

Red Storm Rising

by Tom Clancy

The place: Nizhnevartovsk Oil Refinery (production center for one third of the U.S.S.R.'s fuel.)

The time: Late 1980's.

Three Muslim Terrorists, computer technicians at the refinery, burst into the control center, guns blazing. Within minutes they have mown down the entire staff and taken control of the facility. As guards attempt to shoot their way in, the terrorists set up a chain reaction that will blow the refinery sky high.

The political leaders of the Soviet Union, faced with imminent economic collapse, decide on a bold course of action. Since they can no longer produce oil within the borders of their own nation they will have to conquer someplace that can; the Middle East. But they realize that NATO would not turn its back and let them conquer the richest oil fields on the face of the Earth without a fight. Thus, a plan is conceived that will tear NATO apart and leave it helpless to stop the Soviet Juggernaut as it gobbles up the oil fields of Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia; Operation Red Storm.

The conflict escalates from there to engulf all of Europe



Sean O'Brien was born to Patrick and Christine O'Brien on April 20, 1985 in Wheeling West Virginia. He has always lived in the country south west of Pittsburgh and currently resides on his family sheep farm near Lone Pine Pennsylvania.

He is currently a Senior at Bentworth High School where he is involved in FBLA, student council, and the school musical. Next year he plans to attend an engineering college.

When he is not writing he enjoys reading and building remote controlled airships.

Future goals include health, wealth, and public office.

The Samurai Genshu

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his chest and he saw the oni standing over him getting ready for the final blow. As Yakamo no oni brought down the tetsubo, the samurai rolled out of the way with renewed strength and jumped to his feet. The demon roared with frustration and tried to bring the club down on him once more. The samurai sidestepped shakily and then jumped towards the creature with his blade angled high. Never again would Yakamo no oni torment the villagers or anyone else ever again. After the final blow Genshu fell over from this last bit of exertion and fell unconscious. The warrior woke up and saw that the horse he rode was standing over him. As Genshu got up he saw where the hideous creature had fallen. The demon's body was slowly decomposing and the head was not far away with its mouth open in a cry of pain. Turning away from the grotesque scene, Genshu mounted the hoarse with great effort and rode back to the village with blood coming from the wound on his chest.

As he entered the village, he saw that all of the villagers were there to greet him. Some of the villagers saw that he was injured, and went to him help him down from the horse, but Genshu refused the help. He rode up to Tetsuko and with his last bit of effort dismounted, bowed in respect to her, and said, "It is finished." After saying these three words, he collapsed to the ground with a bone-chilling thud. A few of the villagers gasped from the sight and hurried over to aid the man who helped them. The chief ran to where Genshu had fallen, and gently held his head in her lap. With tears forming in the once proud battle maiden's eyes, she said, "Domo arigato samurai Genshu." The proud warrior smiled weakly and then died. All of the people bowed their heads in sorrow and admiration, and a few began to cry. The following day the villagers buried his body in the center of the town in a mark of respect for what he had done for them.

and involve the entire world. Tom Clancy does a brilliant job of answering the question, "What if the Cold War had heated up?"

With his usual blend of fast-paced storyline and incredible attention to technical details, Clancy follows several characters, including Mike Edwards; an Air Force Weatherman, trapped in the backwoods of Iceland, radioing information on the invading Russians to NATO forces as he dodges Russian patrols. Another memorable character is Vladmir Seregetov; the Soviet Minister of Energy who realizes the mistake his leaders have made and fights to save his country before it is too late.

This is one of the few novels where Clancy describes a full scale war instead of a 'Spy vs. Spy' scenario. It is this writer's opinion that he should stick to tales like this and forget about Jack Ryan and his other secret agents. I heartily recommend this book to anyone who can read above a fourth grade level. Its size may be daunting at first, but the story moves so fast that you will not be able to put it down. There is no legitimate excuse not to read this book. I give it four stars.

By Sean O'Brien

The McDonald's Trial

By Nick Thompson and Joe Lukich

I am stuck in between the pages of what seems to be a fairy tale. This is my predicament. I have to choose between something that I want, and something that I can't have...or between something that can't be, or something that isn't. Or is it? No person that I know had ever been where I am. No one, nothing could endure the pain and degradation I am going through. I am so torn, and I am definitely in a pickle.

The court date is tomorrow, and I am on the jury for a case that will forever change the way people eat. Hopefully, a resolution can be reached that will do minimal damage to our nation's fast-food business. If not, please destroy this story after you read it, so I can not be held accountable for such an enormous national tragedy. Here is my account of what is going on and my understanding of the event Until now, the two seemed to correspond with one another, and now I am being required to choose. Before it was like Penn and Teller, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Fred and Barney, but now it seems like tuna flavored ice cream, or dogs using a litter box; they just don't fit. I must make a decision, soon. Now. The time is looming, I can't stand it, and I just want it to end. I have to choose now, or both sides will lose out, and we will all be stuck here, hungry and confused.

Should I go with the more obvious decision, or choose the one that will be somewhat of a surprise to them? Do I choose the one that brings joy and happiness to all, or do I do what's better for me? Do I deny my righteousness? Do I infringe on my sense of worthiness for their cause, or allow them the sweet joy of its integrity and all worthy splendor?

I cannot even stomach seeing these two as separates. As if they were at war, combating over which one would stay, and which one would be forced to leave; a conflict that until this day did not exist. Why do I have to be one of the people who has to choose? Why, Why, WHY!!! It's all the big yellow chicken's fault!!

Never in a million years did I think something like this would happen to me. I think the whole town of Saran feels the same as I do, but I'm one of the unfortunate citizens who has to serve on the jury for this world-dividing trial.

Don't these people realize that if they don't stay together there will be so much confusion and so many broken hearts that they will be the laughingstock of the whole world? What is wrong with society today? The divorce rate is over 85%, and now it's affecting the fast-food business too! One of these days people are just going to stop getting hitched because of the fear of a split-up.

Here is my predicament. Whatever I choose to do, I need to act

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