



## The War Planners: Episode 1

*Andrew Watts*

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A Chinese invasion is coming.

A CIA operative in Shanghai transmits two earth-shattering revelations to his contacts in Langley, and then goes missing. First, the U.S. government has been infiltrated with Chinese spies. Second, an inner circle of Chinese leaders have set in motion plans to do the unthinkable - to invade the United States of America.

Lena Chou is one of the few U.S. officials who knows the truth. She must put together a top-secret task force to help America's government prepare for what will come. Now, in order to covertly plan the U.S. defense, Lena has gathered a Red Cell, a group of experts that will plan how China could best attack it.

David Manning is one of those experts. After he is abruptly taken to the covert island base where the Red Cell is being held, Lena presents the group with evidence of China's imminent attack. But while the Red Cell plans for war, David suspects that something about this gathering of minds is terribly wrong...

## **The War Planners: Episode 1 Details**

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Author : Andrew Watts

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## **From Reader Review The War Planners: Episode 1 for online ebook**

### **Donald Hoffman says**

I went into this read knowing it was an episodic storyline, so there is no problem with the cliffhanger at the end. It reminds me of going to the old Saturday matinees at the theater (yes, I am that old) and watching the serials; knowing full well that there was not going to be an ending, merely a week-long pause in the action. That being said, Andrews Watts is an excellent author. His opening in this book grabs your attention and you are dragged into the story, much like David was. The characters are well-conceived and the dialog is believable. I did have a slight problem, in the beginning with David's naivete, but that was resolved in an interesting manner. The relationships between the characters are interesting and you are constantly looking at each one, wondering exactly who were they? I can only hope Mr. Watts will be releasing these episodes quickly or the townsfolk may end up at his gates, looking for the next book. There are a lot of interesting "free reads" out there, this is one of them that will have you in the line for the next episode, your \$0.99 clutched firmly in your hand, waiting for the matinee to start. Well done, sir, you have piqued my interest.

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### **Sandy says**

An interesting premise. David is a likeable MC and while the plot is a little farfetched, it was done well enough to keep my interest. The writing is capable but felt flat a lot of the time. Overall, an entertaining read.

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### **Julio Balcells says**

A quick easy read, but very intriguing and scary. It kept me turning the pages. Looking forward to finishing the series.

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### **Barry says**

Excellent premise of a plot, poor execution. Many things are poorly explained, such as David's kidnapping. It's also hard to believe the number and types of people already committed to the plan. If you already have the number of people turned as the book claims, why the elaborate red cell planning? Plus, I'm not an expert on the military, but I grew up as a military brat. Military people don't take a crap unless they have orders! Seems a bit hard to believe that the number of military people involved could all be explained away with no one being suspicious.

Having said all that, it's a decent lite summer beach read if you can suspend your beliefs. I probably will read the second book.

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### **Larry B Gray says**

The War Planners: Episode 1 by Andrew Watts is an excellent techno thriller which is full intrigue. This novella will grab you from the start.

I liked the storyline the author has developed, it is both realistic and very believable. As the story progressed I found myself getting deeper into it and wanting more. Andrew Watts has succeeded in getting me hooked and now I will have to read more episodes of The War Planner.

I really liked The War Planners: Episode 1 and I highly recommend this book to all readers.

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### **Glenn Gray says**

I have found my newest favorite author! Tremendous detail about navy technology and tactical terminology with wonderful development of characters. The plots of each of the three books stand alone but also work tremendously well as a sequential trilogy. I highly recommend the entire trilogy to fans of geo-political thrillers with a heavy dose of military technology language!

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### **Vader Roni says**

Perhaps i was wrong to hope it will reach Red Storm Rising level but seriously, i am hard pressed to search for the links for the plots and the action sequence are sparse to none. i wished it was otherwise but sadly i cannot recommend this book to those are searching their Tom Clancy's fix.

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### **Matthew Cunningham says**

#### **WON VIA GOODREADS FIRST READS**

A short novella that charges straight out of the traps and doesn't slacken its pace until the cliffhanger ending.

Entertaining and undemanding read, Mr Watts has a easily readable style and keeps the pages turning with ease.

Its the first in a series of 'episodes' (hate that term being used for books!) so there is no resolution at the end, as mentioned above its a cliffhanger - a 'to be continued', a drums at the end of Eastenders if you like.

Downsides? Its entirely predictable, I have a good idea of how this story will conclude and the characters behaviours are not entirely believable - there's a bit of Dan Brown style stupidity going on.

Overall? It kept me occupied on a couple of work commutes. Enjoyable enough in doesn't really take a lot of effort kind of way.

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### **Alicia says**

Well I read this in a couple of hours, and finished feeling like I had been to a business presentation and told I needed to find a way to save America from war. Would like to read more episodes and find out where this all ends up.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

Suspenseful, fast-paced and filled with action at every turn, *The War Planners* was a fantastic and vivid novel with no end to its vibrant moments and complex plot. It was really amazing and I highly recommend it.

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### **ariesdollface says**

#### **NOTE: I received this book free through the Goodreads First Reads program.**

I'm a bit conflicted in my rating of this book. I will say first, this is a fairly good read. It moves pretty immediately into an action-packed suspense; by page 4 the story takes off! I think this is an effective strategy to hook the reader. Watts also maintains a taut energy and suspense throughout the book. Given this sustained dynamism, a short book that would be a quick read in any instance is accelerated because of the reader's desire to know what happens next.

The problems. You can pretty much guess a lot of what happens thanks, in part, to Watts's use of foreshadowing. Even without that narrative device, however, parts of the story are just predictable (I think it's important to state that this fact did not make me want to stop reading). I also felt a bit cheated by the book's length. The actual story comes in under 100 pages; I can't be more exact because there are no page numbers and I refuse to count the pages. *The War Planners: Episode 1*, as is, feels more like the beginning of a book versus the beginning of a series, which I guess is the author's explanation of its brevity.

Despite the problems I had with the novella (this is certainly not a full length novel) I'll say again, it is a good, quick read. I certainly want to know what happens next and I would recommend it to other readers. That, I think, is a sign of success.

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### **Brenda Gilly says**

#### **So far really enjoying this book**

Looking forward to the next 3 parts. Didn't realize it was a continuation. Ready to start part 2 and anxious for the next 2 parts. Easy read.

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## **Martin Pingree says**

Great premise and great characters but not long enough to really feel like you're getting into it good. Enjoyed it a lot.

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## **Gopal says**

Wow!!! Andrew Watts > The War Planners is an amazing novella. It has suspense, it has mystery and most importantly it ends with a cliff hanger. A short read around 86 pages, but it is nonetheless packed with twists and turns.

David Manning is a retired Navy soldier working for In-Q-Tel a CIA backed venture fund which spotted potential technology which will allow US to maintain its technological advantage over its contemporaries. He is abducted on his way back home and flown to a remote island in the middle of nowhere where he meets other people with experience and expertise in technology, military, intelligence, strategy and what not... They are called *The Red Cell* and they have 3 weeks to put together the most devastating plan where they will forecast the worst possible attack scenarios that China can come up with if it wants to overcome the United States in an unconventional warfare.

Asymmetric warfare at its deadliest. Everything looks legit... but David's instincts are off, and he is worried that things are not as they seem...

The novella sets the right tone, the dialogue is crisp without going too much into the technical details which may divert the readers attention.

My only peeve with this is that it left me hanging at the end... I want to read through to the end and know what happens and I want to know it now....

Andrew are you listening... Andrew....

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## **Tony Parsons says**

David Manning (husband/father, In-Q-Tel, retired Navy officer, Annapolis) was happily married to Lindsay Manning (wife/mother) & they had 2 daughters: Taylor Manning (3, daughter) & Maddie Manning (daughter).

David's family consists of: Admiral Manning (dad, Annapolis) Mrs. Manning (mother died of cancer), Chase Manning (brother, Navy Seal, Annapolis) & Victoria Manning (sister, Navy helicopter pilot, Annapolis).

David stopped at Joes Pizza & Pasta for the family's supper, the trouble is he never made it. Aboard a Gulfstream G-V he is greeted by Tom Connolly (In-Q-Tel) & Brooke (UMBC, Mathematics, CS).

Later Tom tells him why he was secretly abducted.

Lena Chou (spokesperson) & Natesh Chaudry (spokesperson, CEO Silicone Valley consulting firm) spoke at the meeting to military, political & a wide-array of highly intelligent think-tank Individuals.

There could be a war with china (WWIII) within 18 months.

Who/what is Bill Stanley role?

Who/what is Lena Chou role?

- No page numbers.

+ Not a lot of pages, compact & packed with quick to the point excellent content.

Wow exciting life you had. My biological dad Army, Uncle, Navy (2 girls 2 boys), Uncle USAF (2 girls) all over/around Germany WWII. I am

a retired Vietnam Army sniper. You must be about my son's age. He is retired USAF. None on the 2 Uncles side. Right now I don't look for any more military to carry on the legacy. My 2 beautiful intelligent granddaughters (their mother my 2nd born twin daughter) I hope never do.

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written covert operation book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great covert operation movie or mini TV series. To be continued. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; Amazon.com; paperback book

Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

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