



Scorched Earth

George Galdorisi

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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."

Scorched Earth Details

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From Reader Review Scorched Earth for online ebook

Ross says

Another satisfying book in the "Op-Center" series. Not great literature, but a fun, thrilling, fictional story, with a current events setting.

Karl says

Good story, but I am not sure I like the way it is written. A lot of technobabble and the conversation between characters is pretty stiff.

Brett Sorge says

Decent book, but not great. Give it 3.5 stars.

Terry says

I did not enjoy it- too many names with titles that did nothing for me, and thus did nothing to enhance the book. I don't think when you are reading, every person's title needs to be stated - to me it detracts from the story and makes everything dis-jointed. Otherwise a fair read- just like current climate

Nitzchiya Mutiso says

Not really at the level of the rest of TC's clients

Dan Curnutt says

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.

Kevin Krayna says

Close, but not worthy to use Clancy's name

The concept of ISIS going after a naval officer is feasible. The officers son going to rescued him really was not. If also lacked technical details. Entertaining, but little more.

James Tutton says

Unabridged Persian the reader is the absolute worst and is just makes the whole book seem like a child retarded book it just isn't good it just really isn't good and the reader makes it even worse I don't know how the unabridged version is but The Abridged version is just bad it's just really bad

Gerard R. Baumann says

The usual wild ride well told !

This series never fails to be current, on the mark and exciting ! Not a good read before sleep- your brain will be churning !

Thanks for keeping the franchise relevant!

Gina says

Scorched Earth (Tom Clancy's Op-Center #15)

by George Galdorisi and Dick Young

Read by Peter Berkrot

I couldn't finish this book. The writing was so-so but the problem was the reader, Peter Berkrot. His voice sounds like a comic-book villain. I just could not stand it and quit the book on CD #3.

Phoenix says

Well...For those of you who are at all interested in my reviews, you know when I start a review like this that it is going to be mixed.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to my own opinions and perspectives. While you may not agree with me or my take, I respect that right, but by the same token I insist on my right to express my personal objective opinions and viewpoints whether they please or not. Liberal Utopians will certainly be offended so best they skip this and move right along.

This recent Tom Clancy thriller is apparently part of a set, no longer written by Tom Clancy himself but under his franchised name. This new style of writing is a great disappointment to me for many reasons, the most important being the rife concessions made to political correctness. While I certainly agree with women's rights to a point (equal rights entailing equal performance and responsibility). I am literally sick to death of every new novel hyping about amazing women warriors that outshine their weaker male counterparts. This has little basis in reality and is little more than soothing bruised feminist egos.

This recent novel was certainly gripping (the reason it received 3 stars as opposed to 2. The plot and narrative were all well-constructed and convincing...here it comes, look for it...BUT, this novel is replete with a cast of female super heroes that would make wonder woman blush. Why does the writer feel he has to be such a PC feminist apologist in order to pull out a good story? Granted there are women who are the equal to men in many areas even in combat, however on the battlefields they are the exception rather than the rule. I do not mean at all to belittle their courage, skill or tenacity, but there are just practical physical limitations that are imposed upon them

Other than this gripe the rest of the story was solid but this maudlin and nauseating bow to female supremacy was well overboard and not at all realistic. Please do not misconstrue my statements as misplace machismo by any means, I have personally witnessed the differences in a combat environment between the male and female counterparts and insist that, for a given number of sound reasons, there are certain areas that must remain the domain of male assets only, special forces are indeed one of these. Cognitively sharp females and others who have put themselves in harm's way will certainly concur. Women make great hostages for terrorists and get men to do stupid things to save them. Females are a distraction both physically and emotionally to their male counterparts in a long standing combat environment. Finally, women are indisposed at least once a month either mildly or otherwise completely incapacitated.

A few contradictions within this title remain nevertheless glaring:

Laurie Phillips (ex-Marine officer decorated for heroism) the rebel who breaks orders and according to the novel: "Ms Phillips? She's got big cojones (testicles)--sorry boss--she's got the guts of any of our guys." Thus, exclaims a former (overly sensitive) USMC master Gunnery Sergeant. (p95).

Later the author really piles it on with the team leader major Volner fawning like a kitten over the intellect and prowess of this mighty female warrior: ""We have our pick of literally scores of analysts (JSOC) who can do what you do. But none of them have been there and done that like you have (do you hear the ohhhs and ahhs here?), and none of them --and I'll say this carefully--none of them have brass ones like you have.

Thus we are virtually assured that Laurie Phillips either had reassignment surgery or is some type of US Amazonian elite warrior which see to abound in this novel. (there are at least 4 others in differing levels of PC).

Yet later we are apprised that this heroic female warrior, once the SHTF, and she finds herself looking at freshly eliminated terrorists, "Phillips didn't say a word, but she was white as a sheet." Meanwhile..."A few of the young Rangers were high-fiving each other." And we ask ourselves the obvious: "What happened to the powerful former female Marine Corps Captain, decorated for heroism, with her brass balls?" (pp. 148-149)

Anne Sullivan, A woman who by her sheer brilliance, a sort of Hillary wannabe, roars up the chain of command to a Senior supergrade position within the government, at age 55, as if by magic, to become number 2 in the Ops Center chain of command (The author would have, no doubt, put her in charge, but even to the most incredulous reader that would have been going overboard, given all the other concessions). (pp. 136 - 138).

Becky the FBI's CIRG HRT Blackhawk pilot, and I quote "Becky [Barron] was a former star lacrosse players at Northwestern with an undergrad degree in electrical engineering and an MS in information technology. Also a former US Navy Helicopter pilot, cashiered for her reckless rule breaking and heroic rebelliousness. (pp. 156-158).

Okay... then there is the effort to throw into the plot a sort of mixed CSI geek tech team that is hyper cool and visionary beyond belief...actually beyond reality. One of the female stars, Scott, is also dressed in goth (as if this were an important detail), while its jeans and tees for the rest of these ultra-brilliant young and dynamic techies (honestly makes you barf).

As if this were not enough this super-secret and omnipotent organization with direct access to the POTUS, tries to convince the CEO of FedEx to turn his flights around, because there is a hostage on board. He of course refuses, but in reality a little threat of accessory to murder, combined with a call from up the chain of command warning them of the loss of their lucrative contracts, would have easily overridden his objections. (p.136). Absurd scenario which degraded the novel. Needed an alternative explanation such as too late or no way to communicate, but this was frankly asinine.

Finally, although minor, it does not take a genius to realize that Johnny Walker is a Scotch and NOT an Irish whiskey:"...each man holding a glass of Irish whiskey...The younger man was silent for a moment as he took a gulp of the Johnnie walker Black." (pp. 297-298).

Factual flaws and kowtowing to political correctness left me cold on this one, and it is highly doubtful I will bother to spend my earnings on and read any others in this series. I will stick to more realistic writers who do not manipulate their readers by incorporating politically correct, yet unrealistic characters in their novels. I am not saying that women could not feasibly fulfil certain roles or be part of dangerous operations but, and this is a big but, they remain the exception rather than the rule for a host of reasons.

Finally, these are my opinions. You may agree or disagree, but remain respectful.

oscar ascencio says

Fun book to read

Good read. Entertaining. Like most Tom Clancy books. Lots action with lots of details about the equipment used by the military ops.

Michael Travis says

Plan on reading more of these!

Jewelee Owings says

I don't usually read these types of books, but since I won this audio version here on Goodreads, I gave it a go. Fast read, but that could be, because I was just listening, lol. It was a pretty good story! All in all, I would definitely read more Political/War thrillers.

Brenda DePoortere says

Good but lacking something

I am a big Clancy fan and miss his style of writing. Many writer's are trying to fill his shoes, but there is something. I think this book just jumps into the ending without all the finesse and build up of Tom Clancy. That being said I still enjoyed this book and will read more from this author.
