



Point of Contact

Mike Maden, Tom Clancy (Series Creator)

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In the latest electrifying adventure in Tom Clancy's #1 *New York Times* bestselling series, Jack Ryan, Jr., learns that sometimes the deadliest secret may be standing right next to you.

Former U.S. Senator Weston Rhodes is a defense contractor with an urgent problem. His company needs someone to look over the books of Dalfan Technologies, a Singapore company—quickly. He turns to his old friend Gerry Hendley for help. Hendley Associates is one of the best financial analysis firms in the country and the cover for The Campus, a top-secret American intelligence agency. Rhodes asks for two specific analysts, Jack Ryan Jr., and Paul Brown, a mild-mannered forensic accountant.

Both Ryan and Brown initially resist, for different reasons. On the long flight over, Ryan worries he's being sidelined from the next Campus operation in America's war on terror. Brown—who was never very good with people—only worries about the numbers, and finding a good cup of tea.

Brown has no idea Jack works for The Campus but the awkward accountant is hiding secrets of his own. Rhodes has tasked him with uploading a cyberwarfare program into the highly secure Dalfan Technologies mainframe on behalf of the CIA.

On the verge of mission success, Brown discovers a game within the game, and the people who now want to kill him are as deadly as the cyclone bearing down on the island nation. Together Ryan and Brown race to escape both the murderous storm and a team of trained assassins in order to prevent a global catastrophe, even at the cost of their own lives.

Point of Contact Details

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From Reader Review Point of Contact for online ebook

Steve Gilreath says

So happy to get lost in this book. It has the detail I love from a Clancy adventure and a couple of bombastic twists with technology and bad-guy-deviousness that I always hope are there but can't anticipate. Some parts feel a bit off-pace but it serves to tee up the action that pops up- over and over. I hope this author (Mike Maden) gets to carry Jack Jr forward. He will likely beat the crap out of him, while aging him gracefully! Can't wait for his next one!!

Sheldon says

Madden is not Clancy. Jack Jr is not Jack Ryan, but the book is still a fun read or in my case listen. Unfortunately as absurd as some of the premise seems, the underlying concept might be all to real. And ok, I'm a sucker: At this stage of life there are some series, no matter how good or how bad, I'll keep up with. I'm happy the Ryan boys keep saving the world.

Brent says

The Tom Clancy books (which I really enjoyed) haven't been the same since his death but I'm still glad they're continuing the series. Some the authors who have carried on the stories have missed the mark but I was starting to enjoy Mark Greaney's style...and of course he is no longer on the "Tom Clancy" writing team. This new book with Mike Maden's first effort in the series was a bit of a mixed bag. I did enjoy it overall but felt that several parts of the story and interactions between characters were unbelievable. His take on some of the established characters at times seemed off from what was laid down in earlier books. I suppose that's to be expected when someone new takes over a series. Bottom line...I'm glad I read it even though I didn't feel it was up the level of Greaney's recent works. Got to give the new guy a chance and maybe his style will grow on me.

T.J. Jansen says

I don't know why the new Clancy authors feel the need to make Jack Jr. as dumb as a box of rocks, but it's getting very frustrating. In 3 books, Junior went from a young operator getting better over time to an impulsive moron making bad decision after bad decision.

victor says

We lost the amazing Tom Clancy a few years ago, but his much loved characters lived on thanks to a few authors, some better than others. The Jack Ryan series is his most successful, and now, with the awesome Mark Greaney passing the main series to Marc Cameron and with Mike Maden picking up the Jack Ryan Jr.

aka The Campus Series from Grant Blackwood, some really interesting things are bound to happen in this riveting universe.

This week saw the release of Tom Clancy Point of Contact, the first book written by Mr. Mike Maden and after I listened to it all I can say without a doubt that the spin-off Campus series is in better hands than it ever was before.

Tom Clancy Point of Contact opens with a great first chapter, full of action and tense moments, in which we see a part of the campus special operators as they try to defuse a hostage situation. After that the story focuses mainly on Jack Jr. and a fellow coworker from Hendley Associates who are sent to Singapore in order to look into some Business opportunities in a favor for an important senator of the United States.

But, as we all know, things can go wrong in a blink of an eye and people aren't always what they seem to be. I won't spoil the story for you, so all that I'll add is that Tom Clancy Point of Contact is very well written, with remarkable characters, some scary villains and a great plot! Author Mike Maden emulates part of Clancy's writing style with passion and love, while he delivers some heartpounding action sequences that seem to be his trademark, from what I heard about previous thrillers. Rest assured, I'll give those a try as well, in the near future. I fell in love with Singapore from the way Mr. Maden painted this impressive city, I could see it in my mind's eye... Also, there was some amazing tech described, from VR to high end drones which sound very interesting and scary at the same time.

In Tom Clancy Point of Contact we see how good people do bad things for the wrong reasons, we see how they can be manipulated, lied to, threatened and bullied. In this unputdownable thriller we have gun fights, fist fights, knife fights and other fights! There is espionage, betrayal, politics and senators, gangsters and special operators, Beautiful women and dangerous bad guys, all wrapped up into a very well thought up story, which touches on current events and crises.

The amazing Scott Brick returns once more to the Jack Ryan universe and brings to life old friends. He reads, he acts, he uses his accents in order to help the listener differentiate between the vast variety of characters of different nationalities. At the same time it's clear that he enjoys the story and has a good time delivering another Stellar performance.

Scott Brick is one of the best narrators out there, in an industry full of talented artists and his contribution to this series makes it even more immersive and highly enjoyable!

This is a very promising first step into the Jack Ryan universe by a new, talented, author who is clearly treating Tom Clancy's characters and work with the love and respect they deserve! If you like Tom Clancy, Brad Thor, Vince Flynn or Robert Ludlum, you'll be very happy with what Mike Maden delivers in in this page-turner!

If you found this review helpful please vote yes below and find more of them on theAudiobookBlog dot com.

Thank you you,
Victor

Eric says

A delightful, fast paced spy thriller. Actually has some rather insightful info on how advances in cyber, quantum, and digital technologies are impacting our countries (and the worlds) security concerns. This author has done a fair amount of research to keep up with a rapidly changing field.

Mike Kennedy says

You could just cut and paste my review from Duty and Honor by Grant Blackwood (#21 in the Jack Ryan Universe). It is an excellent thriller, but is lacking as a true Clancy novel because there is not the amount of characters or depth in the story that a true Clancy novel has. This seems to be the way the publisher is trending. Have a standalone Jack Ryan Junior novel or someone from the campus in the summer. Then have a longer more Clancy like novel around Christmas. I was hesitant starting this novel because it was not written by Grant Blackwood or Mark Greaney, who both did an excellent job picking up the series from the late Tom Clancy. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by Mike Maden's writing. I thought it was excellent and he kept the story moving throughout. Jack is off on an assignment for Hendley and associates on the white side of their operations. They are asked by a former senator, now defense contractor, Weston Rhodes to do an audit of a company they are looking to buy. I really enjoyed the Paul Brown character who accompanied Jack Ryan in there digging into Dalfan Technologies. Little does Jack know that Paul has a separate task from the former senator. I really enjoyed the way Maden balanced the story and played Jack and Paul off each other. This is more of a subdued thriller through the first 3/4 of the book. There was very little physical action, but more of a cat and mouse game. But don't worry if you're into a lot of action, the last hundred pages has it for you. I thought the natural event was a little over-the-top, but overall the action was solid. If you are in the thrillers I believe you'll enjoy this book, but don't go in expecting a full fledged Tom Clancy book.

Brad Schoenfeld says

Wow. Tom Clancy is rolling in his grave.

I have nothing against Mike Maden, actually I had never even heard of him before seeing his name on this title. If you are expecting Clancy style writing, skip this book. This is the second filler book in a row from the Jack Ryan / Jr. Series. This is by far the worse of the two. The last one was about only Dom, this one is about only Jack Jr. That on its face would be fine, but the entire book is about surveillance technology and describing the company in Singapore that creates it. At the beginning of the book the stakes are set EXTREMELY high, and there is a bad guy introduced as the bad guy, given his own chapter, and then is never heard from again. To say the plot was bad would imply that there was a coherent plot, there wasn't.

This was a HORRIBLE waste of time. Nothing happened and the geo-political aspects are never really discussed, which is what combined with the thriller aspects makes the Clancy style so great. I got really excited the first 100 pages or so that this was going to be an awesome book with a lot of moving pieces and interesting plot lines. Well those plot lines are COMPLETELY disregarded which makes me question why they were even brought up in the first place. The entire first hour (I listened) was about North Korea and was really interesting. The rest of the book had absolutely nothing to do with North Korea. It honestly doesn't even make sense. I can't believe the Clancy family let his name be put on this.

All of the above being said, the book is mildly entertaining, but only because of the source material the author has to work with. Unless this book is a complete set up for a direct sequel, which would really be a sequel to the first hour of the book not the rest, so I doubt it would happen, this isn't a worthy entry to the series. I don't know if it was horrible editing, rushed, or what, but there literally isn't a coherent plot and the main bad guy is introduced in the first hour and then NEVER heard from again. There really is no "bad" guy after that, besides the OBVIOUS. If you are a fan of the series I would read it, just because it may effect follow up titles, but expect to be extremely disappointed.

Clay Davis says

Had some exciting parts but a lot of it read like an I.R.S. tax form.

Michael Walsh says

I already miss Mark Greaney!

I was excited for this next novel in the Ryanverse Campus series; especially to see how Mike Maden would do in his first attempt. The book started off great, and I was loving the story line and character development. However, once the plot began to focus solely on Jack Ryan Jr. away from the campus, it became a really tough read. While Mike Maden did a slightly better job than Grant Blackwood's poor attempts, Jack Jr. once again became an extremely annoying character like he was in Duty and Honor & Under Fire.

Jack Jr, who is the president's son, a member of the Campus, and someone who has literally every resource possible, absolutely refuses to contact anyone for help. Instead, he decides to take on the world by himself.

Please bring Mark Greaney back!! He is the only one that has done justice to Tom Clancy's work. Now I have to pretend like Under Fire, Duty and Honor, AND Point of Contact never existed.

Hank Pharis says

Pure action and entertainment from start to finish. You'd think they couldn't keep making these as good as they are, especially after the death of Tom Clancy, but they keep delivering.

Tim says

This is a great way to carry on Tom Clancy's tradition. In contrast with many previous stories and authors, this one mostly keeps its excitement throughout. However, it does go a bit sideways near the end and that cost it its 5th star. Still a solid, well done story! 8 of 10 stars

Ed says

#23 in the Jack Ryan universe (#1 written by author Maden). I'm a faithful fan of the Jack Ryan universe and enjoy all the series entries to one extent or another. This entry has a few drawbacks. First if the prologue which seems only to provide an excuse for Jack Ryan Jr. to make a mistake in a hostage situation (a bit of *déjà vu* there) that leads to a self defense seminar on knife fighting with a foray into the karambit - 46 pages at the beginning of the book to provide context for page 351. But this is quibbling because Tom Clancy is known for explaining how to make a watch when you've only asked for the time. Fast moving and enjoyable overall.

The Campus - Jack Ryan Jr., partnered with forensic accountant Paul Brown, is working for Hendley Associates, a top financial analysis firm, on a study of Dalfan Technologies, a Singaporean company that defense contractor giant Marin Aerospace Systems intends to acquire. Former U.S. senator Weston Rhodes is on the board of directors and he has a clandestine secondary mission for Paul: installing a CIA diagnostic program to sniff Dalfan's files for potential cyber-espionage. Tight security delays Paul's infiltration, and as the deadline nears and Rhodes becomes more agitated, Paul suspects his mission is far more sinister. The not-merely-accountants must outrace international assassins and a massive typhoon to thwart a global financial disaster.

Pierre Tassé says

The beginning of the book was exciting. It quickly fell into a mundane description of minutia and about things that did not give meaning to the story nor relevant to a point.

Anyone who remembers John Clark in *Without Remorse*, knows how interesting and involved we were with his life.

Since this book seemed to center on Jack Jr, I was hoping that there would be glimpses of his evolution and training that were not presented in other books. All of a sudden he is a master of many types of martial arts and has been in training for years...

My only hope is that Mike Maden either does not get invited back to continue writing for the series, or he learns to write the way, the story way, that Tom Clancy wrote and would want it to continue-not to fill up pages for the sake of dollars per word.

What am I talking about? Does/did Tom Clancy write like this "Chapter 48...The spattering raindrops sparkled in the lamplight against the spiderweb of the cracked windshield". REALLY???

Opa says

I enjoyed this book. I got a little spun up with time machines and cryptography machinations, but there was a good balance between action and mental moments. Mike Maden finds enough international intrigue to bend your mind.
