



Q Clearance

Peter Benchley

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In this novel the author of *Jaws* reveals that he knows as much about the White House as he does about the sea: a knowledge which is the 'special ingredient' in an irresistibly hilarious and suspenseful story.

Timothy Burnham works – as Peter Benchley once did – as a speechwriter to the President. He *has* been in the same room as the great man, but only with a lot of other people, and he likes it that way – he is that rarity in Washington, a man with no appetite for power.

By a quirk of bureaucracy Burnham is given Q Clearance, which means that every day he receives documents crammed with the highest atomic secrets of which he understands not a word, and which he has to shred every night.

Big joke, thinks Burnham – but he does not laugh when for unfathomable reasons he suddenly becomes the President's blue-eyed boy. That, he knows, is more than he can cope with – except that, exhilaratingly, the terrifying old man seems to bring out in Burnham more than Burnham knew was there.

While this nerve-racking relationship is developing, Burnham meets a lovely blonde. It does not occur to him that a lovely blonde might show obvious interest in a man with Q Clearance, who enjoys the confidence of his President, for some reason other than their enjoyable compatibility.

Add to this situation a White House cleaning lady from Bermuda who is desperate to procure for her son a certificate of graduation from high school; an enigmatic caterer whose past is known to nobody (or at least, to nobody in the United States); and several members of the President's Cabinet – figures who would be larger than life if they were not so devastatingly true to it – and you have a spy novel that is pure pleasure: a wonderful balancing act between fidelity to a mind-boggling reality and a genius for entertainment.

Q Clearance Details

Date : Published December 12th 1988 by Random House Value Publishing (first published January 1st 1986)

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Author : Peter Benchley

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Jeff Brown says

I'm officially half way through this book and I thought maybe it was just a slow starter. No it just flat sucks. It's about a presidential speech writer and what happens at work no action or intrigue. The only thing that's happened so far is his wife left him and even though he had the house he's now living at the YMCA. Stupid. I don't have much of a selection because of all the authors I've exhausted at our local library so I'll probably read the rest of it.

Oh by the way this is supposed to be a comedy by the writer of Jaws and The Deep. But it reminds me of a T.V. show called The Office. It's supposed to be funny but like this book it's not and in fact is boring and annoying and a total waste of time. I need better books.

Olethros says

-Uno de los lados oscuros y humorísticos de “El ala oeste de la Casa Blanca”-.

Género. Novela.

Lo que nos cuenta. Timothy Burnham, redactor de discursos presidenciales, se ve lanzado a la primera línea de consejeros cuando el Presidente de EEUU comienza a fijarse en sus ideas, pero también se fijan en él algunos consejeros presidenciales de envergadura y los que están al otro lado del telón de acero, aunque en un principio lo que más le preocupa a Tim es el fracaso de su matrimonio.

¿Quiere saber más del libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

Ryan says

Disliked White shark but really liked this one, so I'm hopeful about the other book I have of his to read.

Steve Nixon says

An enjoyable read. I read this as a teenager, and again more recently. Things have aged a bit, but the story is still good, and the plot moves at a good pace keeping things moving, and providing some good twists to keep you hooked.

John says

And nothing about sharks! Great, fun read.

Fredrick Danysh says

Presidential speech writer Timothy Burnham is suddenly given the top secret "Q" clearance in regards to nuclear secrets. This power soon gets him involved in a game that he does not want to play.

Tara Ivascu says

love books that make me laugh out loud. read this book ages ago -- might need to read again.

Ronald says

read SOMETIME in 2003

Nell says

Through this book, I got a picture of what it's like to work in a White House. I've learned a lot on speech writing and on being perceptive, aside from the fact that it's really entertaining.

Jason Keith says

Filled with great humor and absurdity only the government can create. A little sad at the end but a worthy read.

Christi says

Entertaining, but somewhat dated. A lot of "tongue in cheek" humor regarding the inefficiencies and red-tape in government kept me reading, however.

Sue says

A GREAT beach read. Pure entertainment

Sven Bridstrup says

Very funny book about classified government documents by the writer of Jaws.

Marty says

One of the funniest spy stories of all time.

Mike Nunn says

A captivating comedy of Executive-branch adventure as a hapless basement-level White-House writer gets wrapped up in the world of secrets, sex and spies. This poor soul is pulled from all sides while he desperately attempts to find himself in this mad-cap novel. I've read it many times over the decades, and it's timeless theme resonates as true today as in the era it was written. Top on my list of comedy classics.
