. The book ended with the murder of the Pakistan character left me speechless- what was the point. The main villain was dead. What was the point of the main villain's photo sensitive disease - surely the author could have developed at a least a death scene for him related to that illness rather than an octopus bite. I kept expecting something imaginative to happen but it didn't. This book seems to be a clever attempt to use Clancy's name as a selling point. This type of marketing is doomed to failure.

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