

Patriot Games Study Guide

Patriot Games by Tom Clancy

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Plot Summary

Patriot Games by Tom Clancy, written in 1987, is a book that covers the issues of terrorism, specifically the "Irish" issue in terms of their wish for independence from England and the lengths to which some of the people are willing to go in order to achieve their goal. Jack Ryan is an Irish-American who teaches Naval History at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He, his wife, Cathy, and four-year-old daughter Sally are in London for a working vacation in The Mall just outside of Buckingham Palace when a terrorist attack sets off a grenade underneath a vehicle and gunmen shoot the driver and front seat passenger. Ryan, a former Marine, reacts without much thought. He knocks down one of the attackers and shoots the other. The people in the back of the car turn out to be the Prince and Princess of Wales and their infant son. Ryan has just successfully thwarted a kidnapping attempt on the part of the ULA, the Ulster Liberation Army, and a smaller and much more vicious group than the PIRA, Provisional Irish Republican Army. By foiling the terrorist attack, Jack has created a new target for the terrorists, who have never before acted on American soil. However, once the Ryans are back in Maryland, Sean Miller, the terrorist who was tried for the attack in England and later escaped seeks his revenge against Jack Ryan and his family. Cathy and Sally are attacked on the freeway and end up in the hospital. Jack's attacker is apprehended before he is able to hurt Ryan.

The CIA has long been after Jack to rejoin their ranks on a permanent basis. At first Jack was simply interested in gathering information about the ULA and was willing to give a couple of weeks to an analysis of the information the CIA has available. After the attack on his family, Jack determines that the only way to protect his family is to protect all Americans from terrorists. The only way to do this is to find where the terrorists are, where they train, where they get their backing and funding, and this is what Jack's job becomes for the CIA. He is a top-notch analyst, and his abilities are a great boon to the CIA. They make a little progress, but the ULA is clever in the way they drop out of sight for months at a time. Working with the FBI both in America and in Britain, and with Scotland Yard in Britain, the CIA is putting together a huge file on the ULA and exactly what they want. While the PIRA is a paramilitary group looking to end British domination over Northern Ireland, through force if necessary, but the ULA is even more frightening. They are a Marxist based organization who wishes to rule all of Ireland by their rules, and those who do not agree with their rules will be executed. They are a ruthless group, completely without compassion. By acting like a PIRA sub-group, the ULA is taking the world by surprise. Their intention is to have the PIRA blamed for the Ryan family attacks, and have the PIRA no longer welcomed in America by the loyal Irish-Americans who wish to support the land of their forefathers.

What the ULA did not consider is just how much of an effect it would have to attack a pregnant woman and a young child. They did get the effect they wanted in that the head of the PIRA was asked to return to Ireland. However, all the law enforcement agencies in both America and Britain are aware that it is the ULA they seek, and Jack Ryan's hardened resolve to join the CIA permanently in order to find them and destroy them has created a much more difficult environment for them to operate. They plan one more



American operation, this time to kidnap the Prince and Princess of Wales on their American visit. For Sean Miller, the operation is even sweeter, because the Royal Couple plan to visit the Ryans at their home. Life has almost returned to normal for the Ryans, but Jack is still very dissatisfied that they have not been able to track down the ULA. Each time they get close, the ULA is one step ahead of them. A final showdown at the Ryan home leads to a midnight boat ride through rough seas to Annapolis Naval Academy. With every law enforcement agency available, the terrorists are finally apprehended when they approach the Cavasos. Jack Ryan hates Sean Miller. When Jack sees the terrorist face to face once again, he believes that he will kill Miller, but Jack's belief in civilized man wins out. Jack will never stoop to the level of the men who have chased him across the Atlantic.



Chapter 1, A Sunny Day In Londontown

Chapter 1, A Sunny Day In Londontown Summary

Patriot Games by Tom Clancy is a techno-thriller that pits former Marine and current Naval History instructor at the Naval Academy against the Ulster Liberation Army. Jack interferes with the ULA's kidnapping attempt against the Prince and Princess of Wales and their young son. As a former Marine, Ryan is able to prevent the terrorists from achieving their goal by killing one of the ambushers and wounding another who will ultimately stand trial for the operation. Clancy brings the world of the Irish patriots fighting for independence through terrorism to the reader. Terrorism is a worldwide problem, and Jack Ryan finds out just how personal this can be.

Historian, Jack Ryan, is in London on a working vacation with his wife, Cathy and four-year-old daughter, Sally. After having spent the day in hard straight-backed chairs, Ryan is headed to the Mall, just outside of Buckingham Palace to meet his family. His thoughts are peaceful, reflecting on the beauty of the city and the fairness of the autumn weather. Once he meets his wife and daughter the discussion of their dinner plans is interrupted by the sound of a grenade blast. Jack Ryan's Marine training takes over. He orders his family down behind cover and he moves quickly toward the disabled Rolls Royce in time to see two gunmen, one covering the back passenger door and the other emptying the magazine of his AK-47 into the front of the Rolls. Using his best football tackle training, Jack takes out the gunman at the back of the car and ensures that the man stays down with a shot to the hip with the gun Ryan recovers from the ground. Paying no attention to his left arm that refuses to respond; Ryan steps out and shoots the other gunman in the chest just as he takes a bullet to the left shoulder. Ryan squeezes off one more shot and the man drops. Once the danger is over, Ryan is aware of his pain. His wife, an eye surgeon, rushes to Jack to staunch the copious flow of blood. Through a haze of pain and drugs, Ryan vaguely remembers the ambulance ride to the hospital and ultimately waking up in the surgery recovery room. He had taken a very serious gunshot from a nine-millimeter, but will have use of his left arm, albeit somewhat diminished.

Chapter 1, A Sunny Day In Londontown Analysis

Clancy uses a very clever opening gambit for Patriot Games. "Ryan was nearly killed twice in half an hour." Page 11, Chapter 1. This opener sets the stage for drama, and then eases the reader into the story with a touch of humor about cars on the wrong side of the road in London. The reader is led through a peaceful and beautiful late afternoon in London, being lulled into a false sense of well-being. Just as the happy family unit comes together, a horrible explosion interrupts the contented feeling established in the beginning of the story. This leads the reader immediately to one of Clancy's recurring themes in the story of how good solid family values are at risk at the hands of terrorists. This is clever foreshadowing that will be revisited numerous times throughout the story.



Ryan's relationship with his wife, Cathy, and little girl, Sally, is close and warm. His first instinct is to see to their safety before springing into action and stopping the murderous terrorist attack on the Rolls Royce outside of Buckingham Palace.



Chapter 2, Cops and Royals

Chapter 2, Cops and Royals Summary

Ryan wakes up in the hospital to discover that his left arm is entirely immobile. It takes over six hours of surgery to put his left shoulder back together. Recuperating in the VIP suite of St. Thomas's Hospital, Ryan is being guarded by Anthony Wilson, who is with C-13, Anti-Terrorist Branch in London. Wilson asks Ryan to reconstruct the events of the previous day and corrects Ryan's misconception that the IRA was responsible for the attack. Rather, the Ulster Liberation Army is the group responsible for it. Even more surprising is that Jack Ryan is still unaware of the identity of the people he saved in the Rolls Royce. When Wilson tells Ryan that the attack was against the Prince and Princess of Wales, Ryan first thinks Wilson is pulling his leg, but once he realizes Wilson is serious, Ryan begins to understand the ramifications of the attack. His concerns mount with a visit from the Special Branch Police Officers, James Owen, William Taylor, and David Ashley. Ryan recounts his reasons for attacking the terrorists, reasons he really wasn't aware of at the time of the attack. He believes he merely responded in accordance with his military training. The speed with which the British police verify Jack Ryan's credentials amazes Ryan; they managed to verify everything within three hours, record time, considering the time difference between America and England. As Ryan is being questioned, he manages to elicit some of his own information; specifically that the terrorist attack was a kidnapping attempt rather than an assassination attempt against the Royal Family. The officers assure Ryan that he will be protected and that his family is in a secure location as well. Ryan's last visitors of the day are the Queen of England and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. They converse about the Irish problem that England is experiencing. Ryan's position is that there are a great many people of Irish heritage all over the world who are good contributing members of society. What bothers Ryan is that the most famous Irishmen in the world are not those making positive contributions but rather the ones who are the terrorists, those are who make the headlines. As a thank you, the Queen bestows Ryan with the title of Sir John Ryan, making his wife Lady Ryan. While Ryan recovers in the hospital, the new Lady Ryan and his daughter are guests of the Queen of England in Buckingham Palace.

Chapter 2, Cops and Royals Analysis

Jack Ryan wakes up in the hospital to find that his life has changed dramatically. His act of heroism is of greater interest to the British people because the people he saved were the Prince and Princess of Wales and their infant son. During the interrogation by the police, Ryan realizes that the attempt was a kidnapping attempt rather than an assassination attempt. He does not reveal this knowledge to British Intelligence, but he does know that another attempt is likely. As a Naval historian, Ryan is somewhat familiar with the acts of terrorists, but he has never been intimately involved before. With his picture splashed all over the papers, his family is now a possible target. Their safety

is ensured by the fact that they are guests of the Royal Family in Buckingham Palace, a nice fairy tale addition to the story.



Chapter 3, Flowers and Families

Chapter 3, Flowers and Families Summary

Clancy gives the reader insight into the mind of the terrorist who escaped the scene of attack by following him back to Ireland. The unnamed terrorist is a master of accents and disguise. He is irritated that an American Irish Catholic has interfered, but he is infinitely patient. His group will try again, and he is confident that they will succeed. He spares a thought or two for the captured man, Sean. He is confident that Sean will not betray their group or their cause.

Jack Ryan continues to recover under Wilson's guard at the hospital, he also continues to reflect on the pain in his arm, and how he has a love-hate relationship with pain medications. Ryan had once experienced a horrible back injury and while at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He had become dependent on the morphine sulfate pain medication. Withdrawal had been hell. His current pain is nearly unbearable, but he intends to be prudent with the pain medications. Ryan's next visitor is the Prince of Wales himself. Ryan notices the Prince's demeanor and as the direct and confrontational American he is, Ryan immediately attacks the Prince verbally. Ryan understands that the Prince is beating himself up for not having been able to rescue his wife and child himself. Ryan analyzes the situation as only an outsider can, pointing out to the Prince that any other course of action would have resulted in his death and the kidnapping of his son. Ryan berates the British press and the horrible pressure placed at the feet of the Prince of Wales. Ryan's direct manner and suggestion that of all courses of action possible, the Prince had chosen the only good one. This gives the Prince of Wales the perspective he needs to view the situation in a better light. The Prince no longer feels like a failure, and he now feels like a competent military man, husband, and father.

David Ashley receives an invitation to meet with some PIRA members in Dublin. Initially, James Owen is reluctant to send Ashley alone, but they both acknowledge that the PIRA has a code of honor. Ashley meets with Mr. Murphy at Flanagan's steakhouse. Murphy denies responsibility for the terrorist attack on the Royal Family claiming them to be off limits to the PIRA. He also tells Ashley that his organization has an informer who has given critical information to Kevin O'Donnell. Mickey Baird died after revealing this information to Mr. Murphy. Murphy promises to kill Kevin O'Donnell if the opportunity ever arises.

Chapter 3, Flowers and Families Analysis

More of Ryan's past is revealed, specifically his serious back injury that rendered him addicted to morphine while at Bethesda. Jack manages to improve the disposition of the Prince of Wales, who feels like a failure having to thank Ryan for saving his life and the life of the Princess and their infant son. Ryan is sympathetic for the very public life the Prince leads. He is also aware that a kidnapping plot is likely to resurface. Britain's



Security Service is also aware of the problem. David Ashley's meeting with PIRA leader Mr. Murphy is held to elicit any information about the attack. What he learns is that there is a splinter group off the PIRA led by Kevin O'Donnell. O'Donnell is being fed very good information from someone inside Britain's Security Service. Ryan is involved with a very dangerous group who resents his interference. Not only is the Royal Family at risk, the Ryan family is as well.



Chapter 4, Players

Chapter 4, Players Summary

Jack Ryan's hopes of remaining obscure are totally dashed with the press conference held in his hospital room. The conference is televised in addition to being covered by newspapers and magazines. Ryan fields questions regarding the rumor that he is a member of the CIA. He protests that someone has their facts wrong; that he is a history professor who once gave a lecture at the CIA once, but that he is employed by the Naval Academy. When asked if he enjoys being a public figure, Ryan is relieved at the change of topic, for he really has done work for the CIA, but in a very secret capacity, and he is not paid by the CIA. His responses to questions regarding the solution to the "Irish Problem" are light, saying that the US has enough of their own problems and they do not need to take on any others.

The newscast is viewed by ULA's leader, Kevin O'Donnell and by CIA's Admiral James Greer. O'Donnell is angry that the American foiled their kidnapping plot, but knows that the cause is patient. He reflects on the future of the ULA, knowing that the people in his organization will never be stopped by a single American. Admiral Greer is pleased with the way Ryan handles the CIA questions and knows that as soon as Ryan returns to the U.S. he will ask the CIA for information on the ULA. When that request is made, Greer intends to recruit, to train, and to groom Ryan.

A small scene in Chapter 4 reveals a rare bookshop in Piccadilly to be the center of intelligence operations for the ULA. The owner, Mr. Dennis Cooley, truly loves books; his other job is as head of the intelligence organization where he acts as courier. He has no knowledge of the contents of the messages. His job is to get them from one place to the next. All transactions are carried out in code and are virtually impossible for a casual eavesdropper to understand.

Ryan receives a visit from the FBI's representative at the British Embassy, Dan Murray. Murray makes Ryan a friend for life by bringing him a burger, fries, and shake as a change of pace from the hospital food. Murray reveals what he can about the ULA being a splinter group of the PIRA, and that they have very little intelligence on them. What they do know is frightening, that they are as militant as the jihad extremists are. He does agree with Ryan that the group had to have been given intelligence on the Prince's unplanned trip to the palace. There is a traitor in the British Intelligence. Ryan's concern that he may still be a target after returning home is put to rest, Murray believes that the group relies enough on American goodwill that they would never commit an act of terrorism on U.S. soil.



Chapter 4, Players Analysis

The news conference reveals to the reader the press's suspicion that Ryan is a CIA agent. Ryan denies the story. Yet, later in the chapter, it is revealed that Ryan is much, much more than a mere historian. The intentions of the ULA are revealed very frightening, much more than merely fighting for Irish independence from Britain. O'Donnell's position is much more Maoist than the PIRA's ever was. Clancy also falsely allays the reader's concern that Ryan and his family will be safe once they return to the US with the story that the terrorist group relies too heavily on American funds. The story really begins at this point. The title of the chapter gives the reader a good idea of who is involved in the essential problem, the ULA, the CIA, the Ryan family, and the Royal Family.



Chapter 5, Perqs and Plots

Chapter 5, Perqs and Plots Summary

Ryan is finally released from the hospital and is met by none other than the Duke of Edinburgh. Ryan is relieved at learning the hospital, but to now be taken to Buckingham Palace by the husband of the Queen of England makes him very uneasy. As an American, he finds the trappings of royalty boggling to the mind. He resents it on one hand and on the other hand, he marvels at the extent of it. He does not feel as intimidated by the Duke as much as he does by the Queen because they are both military men, but the wealth and splendor of the Palace render him speechless. As an historian, he views the belongings of the Royal Family as priceless mementos of the past; they see it as "home". The small dinner party put on in Jack Ryan's honor includes two of Britain's top Intelligence officers who talk to Jack about the work he did in the CIA on the Canary Trap. The two men let him know through code that he is free to talk to them, but also let him know not to reveal anything secret in nature to Geoffrey Watkins, Liaison Officer between the Royal Family and the Foreign Office. Ryan determines that he does not like Watkins, but is not sure why. Watkins believes Ryan is not telling all he knows, and this intrigues Watkins. Dinner is then served, with Ryan at the Queen's right hand. Ryan still feels insecure and self-conscious. The Queen senses this and tells Jack that everyone there likes him for who he is, not for anything else. This relaxes Jack. That night, Ryan and Cathy sleep together at Buckingham Palace; the fruit of their last communal slumber already growing in Cathy's body.

Chapter 5, Perqs and Plots Analysis

Ryan is very relieved to leave the hospital, but finds himself in a new and difficult situation. As an American, Jack has no patience with the pomp and circumstance of royalty. Now he finds himself in their debt and a guest in their home, Buckingham Palace, one of the most famous buildings in the world. At the Palace, Jack talks to two British Intelligence officers who praise his work on Canary Trap and encourage him to accept what they believe will be an inevitable invitation to join the CIA. This is foreshadowing, based on an aspect of Jack's character that Admiral Greer had already identified. It refers to Jack's curiosity. Their reasons might not be exactly correct, but their predictions are.



Chapter 6, Trials and Troubles

Chapter 6, Trials and Troubles Summary

The Ryans are required to stay in England in order for Jack to testify at Sean Miller's trial. The trial is held within four weeks from the terrorist attack, very speedy for Britain. Even though everyone assures Jack that the trial is merely a formality, there is a certain amount of trepidation when Jack enters the Old Bailey Two Courtroom. When Jack is questioned by the prosecuting attorney, he is able to tell judge and jury about his experience and explain his actions. Sean Miller's defense begins cross-examination; Jack realizes that he must be careful with his answers. Charles Atkinson is obviously well paid by the terrorists. He opens his questioning of Ryan by asking if he should call him Doctor Ryan or Sir John. Ryan refuses to allow himself to be flustered by the barrister despite the lawman attempting to put Ryan in the light of a cold-blooded trained killer as a U.S. Marine. The question of Ryan being on the payroll of the CIA comes up again and Ryan answers honestly that his work was with a company who does consulting from time to time for the US government. After repeated attempts to trip Jack up in his testimony, the barrister finally runs out of ammunition and Ryan's testimony against Sean Miller is damning. Kevin O'Donnell watches TV coverage of the trial and wishes he could simply murder all that stand in his way, but realizes he must be patient and smart in order to win his war.

Ryan and Cathy are treated to a tour of the Tower of London, something they both truly enjoy. Clancy covers quite a bit of English history as it relates to the tower of London; from Anne Boleyn to the last women executed at the tower in 1542, Jane, Viscountess Rochford. Ryan mentions his preference to have Sean Miller be executed at the Tower, but British law precludes capital punishment any longer. Despite all the assurances, Jack still fears Sean Miller. He had looked into the man's eyes in the courtroom and had seen nothing. They were the black, cold eyes of a man without a conscience.

Chapter 6, Trials and Troubles Analysis

The courtroom scene shows Ryan's cerebral abilities at least equal to Sean Miller's defense barrister. Atkinson tries to unseat Ryan, to show that he is an agent with the CIA or that he is a cold-blooded killer who shot Sean Miller for no reason. Atkinson tries to paint Miller in the light of another good Samaritan, but Ryan foils the man at every turn. The reader now knows that Ryan does have some connection with the CIA, but sees Ryan as a man of integrity and believes what he tells the judge under oath Ryan's meeting with Sean Miller in the courtroom unsettles him and with good reason. While O'Donnell knows he cannot kill everyone who gets in his way Sean Miller has different ideas.



Chapter 7, Speedbird Home

Chapter 7, Speedbird Home Summary

A last gift from Britain is a trip home for the Ryans aboard the Concorde. Despite his fear of flying, Jack Ryan has a few moments aboard the concord that awe and amaze him. What he discovers that he likes the best is that the long and grueling flight over the ocean is reduced to a mere three and a half hours. On the ground Jack, Cathy and Sally are met by family friends, Oliver and Jean Tyler. They listen to Oliver's prattle about the rain and the development of the latest football game. Ryan realizes just how wonderful it is to be home again. Having lived the life of a jetsetter for the past month, Ryan appreciates his mundane life all that much more and is looking forward to just living again.

Back in Ireland, O'Donnell, disguised as Michael Jameson, meets with Mr. Cooley for dinner, where he receives an intelligence envelope. O'Donnell does not really like Mr. Cooley, but realizes that he is good at what he does. His dislike of the man stems from the fact that Cooley has no passion for their cause. O'Donnell forces himself to wait until he is home on the headlands before he reads the six-page report. His companion, Michael McKenney, is a young and passionate member of the ULA. He marvels at O'Donnell's patience but also chafes at being left out. O'Donnell's informant is the biggest secret of the ULA and as O'Donnell's chief of Intelligence, McKenney, is irritated that O'Donnell does not trust him with the information.

Chapter 7, Speedbird Home Analysis

Ryan is back in the States and appreciates the commonness of his life. He really did not enjoy his celebrity and notoriety while in England and looks forward to getting back to his teaching past and the trivialities of day-to-day life. Unfortunately, 3000 miles way, O'Donnell is reading an intelligence report detailing the activities of two families; the Royal Family, extending their stay in New Zealand and the Ryan Family, freshly arrived back in the US. While Jack thinks he is done with the ULA, they may not be done with him.



Chapter 8, Information

Chapter 8, Information Summary

British Intelligence is delighted when they receive a call about the PIRA bomber, Maureen Dwyer. The caller claims to have seen wires and suspicious objects through the window, Dan Murray and James Owens take the call and make their way through London rush-hour traffic to the location. Two police cars are already on the scene when the two men arrive to find the women naked and spread-eagle on the floor. They photograph and catalog the scene, waiting for a female detective to come and do a cavity search on the prisoner. Maureen Dwyer has been active for at least three years, having killed four and maimed three others only nine months before. She is as cold and unreactive as Sean Miller had been. The officers evaluated her materials, believing some to have been stolen eighteen months before when California Pyrotechnics sent a shipment to an oil field in Venezuela. The only thing wrong is that the single window in the apartment let out onto a warehouse and a view of the Tower of London. No one could possibly have seen into that apartment.

Ryan is back to work, light as it is right before Christmas. He manages to complete most of his paperwork when his friend Robby Jackson stops by for an after-work drive. The two catch up on Jack's experiences and Robby's own recuperation after a premature exit out of his aircraft broke his leg. He is happy that he'll be back in the air as a pilot by summer. Robby gives Ryan some information on a company that Ryan researches once he gets home. A call to his stockbroker for 25 thousand dollars worth gets his stockbroker interested in Holoware. While the men complete their call, Kevin O'Donnell shares news with McKenney that Sean Miller is to be transferred on Christmas Day, and that ULA considers him a far better asset outside of prison rather than inside.

Chapter 8, Information Analysis

The capture of Maureen Dwyer is a great coup for British Intelligence, however, the tip that leads to her capture is suspect. British Intelligence feels it is left feeling very uneasy. Ryan's return home to his normal life makes it seem as if his excitement in England were nothing more than a bad dream. However, the reader again, is left with the feeling that another shoe must be dropped and so is interested to know that the leader of ULA intends to spring Sean Miller when he is moved from London. Despite the fact that the ULA has yet to practice any of its terrorist activities in America, the reader is right to be alarmed.



Chapter 9, A Day for Celebration

Chapter 9, A Day for Celebration Summary

Christmas Eve at the Ryan home finds Jack and Cathy assembling the vast number of toys Santa is to bring for Sally. Jack presents Cathy with a gold necklace; at about that time back in England, officials are moving Sean Miller from the Briton Prison to his new location on the Isle of Wright. Sean Miller is too valuable for the ULA to lose, so a daring rescue has been planned. With information from their inside sources, the terrorists are not confused by the three diversionary vans the police used to prevent just such an attempt. In Sean Miller's van is Robert Highland, the only police guard who had shown Miller any mercy. Miller had once been attacked and sodomized by fellow prisoners; Highland had stopped the attack and had gotten medical attention for him. Highland's sympathy was short-lived; Sean Miller really is an animal. Getting the van aboard the ferry is easy work, and all the policemen are bored and taken completely by surprise when the attack comes during the ferry crossing. Sean Miller shoots Bob Highland two times as thanks for his compassion. The men escape in a ten-meter boat in very rough seas, leaving the ferry foundering without engines or radios. Highland is still alive and reminds the captain of the radio in the police van. With that radio, they summon assistance for the wounded and alert the authorities of Miller's escape. The bad weather and rough seas make it impossible to locate the terrorists' boat. The only good that comes out of the escape is that James Owens knows it is a very short list of people who knew of Miller's transport route. By comparing that list with the one of those briefed about the Royal's trip to the Palace where Jack Ryan got involved he believes he can narrow the suspects list. Back at the Ryan's, the house is littered with the detritus of Christmas Day in a house with a child. The Ryans, Bobby and Sissy are relaxing when word of Miller's escape is covered on CNN.

Chapter 9, A Day for Celebration Analysis

Sean Miller is obviously important to the ULA, and their daring escape attack is planned for Christmas Day. The police choose that morning because most people will be home and traffic light. Clancy's picture of the Ryans preparing for Christmas is diametrically opposed to the terrorist attack aboard the passenger ferry where nine individuals lose their lives. Early Christmas morning is chosen because it puts the reader in the frame of mind of the traditional and sentimental. By giving the reader such a visual picture of the Ryan family doing normal family activities, the idea of terrorism directed at such a family is horrific.



Chapter 10, Plans and Threats

Chapter 10, Plans and Threats Summary

It is nearly a week after the terrorist took Sean Miller back and Commander Owens and FBI agent Dan Murray are no closer to discovering the whereabouts of the terrorist gang. They have managed to locate the wreckage of the rubber Zodiac the terrorists used as an escape vehicle, and once it is raised from its watery grave they will set about the tedious work of finding where everything was manufactured. It's not a great break in the case but better than nothing. As the two men discuss the case Owens especially, is affronted at what is obviously a high-level leak. There were no fewer than thirty-one people who knew the route Sean's van was to take, and add to that all who may have gotten the information peripherally. It is still a daunting task, but Commander Owens does not intend to rest until he finds the betrayer. They evaluate the tactics of the ULA, comparing them against those of the PIRA. What troubles Owens and Murray is that the ULA does not seem to obey any rules. Most terrorist groups have a set of rules, they also claim responsibility for their actions, and they have never operated in the US. The glaring differences between the PIRA and ULA are enough for Murray to call one of his co-workers at the FBI in the states and have Jack Ryan warned that he might want to watch his back. Murray knows he is acting on intuition alone, but he feels very compelled by his intuition.

Sean Miller, Kevin O'Donnell and two others involved in the escape plan are at the terrorist training camp in the desert. The other six have traveled by circuitous route home to Ireland. The training camp is for hard-core training, and they have a board inside one of the six buildings that has the schedule of when the American reconnaissance satellites go overhead. At those appointed times all individuals and vehicles must be inside a building to prevent the Americans from seeing that it is an active camp. Their discussions center on the successful misdirections they have accomplished. The PIRA is sorely missing Maureen Dwyer. The PIRA group is also planning a trip to the states to deny responsibility for the attempted kidnapping of the Royals. Sean Miller believes he sees an opportunity to put more egg on the face of the PIRA as well as to get revenge on Jack Ryan.

Chapter 10, Plans and Threats Analysis

The actions of the ULA as the terrorist group are more troubling than the average terrorist group. Most groups have a certain code of honor that they follow. The ULA does not seem to adhere to such a code of honor. Because of this, they are harder to track and much harder to predict in terms of their actions. Sean Miller is being drawn as a unique terrorist allowing personal feelings of revenge to dictate his thoughts and plans. His compatriots keep their eye on the bigger target. It could be that Sean is allowing himself to become distracted.



Chapter 11, Warnings

Chapter 11, Warnings Summary

Jack Ryan's first day back teaching history at the Naval Academy and his forty third-classmen pay close attention to his lecture but have no questions when he is done lecturing. Rather, one of the students comes forward to present Dr. Ryan with an award, named the Order of the Purple Target. Their advice is that when it happens the next time he is to duck. Back at his office with Robby Jackson, Ryan has a visit from FBI agent Bill Shaw. Bill is acting on the call he received from Dan Murray. Both FBI agents believe that the ULA is unlikely to strike in the US, Shaw, however, tells Ryan to see it as an insurance policy, to be aware, to vary routines, to simply be watchful. Robby takes Shaw's warning to heart and takes Ryan to meet Sergeant Major Noah Breckenridge, the best marksman on campus. He evaluates Jack's shooting abilities and orders him to shoot every day in order to improve his skills. Breckenridge intends to give Jack every advantage possible.

Jack's next step is to contact Admiral Greer and ask to look at their ULA information. Having recognized Ryan's abilities some time ago, Admiral Greer is hopeful that they will be able to get Jack in the CIA on a regular basis. Because of this he agrees to allow Jack to see come in the next day and look over their intelligence. Now, Jack has to explain to Cathy, that the threat of S. Miller is enough for him to install an alarm system, have a loaded shotgun in the house, and participate in daily range practice. He tells her it is likely all precaution.

Chapter 11, Warnings Analysis

The idea that the ULA might consider an attack against the Ryans in the US is so far-fetched that FBI agent Bill Shaw is reluctant to share Murray's concerns with Ryan. However, because Murray is such a skilled agent, Bill does not doubt the man's intuition. Robby Jackson takes the threat seriously, too, and does his part by taking Jack to meet Sergeant Major Breckenridge. Breckenridge will put Jack through his paces and make him an excellent marksman. Jack is concerned enough to ask Admiral Greer for access to their files on the ULA. Ryan knows the CIA wants him on board full-time, but he plans to just get all the information and make no promises to the CIA. Ryan really does not want to be an intelligence officer.



Chapter 12, Homecoming

Chapter 12, Homecoming Summary

The next morning finds Ryan at the CIA, and he agrees to come on board part time for now. Admiral Greer is pleased, but he knows people well enough to have been able to predict that Jack would come to him. With the ULA files now available to him, Jack begins to compare the ULA with its original parent group, the PIRA. After evaluating several incidents, Ryan realizes that the ULA operates more like a military organization. Their operations are usually successful and they are able to make a clean getaway. All evidence points to military training, begging the question of location. The believed leader of the ULA is Kevin O'Donnell, the only photo in the file is years old and a notation that O'Donnell has had intensive plastic surgery makes the photo outdated. Ryan studies O'Donnell's file, begins to evaluate how he was once a member of the PIRA, and is now wanted by the PIRA. Ryan suspects O'Donnell of having informers inside the PIRA for the ULA.

Inside the CIA building is the headquarters for the National Reconnaissance offices and uses television-like cameras rather than still photos. One junior CIA analyst is charged with covering camps believed to be used for terrorist training. The ULA's camp has been observed, but because only a technician is assigned to the job, true analysis has not yet been done, and the file lies buried in a stack of other files to be analyzed.

Chapter 12, Homecoming Analysis

Ryan is back at the CIA, though in his mind he is only there on a temporary basis. Despite his intention to be temporary, once Jack gets to work he really digs in and evaluates the material. At this point, he is only being tested, but Admiral Greer, Marty Cantor, and Dan Murray are surprised at how quickly Ryan has made connections. Ryan believes the ULA to be peripherally connected to the PIRA, that they are more militarily constructed, therefore must have a training camp. He is also suspicious of O'Donnell and believes that there is something about the way he is using the PIRA as a blind or front that they are missing.



Chapter 13, Visitors

Chapter 13, Visitors Summary

Sean Miller is, indeed, in the U.S. and working with an American named Alex, who sounds to be some sort of operative himself. Sean is not crazy about working with a black man and really does not like Alex to try to improve his plans. They intend to do a run-through of their operation that afternoon. Names of the targets are not revealed.

At the CIA, Ryan and Cantor are discussing the ULA again. Ryan has determined that O'Donnell was initially with the PIRA because the first ULA operations were PIRA plans that had been abandoned, a mistake the British made too. Cantor then tells Ryan that Sinn Fein has a delegation coming over to the U.S. from Ireland tomorrow. Ryan is disgusted that the PIRA has frontmen who are so clean that they can come and go as they please and wishes the U.S. would just ban them. His time with the CIA is up and he turns over his sixty-page report analysis on all the information about the ULA he was able to put together.

The threat of terror is now here. Sean and Alex are watching Dr. Cathy Ryan and her very habitual patterns. Because she is a surgeon, Cathy is very methodical about everything, even her piano playing is so perfect that it lack feeling. This does not bother Cathy. As a surgeon, she is trained to do things one way, the right way. Even though Cathy has been varying her routes, she is still within five minutes when she reaches her destination. This makes her a remarkably easy target for terrorists. Sean is pleased with this target and he is certain he will be successful.

Chapter 13, Visitors Analysis

The tension in the book increases as the reader realizes that the unthinkable is not about to happen. Terrorist, Sean Miller, is doing his reconnaissance work in the U.S. and his targets are the Ryan family. An additional bit of interest is that Padraig O'Neil of Sinn Fein is in the U.S. addressing the American public about the plight of the Irish people. This seems to be part of the ULA's plans. Right now, it is not clear to the reader, however, how they connect.



Chapter 14, Second Chances

Chapter 14, Second Chances Summary

Sean Miller and Alex are ready and waiting for Dr. Cathy Ryan to leave the hospital and are irritated because for the first time since they have been tailing her, she is late. Dr. Ryan has just finished an emergency eye surgery on a young boy who went face-first through a plate glass window. Her strict adherence to regimentation causes Cathy to work her Porsche 911 hard in order to make up for lost time. She picks up Sally at daycare, and though she notices her daughter playing with her seatbelt, Cathy does not reprimand her. Cathy's eyes are on the road. At that moment, Cathy notices a van beside her and instinctively brakes just as Miller opens fire. The foot-long tongue of flame is seen by a patrol car behind Cathy Ryan. The Porsche slams into the bridge's concrete work. The State Trooper is on the scene immediately and a second one takes off in pursuit of Miller's van. As soon as Alex and Sean realize they are being pursued, Sean opens fire on the trooper's car with his machine gun. Alex manages to stay ahead of the convergence of law enforcement until they reach a mall and they all calmly exit the vehicle and enter the mall. Once inside they disappear. Cathy and Sally Ryan are badly injured and taken to Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Just about the time the attack on Cathy and Sally is taking place, a guard at Gate Three calls Breckenridge and reports a suspicious man loitering in a doorway across the street from the gate entrance. Breckenridge and the sergeant pretend to be leaving the guard shack at the end of a long day, approaching the loitering man. Breckenridge is fast, his hand on the man's gun before he can even move. Just then, Jack gets a call from the hospital and Robby insists on driving.

Chapter 14, Second Chances Analysis

The unthinkable has happened and the ULA has made an attack on Cathy and Sally Clark. At this point, they are alive, but hit the concrete highway barrier head-on at fifty miles per hour. The terrorists have certainly killed one State Trooper who had followed them, and then successfully eluded capture by disappearing into a crowded mall. At the Naval Academy, Jack is delayed by having to grade papers. His delay has made Ned Clark's loitering obvious outside of Gate 3. Breckenridge is summoned by a guard due to the loitering man's suspicious behavior. Apprehended by the black officer, Clark gives away his nationality by speaking. Having a gun on his person gives the Navy enough to hold him. Clancy uses a technique in this chapter of jumping from scene to scene in a super rapid manner. This accomplishes two things; one it relates the information as it is happening in numerous places at once. More importantly, it gives the feeling of extreme urgency to the point of panic, which is what is happening in this chapter.



Chapter 15, Shock and Trauma

Chapter 15, Shock and Trauma Summary

Breckenridge calls his captain, Mike Peters, in to handle the man that was apprehended outside of Gate 3. He has been given a quick briefing before the officer from Annapolis police arrives. They recommend that the FBI be notified as the suspect refuses to answer any questions. Because of Ryan's concern of a threat against him and his family, Breckenridge is very insistent that the FBI be called into the case. Bill Shaw gets the call and immediately sends a fax to London to Dan Murray and Commander Owens. Owens identifies the suspect as Eamon Clark, a very dangerous man, a convicted murderer who escaped from prison a year ago. Owens is immediately worried about Jack Ryan and is told that Ryan's family has been attacked. Owens puts in a call to the Queen, even though it is three in the morning to tell her of the attack on the Ryan family.

Robby Jackson gets Jack to the hospital in record time where there is actually nothing to do once they get there except wait. Finally, after five hours, Dr. Shapiro comes out to tell Jack the news that Cathy has suffered a broken humerus and a cut on her head. Her pregnancy will not be compromised and her surgical skills should not suffer. Sally, because she was unbuckled, does not fare so well. She has broken the left femur, tibia and fibula on both legs, six ribs on the right and all ribs on the left side of her chest, severely lacerated her spleen, liver, and large bowel. If her liver heals, it is likely she will survive. Robby talks privately to the doctor and finds out Cathy's arm injury was caused by a bullet. This is the first either he or Ryan realize the accident is the result of a ULA attack.

Chapter 15, Shock and Trauma Analysis

What Dan Murray in London had feared has happened. He is beating himself up about it, but Owens reminds him that they had no evidence that this could possibly happen. It had only been a hunch. They are happy to have Eamon Clark in custody, but the rest of the terrorists have, again, disappeared. Jack, too, is beating himself up for not doing more to protect his family. He had begun to lower his guard, truly believing that the ULA would not dare attack on U.S. soil. Now he knows better. His daughter is so badly injured she could still die. Sean Miller has created a serious adversary in Jack Ryan. While Jack is a civilized man, he has reached a door that can take him past the point of no return.



Chapter 16, Objectives and Patriots

Chapter 16, Objectives and Patriots Summary

The press has gotten the story of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil and are at the hospital in force to interview Jack Ryan. Most of their questions are idiotic. Then a newcomer enters the room, it is Padraig O'Neil, who wishes to give Ryan his sympathy and hope his prayers have had something to do with Sally's improved prognosis. Jack is unable to restrain himself. Here, less than five feet away is the mouthpiece for the Sinn Fein, the PIRA. While he knows the ULA is a somewhat separate faction, here is someone on whom he can take out his aggressions. Robby stops his friend just in time, but not before photographers have snapped a picture of Jack in action.

FBI agent Edward Donoho has been assigned to O'Neil and hates it. At first, he admired the man, but after the scene at the hospital, he sees the Sinn Fein mouthpiece as a piece of garbage that he is. Back at his uncle's Irish pub, the Patriots Club, Ed confronts his uncle, John Donoho. Ed challenges his uncle for supporting the likes of O'Neil when the PIRA is capable of attacking an innocent pregnant woman and young child. Ed shows his uncle photos of Cathy and Sally before and after the accident. Finally, John Donoho realizes he has been supporting terrorists rather than aiding in the cause to free Northern Ireland from British Rule. He ejects O'Neil from the bar. This accomplishes exactly what the ULA had set out to do. The responsibility for the terrorist attack has now been placed right at the feet of the PIRA.

Chapter 16, Objectives and Patriots Analysis

Clancy uses Edward Donoho's acrimonious conversation with his uncle, John, to explain the true nature of the Sinn Fein. Many Irish-Americans claim ties to Ireland and feel a sense of responsibility to support their "brothers in arms" back in Ireland who are fighting British rule over Northern Ireland, much as the Americans did during the Revolutionary War. Because of this sentimental connection, some Americans like pub owner, John Donoho, have refused to see the true nature of the PIRA. Edward Donoho finally persuades his uncle to listen to reason from the FBI. Unfortunately, the ULA is actually responsible for the terrorist attack on the Ryan family, and they had hoped that the PIRA would be blamed. In doing what he believes to be right, Edward Donoho has played right into the hands of the ULA.

"We had intelligence reports—and pictures—of people from Europe who flew in to do some killing. They were mainly kids, musta been from good families—I mean, from the way they dressed. No shit, this is for real, I saw the friggin' pictures. They joined up with some of the crazies, got guns and just started blasting away, at random, for the pure hell of it. They shot from those high-rise hotels and office buildings into the streets. With a rifle you can hit from a thousand yards away. Something moves—boom, they blast it with automatic weapons fire. Then they got to go home. They were killing people, for

fun! Maybe some of them grew up to be real terrorists, I don't know." Page 316 - 317, Chapter 16.



Chapter 17, Recriminations and Decisions

Chapter 17, Recriminations and Decisions Summary

Jack's visit with Cathy is spoiled by the presence of his father-in-law with whom Jack has not spoken in three years. Joe Muller is a senior Vice President with Merrill Lynch and still does not understand why Jack turned his back on a sure way to make a living. Joe and Jack have the beginnings of an argument in Cathy's hospital room until Jack chooses to leave Cathy in peace. When Joe accosts Jack later, he asks sarcastically how a punk history teacher is going to catch the people responsible for Cathy's accident and Jack has the satisfaction of telling his father-in-law he cannot tell him that.

All law enforcement agencies are doing everything in their power to track down the terrorists. They know that the driver of the van was a black man and so they will need to establish whether any black groups have connections with the ULA. Even though logic insists that the terrorists are long gone, all airports are still being watched. It is now a foregone conclusion that Jack will return to the CIA. His desire for revenge is far greater than his distaste to be employed by the CIA. He leaves for Langley at five in the morning, telling Admiral Greer that there is nothing to keep him home with both Cathy and Sally in the hospital. He challenges the admiral to determine now if Jack really does have what it takes to make the CIA cut.

Across the ocean, Scotland Yard is working on their list of possible informers, following all their movements. One individual on the list, Geoffrey Watkins, recently paid Dennis Cooley a visit at his rare bookshop. Owens thinks this might be important but David Ashley is more skeptical. Britain and the U.S. continue to work on the extradition process for Eamon Clark. Bill Shaw asks the criminal's attorney to give him the chance of talking or not. If Clark does not wish to talk, it is back to Britain he goes, to their dangerous penitentiary and the uncertain welcome he is sure to get for his failed mission in the U.S.

Chapter 17, Recriminations and Decisions Analysis

This chapter deals with all the grinding, mind-numbing details involved in a huge investigation. In the beginning, everything looks simultaneously like junk and a possible clue. Only methodical investigative methods will net a result. "The case was not going well; not that he'd expected otherwise. This sort of thing either cracked open immediately, or took months—or years. The people they were after were too clever to have left an immediate opening to be exploited. What remained for him and his men was the day-by-day grind. But that was the textbook definition of investigative police work." Page 345, Chapter 17.



Chapter 18, Lights

Chapter 18, Lights Summary

Ashley's curiosity is aroused by Watkins's visit to Cooley's bookshop. To allay his suspicious mind, he pays a visit to the bookshop, but Cooley's assistant, Beatrix, is there. Ashley talks with Beatrix and learns that Cooley makes frequent visits to Ireland. He takes this new clue to Commander Owens. The word "Ireland" puts the information in a totally new perspective and now Dennis Cooley is a person of Interest. There's nothing more yet, just a lead to be checked out. His frequent trips to Ireland are confirmed through his travel agent.

Ryan's work at the CIA now includes the satellite reconnaissance data, specifically areas on the Libyan desert in North Africa. Ryan is trying to correlate data suggesting increased occupancy of the camps with the disappearance of the terrorists and discovers four possibilities. One pattern he discovers is that camp occupancy goes up every three months by one, with two exceptions in the past two years. Ryan does discover a woman at one of the camps and Marty Cantor believes this information can be useful in a trade of information with the French, who are on the lookout for a number of female operatives.

The FBI's leads are no more promising. They have an eyewitness who has selected three possibilities as the driver of the van that shot at Cathy Ryan, two of whom are in prison. The third, Constantine Duppens, has dropped out of sight; his former associates have all been convicted for various crimes. He has a peripheral attachment to a group the FBI is watching. Constantine's first name is Alexander and he has plans of his own after helping the ULA complete their mission. Change is on the horizon and he plans to be part of it.

Chapter 18, Lights Analysis

Each law enforcement agency works essentially the same way. Each potential clue must be evaluated and tossed or kept based on their knowledge and intelligence and how the clue fits. Each agency is forced to cultivate patience, a quality none is born with, but mandatory in crime solving. Perseverance is the next important characteristic, being willing to take just one more look, ask just one more questions, share just one more idea and then sometimes the entire puzzle is solved. In addition, when it is not, it is time to start back at the beginning and work through the process one more time.



Chapter 19, Tests and Passing Grades

Chapter 19, Tests and Passing Grades Summary

Dennis Cooley's background is relatively benign. The only link between Cooley and O'Donnell is that they were both in university at the same time and shared an economics instructor, but there is no evidence so far to indicate that the two men know one another. The best the analysts can do is to put listening devices in his shop, bug his phone, and tail him on his trips to Ireland. Again, pure, routine policework is necessary. In America, Jack feels as though he is striking out as well. He has moved from the satellite photos to correlating data in order to identify patterns within the terrorist network. "Which group had connections with which other? Where did their arms come from? Where did they train? Who helped with the training? Who provided the money? Travel documents? What countries did they use for safe transits?" Page 365, Chapter 19. His identification of a woman at one of the camps was well received by the French. Cantor tells Jack that he came up with a really good bargaining chip with that. Dedication to tedious detail is how they will find the terrorists.

Alex and Sean Miller meet again. The news that His Highness will be traveling to the U.S. this coming summer has given them their next target opportunity. A second operation with Alex's group is now being planned, with Alex insisting on more of a say this time. Owens and Murphy are not happy that His Royal Highness is heading to the U.S. with the princess. They were able, however, to persuade him to leave the baby at home.

Jack has been ordered to work shorter days by Admiral Greer who does not want the brilliant young man to burn out. Jack is determined to find the terrorists, but does not have enough sense to pace himself. In an effort to relax, Jack attends a lecture on Political Affairs in Europe, given at Georgetown University. After the lecture, Ryan is approached by a Soviet Embassy secretary, Sergey Platanov. After they spar verbally for a bit, Jack is rescued by Father Tim Riley. Jack does not understand why the Russian had approached him and Fr. Tim enlightens him. Word gets around, and it is no secret that Jack is now with the CIA. The priest tries to counsel Jack, encouraging him by saying that the world needs honest people like Jack in such a position. He also warns Jack that there are laws in a civilized world for a reason.

Chapter 19, Tests and Passing Grades Analysis

Again, routine leg and paperwork continue in the investigation with some possible clues coming to light. The next operation is now clear. His Royal Highness is planning a trip to the U.S. and the reader knows that the ULA's intelligence is still working, they know faster than the American FBI or CIA. The ULA is terrifying in its professional and cruel direction. The way they approach an operation is to leave absolutely nothing to chance.

It is apparent that the terrorists and law enforcement are on a collision course. The only question to be answered is "when" they will meet.



Chapter 20, Data

Chapter 20, Data Summary

The surveillance of Dennis Cooley's bookshop continues, and Watkins is observed and heard entering the shop. Some of the interchange is written, as is Cooley's habit when setting the price of a book. Owens and Ashley cannot establish a positive link between the two men as Watkins always pays in cash. Ashley suspects that is because checks are dated. Watkins's past military history is unveiled and he, personally, had a very bad time in Northern Ireland, he lost four of his men. It might be enough motivation to turn against the crown.

Bringing Sally home is one of the happiest days of Jack's life. "The scenery had changed since the . . . accident. What had been bare trees now had the green edges of buds and leaves with the beginning of spring. Horses and cows were out on the farms. Some calves and colts were visible, and Sally's nose pressed against the car window as she looked at them. As it did every year, life was renewing itself, Ryan told himself. His family was whole again, and he'd keep it that way." Page 390, Chapter 20. Sally is not the same little girl she was. She is a little frightened, lethargic, and sad. The change in Sally angers Jack, and increases his resolve to get retribution. As a surprise, Jack presents Sally with a welcome home gift; a black Labrador Retriever puppy named Earl. Instantly, Sally is a typical little girl again, running around after the puppy. This is not what Cathy would have chosen as therapy, and what she does not know is that Jack really wanted to get Sally a huge vicious dog who really could protect her, but common sense prevailed and Earl won. He also wins Sally's heart.

A direct contrast to the touching homecoming scene is the continuing surveillance of the Ryan property by Alex and his group. Alex is not willing to hurt Sally or Cathy this time and he makes no excuses about it when talking with Sean Miller. Previously Miller had thought Alex to be a really sharp rebel, but in Sean's mind, a true revolutionary does not allow sentimentality to interfere with the desired result. Sacrifices must be made for the Cause.

Chapter 20, Data Analysis

Clancy uses a compare contrast writing method in this chapter where he compares the true love and devotion of a close family to the despicable horror that is the ULA terrorist and fringe revolutionary. A greater contrast is difficult to find. The comparison of an innocent, pure of heart child with that of a cold-blooded murderer makes the reader cringe. All that the terrorists and revolutionaries stand for, their ideologies fly in the face of civilized thought when they make innocent women and children their targets. Alex and Sean contrasted against one another demonstrate an unusual dichotomy. Alex and his group have some scruples about targeting women and children whereas Sean Miller's ULA has ceased to resemble humankind. By dispensing with natural law, the

ULA can only be subhuman, on the level of a crazed animal, for even animals only kill for food or to protect their young and themselves.



Chapter 21, Plans

Chapter 21, Plans Summary

The terrorists, Miller and O'Donnell, continue their plans for the upcoming operation with Sean complaining about Alex allowing his personal feelings to interfere with the goal. As a result, Sean wishes to limit Alex's role in the operation. They discuss every contingency and establish a training schedule to begin a month prior to the operation. While the terrorists plan for their event, Owens and Murray plan for the same event with the difference being the outcome. The safety of His Royal Highness is paramount and they are trying to anticipate any move the terrorists might make.

In America, Jack is taken to a secret viewing room where he watches a delayed feed of a satellite transmission of the camp where the French terrorists are believed to be. In less than ten minutes the camp is neutralized, the terrorists captured, and all evidence of their covert visit erased. Ryan is disturbed by the operation and the role he played in it when he identified the woman in the camp. He realizes that in order for the world to remain civilized that this sort of threat must be eliminated. There are laws and processes established, but when terrorists are added to the equation, they pervert the laws and processes, using them against the democratic society that enacted them. He realizes that the only solution is international cooperation as he had done without realizing it.

The FBI finally gets a break in the Ryan case. Robert Newton and his son were fishing in a quarry and hooked onto an Uzi that had been tossed into the deep quarry waters. It is a perfect match for the bullets removed from the slain State Trooper and Cathy Ryan's car. Newton recalls seeing a van stuck in the mud there one day, and the black driver was swearing up a storm. This is a second eyewitness to one of the terrorists being a black man. Newton and his son are sworn to secrecy for their safety and for the bureau's benefit.

Chapter 21, Plans Analysis

Clancy presents a true quandary for the reader regarding the question of terrorism and how to handle it. Civilization is based on certain precepts, and in America, democratic processes. All individuals are guaranteed specific rights. The question that arises is in determining when such rights have been waived. In the circumstance of terrorism, some terrorists have no conscience about anything but their personal ideology or cause. However, when caught, they use the democratic processes in place to protect themselves. They can virtually hold a society hostage against itself, unless that society can break its own rules. Ryan saw those rules broke. That is what disturbs Jack. It is a tribute to the rightness of the laws and processes. Those who are not disturbed by it are the ones who terrify.



Chapte 22, Procedures

Chapte 22, Procedures Summary

The discovery of the gun at the quarry excites the FBI. They go to investigate the scene thoroughly, knowing that finding anything new is unlikely. They are seen leaving the site by Alex, who recognizes the vans as being from the FBI. He has studied police procedure and his mind immediately runs through the potential risk of their activities at the quarry. He realizes that the gun has probably been found and they must now discard what they have and get new guns. After evaluating the situation dispassionately, Alex believes they are in no danger of being identified. Ryan is working to make some connection between the gun and who bought it. What he finds is that the gears of the CIA move very slowly and that he must temper his enthusiasm and learn to accept the pace for what it is. At home, Jack is marveling at Sally's improvement and how their life is returning to normal. The Ryans are eagerly expecting the birth of their second child and Jack realizes how very lucky he is to have his family intact around him. He and Robby argue about terrorists and the right and wrong way to handle them. He knows that some of what Robby says is true and some is not.

Chapte 22, Procedures Analysis

The cool and calculated manner of Alex helps the reader to see just how dangerous the terrorists can be. The average person would feel guilt immediately, but Alex sees it merely as a job that needs to be done and is unemotional in his evaluations. Again, the contrast between the more likeable of the two terrorists and the Ryan family is stark and jarring. Regardless of Alex's motivation, he is still threatening to the Ryan family's sense of peace and right to live quietly and lovingly.



Chapter 23, Movement

Chapter 23, Movement Summary

Jack Ryan is back in the satellite reconnaissance center and they are evaluating the three remaining camps. They are looking to target the ULA camp, if they possibly can. The satellite images are not clear enough to show facial images, but Ryan thinks Camp-18 is the target based on a line of six men in a target shooting line and one of the men has a beard and light-skinned arms. Jack has gotten over his qualms about his role in the French camp's demise, and that bothers him slightly; that he has gotten over it so easily. However, he does realize that international cooperation is one of the few truly effective ways to shut terrorists down.

Back in London, Cooley is startled by a very small electrical fire in his shop. The electrician who responds to his call finds a wire far younger than the 1919 wiring original to the building. Cooley recognizes it as a bug and calls Beatrix to handle the shop. He leaves and as instructed takes the underground to the next station, then a taxi. He makes a call in code to a number, notifying he has been breached. His contact then calls Watkins in similar code. Owens knows it is likely a code, but because Cooley did not contact Watkins, they have nothing to connect the two men. Cooley is met in Paris by O'Donnell and asks to be allowed in on the project. Cooley is beside himself that the Brits have spied on him and he has lost his precious bookshop to the enemy. He is beyond incensed. Cooley later appears on the satellite photos at Camp-18, as he is the only bald man known to be in the ULA. A raid is planned. Meanwhile, the Ryans discover they are to host the Prince and Princess of Wales at their home. Naturally, heavy security is necessary and expected.

Chapter 23, Movement Analysis

As Jack has continued his work on locating the ULA, he has come to a kind of understanding with himself about the nature of the beast and his role in its extermination. Initially, it really bothered him that he had been party responsible for the raid on the French camp. However, since that event, he has given the matter careful thought and there is a point where one must stand firm for the best good. To give terrorists the honor of fair and compassionate treatment is to enable them to continue their reign of terror. Only by forming an international alliance will countries be able to take a firmer stand against terrorism.



Chapter 24, Connections Missed and Made

Chapter 24, Connections Missed and Made Summary

The proposed raid on Camp-18 is to be led by the French in much the same way they obliterated the French terrorist camp. A sandstorm delays the operation. Then, while Ryan and Cantor are watching real time, the satellite infrared reveals a nearly empty camp and no apparent operation. It turns out that the French surprised a military exercise and had to abandon the raid. It appears, however, that it is too late anyway. The ULA camp is empty and Ryan feels the fear of the hunted. If they do not know where the ULA is, then the element of surprise is on the side of the terrorists now. Security for the upcoming royal visit to the Ryan's house is a serious business. Jack is not even allowed to know how many men will be on security detail. Jack's reaction to the knowledge that the ULA probably knows about the party is one of fear, terror, and then anger. He wonders how the Prince lives with that sort of fear on a daily basis. As for Alex's group, they have rented a safehouse on an acre of property, and the unfortunate agent who closed the deal is shot.

Chapter 24, Connections Missed and Made Analysis

The objective is now known on both sides. The element of surprise for the terrorists is over, for security for His Royal Highness is well aware that someone inside is a traitor and that His Royal Highness is in danger. While it appears brave to continue with the party, the reader has to wonder why the party is not populated only with security, the Ryans, and the Royal Couple hidden somewhere for safekeeping. There is something to be said for now allowing one's life to be altered by terrorism, but if the actual target or objective is truly known, a better plan might be a surprise attack.



Chapter 25, Rendezvous

Chapter 25, Rendezvous Summary

The Ryans welcome their very special guests, the Prince and Princess of Wales to their home. Cathy is within a week of her delivery due-date and is very uncomfortable with the heat. Sally is beautifully recovered and remembers to curtsy to the Prince and Princess. A short time later, Robby and Sissy Jackson arrive; immediately Robby monopolizes the Prince with conversations about flying. Jack prepares steak on the grill, baked potatoes, corn on the cob, and Cathy's special salad round out a traditional American cookout menu. Everything on the surface appears to be normal, but underneath there is tension everywhere. An earlier report about a van shooting at a State Trooper diverts troops, as does the report of machine guns at a house in Howard County. A BG and E truck is allowed past the intense security to look at the faulty transformer that is responsible for the lights going on and off. Alex is the driver and because his story has enough truth to it, he and his men are allowed in. A fierce storm has been brewing all afternoon and it is now over the Ryan's house. The BG and E truck returns, no one is suspicious yet. Alex's team is able to kill seven guards within the first couple seconds. Moments later, Sean Miller is inside Ryan's house with three of his men, soon joined by five more. Only Robby is not in the room when the attack occurs. He'd been in the bathroom. Robby knows that Jack has a shotgun and a pistol, so he finds them and prepares to attack from the upstairs master bedroom that has a hole overlooking the living room. All additional assistance is delayed by either weather or their inability to get past Sean's men.

Chapter 25, Rendezvous Analysis

This is the beginning of the climax of the story. All through the book, everything has been building toward Ryan's face-off with Sean Miller. That the Royal Family is there is a nice literary touch, but this has become a completely personal vendetta between Jack Ryan and Sean Miller. It is easy to understand Jack's position; he hates terrorism, he could not help interfering in London. He cannot stand by now and watch his family hurt as they have been. What is puzzling is that Sean Miller has been painted as some sort of automaton and yet he absolutely must get his revenge against Jack Ryan. Both men hate. What separates them is the justification for that hatred. Ryan is on the side of life, liberty, and the guaranteed pursuit of happiness. Miller merely wants revenge for being made to look bad in the eyes of the ULA.



Chapter 26, The Sound of Freedom

Chapter 26, The Sound of Freedom Summary

The element of surprise works for Robby. Taking careful aim, he kills two of the three terrorists who remained in the room to tie up the captives. Dennis Cooley is the remaining terrorist and he is stunned. The former hostages quickly untie themselves and are able to force Cooley into divulging the proposed escape plan for the terrorists. A terrifying trip down the cliffs to the two boats is followed by an aquatic chase scene in the dark with fairly high seas in a storm. The Prince pilots the boat to Annapolis Naval Academy where they find the backup they need. Breckenridge is on duty and makes the necessary calls. The terrorist boat attempts to dock next to the vessel the hostages had used to escape. Heavy fire from all the military personnel on shore causes them to change their mind and course. Back out at sea the terrorists attempt to flee. Ryan, Robby, Breckenridge and His Royal Highness join the Navy boat in pursuit. En route, they get intelligence on ships in the area and Jack, ever the analyst, pinpoints the Costanza, a Cypriot vessel, as the likely escape route for the terrorists. Coast Guard, Navy, and local law enforcement converge on the Costanza, place her crew on notice, and wait for the terrorists. Like clockwork, the good guys finally take the day. When Ryan spots Sean Miller, he believes that he will kill him. Forcing his pistol into the terrorist's mouth, Ryan puts his hand on the trigger. Breckenridge comes from behind Ryan and pulls Jack's hand down. The gun was not cocked and would not have fired, but for a moment, Jack wanted to forget about being civilized. His higher nature wins. Back at the Naval Academy, Jack is just in time to see his son, Jack Ryan, Jr. born.

Chapter 26, The Sound of Freedom Analysis

The final chapter of Patriot Games is as exciting as it gets. Clancy goes into great detail about the attack at the Ryan's, the hair-raising journey down the cliff, the nighttime ride through stormy seas to the safety of the Naval Academy are written in a high drama manner that has the reader racing from scene to scene to see what happens next. After all the previous failures, the reader is finally satisfied when the terrorists are finally apprehended and peace and order is restored to the world, at least for the time being.



Characters

Jack Ryan

Jack Ryan is the protagonist of *Patriot Games*. He's a former Marine, and current instructor of history at the American Naval Academy. Jack has done a little bit of work with the CIA in the past, garnering the attention of Admiral James Greer, who recognizes the young man's brilliance and analytical mind. Greer believes him to be prime CIA material, however Ryan has resisted the invitation. While in London, Jack finds himself embroiled in a ULA plot to kidnap the Prince and Princess of Wales and their infant son. His injury and actions gain him undesired notoriety, and he becomes a character of great interest for the ULA, especially Sean Miller. Ryan's interest in the ULA continues after his return to the states and he arranges for a temporary assignment at the CIA in order to evaluate and analyze what they have on the ULA. Once he completes that sixty-page report, Ryan believes that he is finished with the CIA, until his wife and daughter are attacked by the very same terrorist group. This raises in him an ire he did not know he had. Formerly bound by all laws of the civilized world, Ryan now believes that he will do everything in his power to hunt the ULA and eliminate them, especially Sean Miller. Ryan returns to the CIA permanently, working exclusively on the ULA problem. He analyzes everything, from records to reconnaissance satellite images of believe terrorist training camps in North Africa. To have a terrorist organization at work on U.S. soil is an affront to the American way of life, to have a terrorist group targeting his family is an act of war in Ryan's eyes. He will stop at nothing to eliminate the ULA.

Cathy Ryan

Cathy Ryan is the wife of Jack Ryan, daughter to Joe Muller, and one of the best ophthalmologic surgeons at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Cathy's training as a surgeon has taught her to do things one way and one way only, the right way. Any other way is the wrong way. This training has colored all aspects of Cathy Ryan's life, from her work performance to her piano playing to her daily routine. If she is more than a few minutes off schedule, it bothers her. This is what causes her to be such a perfect target for the terrorists. Despite Jack's insistence that she vary her routine and her routes to work, Cathy resists changing the timing of everything. Because of this, the terrorists are able to pinpoint exactly where she is or where she will be at the time of the attack. Cathy is a strong woman, very independent, but loves her husband very much. Her skill as a surgeon is unsurpassed, and she is an easy doctor to work with, something that is unusual in female doctors and female nurses.



Sally Ryan

Sally Ryan is Jack Ryan's four-year-old daughter who is injured in a terrorist attack and nearly dies.

Anthony Wilson

Anthony Wilson is part of the C-13 Anti-Terrorist Branch in London, assigned to guard Ryan in the hospital.

John Michael McCrory

John Michael McCrory is the ULA man Ryan kills in London.

Prince of Wales

The Prince of Wales is presumably Prince Charles, but His Royal Highness is never named.

Princess of Wales

The Princess of Wales is presumably Princess Diana, but Her Royal Highness is never named.

Charlie Winston

Charlie Winston is the Royal family's security escort, whose last act was to put up the partition glass before attempting to defend himself. He died in the attack.

Sir Charles Scott

Sir Charles Scott is the famous orthopedic surgeon who operates on Ryan.

Commander James Owen

Commander James Owen is a senior police officer, who works closely with FBI agent Dan Murray on the ULA issue.

Chief Superintendent William Taylor

Chief Superintendent William Taylor is a police officer.



David Ashley

David Ashley is an MI-6 operative.

William Greville

William Greville is of the Special Air Service 22nd Regiment and assigned to escort Cathy and Sally on their sightseeing around the English countryside while Jack recuperates.

Sean Miller

Sean Miller is the book's antagonist and the terrorist whom Jack Ryan wounds. He escapes from British custody and declares revenge against Jack Ryan and his family. Miller is a member of the ULA and has a good mind for developing operations. However, after he was foiled by Ryan in London, he makes the mistake of allowing the personal desire for revenge to cloud his thinking. His next operations do not end successfully. Sean Miller is the personification of pure evil.

Kevin Joseph O'Donnell

Kevin Joseph O'Donnell is the head of the ULA and a previous member of the PIRA. He was kicked out of the PIRA for not following their rules. Decides to create a new and better organization that will totally restructure Ireland, and anyone who disagrees will die.

Mickey Baird

Mickey Baird worked with Kevin O'Donnell and was killed when he told of a secret informant for the ULA organization.

Mr. Murphy

Mr. Murphy is the PIRA leader who meets with David Ashley at Flanagan's Steakhouse in Dublin.

Dennis Cooley

Dennis Cooley is the owner of the rare bookshop in Piccadilly. He runs the intelligence operation for the ULA, but does not know the contents of the information passing through his hands.



Dan Murray

Dan Murray is the Legal Attaché at the British Embassy, and an FBI agent. He gives Ryan his initial information on the ULA and continues to work with the FBI and CIA in the U.S. as the operation continues.

Admiral James Greer

Admiral James Greer is the CIA administrator who wants to bring Jack Ryan officially into the CIA to groom and train him. His gift is really knowing people.

Sir Basil Chesterton

Sir Basil Chesterton is Admiral of the Royal Navy and Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service.

Bill Holmes

Bill Holmes is a British Intelligence agent.

Geoffrey Watkins

Geoffrey Watkins is part of the British Foreign Office and acts as liaison officer between the Royal Family and the Foreign office. He is not cleared for secret information. He is the informant for the ULA, giving them critical information for their operations.

William Richards

William Richards is the QC Prosecutor of Sean Miller.

Charles Atkinson

Charles Atkinson is the Defense Barrister for Sean Miller.

Oliver Wendell Tyler

Oliver Wendell Tyler is the former Offensive tackle and close friend of Jack Ryan. He is injured and left with a prosthetic leg.



Jean Tyler

Jean Tyler is Oliver's wife and good friend of Cathy Ryan.

Michael Jameson

Michael Jameson is O'Donnell's man, young and earnest.

Maureen Dwyer

Maureen Dwyer is a PRIA bombing specialist.

Robert Jefferson Jackson

Robert Jefferson Jackson is a great friend to Jack Ryan. He helps Jack see the reasoning behind learning to shoot better, drives Jack to the hospital after his family is attacked, and is the one who manages to gain the upper hand when the terrorists surge Jack's home.

Sergeant Robert Highland

Sergeant Robert Highland is a police guard, who helped Sean Miller once and was shot by Sean during the terrorist's escape.

Marty Cantor

Marty Cantor is a CIA operative and personal assistant to Admiral Greer.

Queen of England

The Queen of England is the reigning monarch of the United Kingdom. She personally took care of Ryan's family during his recuperation in the hospital while in London and sent a personal telegram after Cathy and Sally were injured.

Alex Constantine Dobbins

Alex Constantine Dobbins, a.k.a. Constantine Duppens, is an American black revolutionary. There is no indication of the name of the group to which he has ties, but he and his group work both American operations with the ULA, looking for a bigger role in future operations. Alex is a bit more sentimental than Sean Miller, believing that it is



against the laws of nature to hurt women and children, and he has made a pact with himself to avoid doing that if at all possible.

Padraig O'Neil

Padraig O'Neil is the front man for the PIRA, in America to raise emotional feelings for Ireland and to raise money for arms for the cause.

Ned Clark

Ned Clark, a.k.a. Eamon Clark, is the ULA member, waiting outside of Gate 3 at the Naval Academy to attack Dr. Ryan. He is apprehended and will be sent back to Britain for trial.

Geoffrey Bennet

Geoffrey Bennet is the Charge d'Affairs at the British Embassy.

Edward Wayson

Edward Wayson is the security officer assigned to Ryan after the attack on his family.

Captain Mike Peters

Captain Mike Peters is the Naval Captain at the Naval Academy.

Barry Shapiro

Barry Shapiro is the surgeon who saves Sally's life.

Emil Jacobs

Emil Jacobs is the Director of the FBI

Ed Donoho

Ed Donoho is the FBI agent assigned to accompany Padraig O'Neil of the Sinn Fein.



John Donoho

John Donoho is the owner of Patriots Club pub who has sponsored O'Neil in the past, but chooses to change his tune when he hears of what has happened to the Ryan family.

Joe Muller

Joe Muller is Cathy Ryan's father, from whom Jack is estranged.

Rich Kinter

Rich Kinter is a surgeon.

Nick Capitano

Nick Capitano is an FBI agent.

Beatrix

Beatrix works as Cooleys bookshop assistant and hates the Irish.

Sergey Platonov

Sergey Platonov is the Third Secretary of the Soviet Embassy who meets Ryan at a lecture and tries to figure the man out.

Father Timothy Riley

Father Timothy Riley is a Catholic priest and friend of Jack Ryan. He tells Jack that the good guys need people like Jack working for them.

Robert Newton

Robert Newton is the man who finds Uzi in the quarry fishing hole.



Objects/Places

London

London is where Jack Ryan foils the ULA's plan to kill the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and their young son. Catalyst for the story.

The Mall

The Mall is the area near Buckingham Palace in London where the attack takes place.

Kalashnikov

Kalashnikov is the machine gun used in the attack.

ULA

ULA stands for Ulster Liberation Army, Maoist offshoot of Provos.

Bullet Proof Glass

Bullet Proof Glass is a polycarbonate that deteriorates after a year in direct sunlight-explaining why the windshield failed on the Rolls Royce but the inner shield held.

PIRA

PIRA stands for the Provisional Wing of the Irish Republican Army, a.k.a. Provos.

Pain Medication

Pain Medication is necessary to dull pain enough to allow healing, but Ryan had once become addicted during a previous injury and fears a repeat performance.

Flanagan's Steakhouse

Flanagan's Steakhouse in Dublin, Ireland, is the meeting place between PIRA members and David Ashley, Security Service executive.



Sinn Fein

Sinn Fein is the political figurehead of the PIRA, with an elected representative who has been granted a seat in British Parliament.

Rare Book Shop

The Rare Bookshop in Burlington Arcade in Piccadilly is where the ULA drops off and picks up intelligence.

RUC

RUC stands for the Royal Ulster Constabulary - local Ulster cops.

INLA

INLA stands for the Irish National Liberation Army, main rival of the PIRA.

Scotland Yard

Scotland Yard is the headquarters for the Metropolitan Police Service in London.

MI-6

MI-6 represents the Secret Intelligence Service of Britain, much like the CIA in the U.S.

Canary Trap

Canary Trap is the Intelligence report authored by Jack Ryan to determine who is giving away secrets.

Concorde

The Concorde is the fastest form of air travel.

Heathrow

Heathrow is an airport in London.



Porsche 911

The Porsche 911 is Cathy Ryan's green car that goes like the wind. It's easy for the terrorists to spot on the freeway.

Uzi

Uzi is found in the quarry, one of the first breaks in the Ryan case.

BG & E Truck

A BG & E Truck is used by Alex to legitimize his presence at the end of the Ryan's road the night of the attack.

Target Award

The Target Award is presented to Jack Ryan by his class for his service in London, with the advice that the next time a bullet comes at him he is to duck.

Stuffed Bear

A Big Stuffed Bear is given to Sally Ryan while she recuperates in the Hospital.

Earl

Earl is the Black Labrador puppy given to Sally Ryan by Jack to help her recover after coming home.

Hidden Microphone

A Hidden Microphone gives Cooley warning that he is under surveillance.

Terrorist Training Camp

The Terrorist Training Camp is located in Libya, North Africa.

Reconnaissance Satellites

Reconnaissance Satellites are used by most countries to monitor activity in areas of interest throughout the world.



Social Sensitivity

Terrorism is at the heart of *Patriot Games*. CIA officer Jack Ryan stumbles upon a plot to kidnap the Prince and Princess of Wales and their child. Although seriously wounded in the attempt, Ryan thwarts the kidnapping and saves the royal couple.

A small Marxist terrorist group that has split from the Irish Republican Army is responsible for the failed kidnapping. To punish Ryan for interfering, this group decides to kill his family and make the murders look like the work of the IRA, thus discrediting the organization and allowing the splinter group to supplant the IRA in leading a terrorism campaign against the British. Throughout the novel, Clancy displays a graphic revulsion against terrorists. IRA members come off as frauds and hypocrites, and their American supporters are unmasked, not only as frauds, but as fools. Other terrorist organizations are portrayed as appallingly cruel and despicable.

The novel shows only mild interest in the issues involved in the dispute between the IRA and the United Kingdom over who should rule Northern Ireland. Instead, it suggests that terrorism invalidates a cause, no matter how just it may have been. When an Irish-American bar owner tosses an IRA agent out on his ear after viewing photographs of the terrorists' handiwork, Clancy leaves little doubt that rejection of the IRA is the appropriate response to its terrorism.



Techniques

Typical of a good thriller, *Patriot Games* has an exciting beginning that reveals Ryan as a man capable of dramatic and decisive action. He does not come off as a James Bond type, however. Bond might blow up a car or two, mangle the terrorists, possibly get a knock on the head, and brush the dust off his suit, but Ryan is shot and seriously wounded, and even as he plays the hero, he is ambivalent about shooting the terrorists. He does not take killing lightly. Thus, even as his marine training takes over his actions, Ryan is shown to be thoughtful, as well.

Further, he is shown to be much loved by his family. Thus, the action-filled opening not only charges swiftly into the main plot, but it introduces a complex and well-rounded main character.

Patriot Games resembles Clancy's earlier novels in its rapidly shifting scenes, but here the technique is less pronounced because of Clancy's use of a strong central character to focus the action. The narrower scope of *Patriot Games* makes the plot easier to follow than *Red Storm Rising* (1986; see separate entry).



Themes

Elimination of Terrorism Requires International Cooperation

At first, Ryan believes once he returns to the United States that the worst is behind him and all he must do is recover from his gunshot wound, after all, the "Irish Problem" is Britain's problem, not his. That is until analysis of the ULA and their ideology points to the possibility that they might strike in the United States. For Jack Ryan, the possibility became a probability. With his family in the hospital, Jack joins the CIA and through them discovers that terrorism is a worldwide threat. Initially all he intended to do was to locate the ULA and eliminate them. What he discovers through working at the CIA is that there are terrorist cells working all over the world. What he discovers that bothers him the most is that there are nations that actually host terrorist groups and camps, countries such as Libya where the ULA, the PIRA, and the French operative camps are located

When Jack first identified a woman at one of the camps, he really did not think it very important. Later he discovers that his discovery had been shared with the French who sent in a covert team to capture the operatives from that camp. Ryan later learns that the operatives were tried and executed by a law other than the laws of France. This bothers Jack Ryan, but he realizes that the French operatives are guilty of the same kind of crimes the ULA are guilty of. There really is no difference. By working with other countries, a terrorist group is more likely to be discovered and eliminated. Through the CIA, Jack works with Britain and France to help eliminate the ULA threat for the Ryans and the Royal Family. Even if terrorism does not strike personally, it is an affront to a democratic system. Terrorists attack innocents and then they expect to take advantage of the laws protecting their rights. International cooperation is the only way to prevent terrorist groups from growing and believing in their right to operate as they see fit.

Desire for Independence Is No Excuse For Terrorism

A study of the desire for Independence on the part of the Irish people is a history that is actually hundreds of years old. The most recent and difficult to accept is the question of the formation of a group called the PIRA, the Provisional Irish Republican Army. The group has its roots in the IRA formed early in the twentieth century. The PIRA became an entity in 1969 and determined to use military force and political means in order to rid Northern Ireland of British Rule. Sinn Fein is the political figurehead of the PIRA and was granted a seat in the British Parliament, but the seat was not occupied. This was a political move to deny the authority of Britain. The development of the PIRA instituted a situation of war and terrorist activity in Ireland that most people in America really know nothing about. Most Irish-Americans believe that their Irish heritage is something they wish to be proud of, and these are the same Americans who will gather at a Sinn-Fein convention and pledge support, mostly monetary, to the cause back in Ireland. The



problem with the PIRA is that they resorted to terrorist attacks both in Ireland and in England in order to achieve their aim. Independence is a superb goal, but to resort to terrorism, killing innocent men, women, and children in order to achieve it is very wrong. In the story, the Prince of Wales asks Jack Ryan for his opinion of the Irish Problem. Jack's answer might not necessarily have solved the problem for His Highness, but it sets him on the right course:

" I guess maybe it comes down to justice. If people believe in their society, they don't break its rules. The trick's making them believe. Hell, we can't always accomplish that.' Jack turned. 'But you try your best, and you don't quit. Every problem has a solution if you work at it long enough. You have a pretty good system over there. You just have to make it work for everybody, and do it well enough that they believe. It's not easy, but I think you can do it. Sooner or later, civilization always wins over barbarism.'" Page 536 - 537, Chapter 26.

Terrorism is a Crime Against Innocent People

Prior to the opening event in London, Jack Ryan has never experienced the effects of terrorism firsthand before. What is even worse is that his family was present and in danger. As a trained Marine, Ryan assesses the situation and can see that the men armed with machine guns and grenades are shooting at unarmed passengers in a Rolls Royce.

This is terrorism. When innocent and unarmed people are being killed, it is called terrorism. The ULA's goal is to kidnap the Prince and Princess of Wales and their infant son and hold them ransom to the ULA's demands. Robby makes his feelings very clear when it comes to terrorists: "Bull-shit man! Professionals don't hurt kids. Hey, they want to take a shot at a soldier or a cop, okay, I can understand that—it ain't right, but I can understand it." Page 249, Chapter 22.

Even Alex, a revolutionary knows that terrorism against innocents is wrong. "Alex knew objectively that this was a stupid way for a revolutionary to think. Sentimentality had no place in his mission; it got in the way of what he had to do, prolonging the task and causing more deaths in the process. He also knew the taboos against injuring children were part of the genetic programming of any human being. Mankind had progressed in its knowledge since Marx and Lenin. So whenever possible, he'd avoid injuring kids." Page 390, Chapter 20. What makes Alex a terrorist is that he will only avoid injuring kids whenever possible. A normal individual will never hurt a child.

With the threat of terrorism on his doorstep, Jack Ryan takes some measures to protect himself and his family. He and Cathy vary their routes to and from work. An alarm system is installed in his house and Jack polishes his marksmanship at the gun range. Sadly, the measures are not adequate. Cathy and Sally are shot at on the freeway and Jack nearly loses his family when their car smashes into a highway barrier. Because of terrorist activity, a pregnant woman and four-year-old child were one of the main targets



in this operation. The goal is to give bad press to the PIRA, and Sean Miller chose two innocents to do it. Terrorism is evil.

Significant Topics

Violence is present throughout *Patriot Games*, and the cruel violence of terrorism suffuses the lives of the principal characters with fear and anger. In spite of their high-sounding ideal of establishing a Marxist Utopia in Ireland, the terrorists' indiscriminate use of violence serves to underscore their moral repulsiveness; for Clancy they are merely animals who would murder children to achieve their political ends.

Hatred is another theme in the novel.

The terrorists are motivated by a hatred of the English. Any cruelty, any torture, any infliction of pain is justified by their view of the English as evil oppressors.

But hatred is not the sole property of the Irish terrorists. Ryan hates them for their cowardly attacks, especially for their attempt to murder his wife and child. But his hatred differs from theirs; throughout the second half of the novel he strives to understand and overcome his hatred. He joins the CIA in part because he wishes to exact revenge on the terrorists, but also because he wants to work legally to end their threat to society. Furthermore, when he has the chance to gun down one of the men responsible for his family's suffering, Ryan consciously chooses to relax his trigger finger and let the law deal with his enemies.

The theme of courage is explored in depth, showing its complexities and ambiguities. The terrorists see themselves as waging a daring war on the oppressors of their homeland. Even so, they appear cowardly because their attacks are directed against defenseless people. Although the prince is heir to the English throne and a representative of the government, Clancy lays particular stress on the prince's child, who is the principal target of the kidnaping attempt. The implication is clear; terrorists lack the fortitude to attack the strong—they prey on the weak. Ultimately, their attacks on civilians and innocent bystanders show them to be well-trained, coldly calculating cowards.

In contrast, those who represent civilized behavior are more courageous than the terrorists because they choose to protect the innocent. Ryan takes on two heavily armed men when he sees them shoot up the car in which the Prince of Wales and his family are riding. He is badly hurt in the process, but he saves the lives of the intended victims. He is treated as a hero and knighted by the Queen.

All of this would seem to make cowardice and courage in *Patriot Games* a black-and-white issue, but Clancy explores the deeper implications of his theme. For example, the Prince of Wales is depressed because he lay on top of his family on the floor of their automobile, while Ryan risked his life to save them.



The prince feels he should have confronted his attackers, but Ryan points out that courage takes many forms, and that courageous acts do not succeed without good sense. By shielding his family, the prince did the sensibly courageous thing.

Had he instinctively jumped from the car, he would have been mowed down by a waiting terrorist.

Throughout the novel, Clancy examines courage from different perspectives: Terrorists hide in darkened doorways; U.S. Marines expose themselves to danger to protect others from the hiding terrorists. When the terrorists attempt to invade the Naval Academy, even the cadets respond heroically, exposing themselves to death to protect Ryan, his companions, and the academy.

Style

Point of View

Point of view is that of an omniscient narrator, third person perspective from numerous character viewpoints. Jack Ryan, as the main character is the defining character, but the viewpoint is not limited to his viewpoint. The story is a convoluted and complex espionage story and much of the drama and pacing of the story results from the reader learning something that the main character does not know. This intensifies the action dramatically, because the reader knows that danger is just around the corner and wishes that there were some way to notify Jack or Cathy Ryan that something is going to happen. This is a really great technique for increasing the dramatic pace of the story. The author uses a technique throughout the story of increasing the excitement by jumping from scene to scene, especially when the action has built to a frenzied pace.

Many of the characters are used to tell the story, and the reader is frequently invited into the minds of major and minor-sub characters in order to get the point of the story across. The author makes no distinction between the protagonistic and antagonistic points of view in terms of which he allows his readers access. By knowing what the terrorists are thinking the readers' emotions even more heavily invested in the story, and the outcome of the protagonists. The reader is allowed free access into many of the private thoughts of such characters, making them appear to jump up off the page as true flesh and blood people.

The story moves from Britain to Ireland to Libya, to America on land, in the air, and at sea. It is told in a fully chronological way, with events sometimes overlapping because of the time changes in different parts of the world. Clancy frequently sets the ideals of good and evil side by side, specifically with the scene on Christmas Eve at the Ryan's household then the detailing of Sean Miller's Christmas Day bloody escape mission that hurt a good many innocent people on a holiday that is held sacred in much of the civilized world. The book is populated with many characters, but only a handful are used as main characters, fully fleshed out and rounded enough to visualize. Keeping a list of the characters and which departments they work for can be a handy tool when trying to keep track of the movements of all the characters.

Setting

Patriot Games begins with an Irish Terrorist attack in London, England, in an attempt to kidnap the Prince and Princess of Wales and their infant son. American, Jack Ryan, is on a working vacation in London and is in the vicinity of the attack. He becomes embroiled in a story of espionage and terrorism that works its way from London to Annapolis, Maryland where Jack Ryan works as a Naval professor of history at the Naval Academy. The land of the terrorists is Ireland, who has been fighting for years to shed herself of British rule. Some of the Irish people belong to a group calling



themselves Provisional Irish Republican Army, or Provos, who believe that they can create a united Ireland through military and political posturing, ending centuries of British rule of Northern Ireland. Many of those involved in such political paramilitary groups believe in Marxist teachings and are willing to join the activities in terrorist camps in northern Africa in order to train for their roles.

The story was written in 1987, and has fictionalized the family of the Prince and Princess of Wales whose son, Prince William was born in 1982. The story begins with the Prince and Princess and their infant son under attack. With no other true world news available throughout the story, the reader has to believe that the story is being told in the author's contemporary time frame, and will allow the author poetic license in terms of the true age of the infant prince.

The reader is also invited into the buildings used in the story. Jack Ryan spends quite some time in a British hospital after he was shot during the initial incident. His wife and child are taken into Buckingham Palace while Jack is recuperating, as a gesture of thanks for saving the Royal Family. Jack spends at least one night in Buckingham Palace and describes it in great detail. Old Bailey Number Two is the judicial chamber where Sean Miller is initially tried, and Jack is present there in order to testify against the terrorist. More insider information is revealed when Clancy takes the reader inside of CIA headquarters, especially the reconnaissance satellite room that is considered the highest-level clearance room in the building. Clancy's ability to describe his setting allows the reader to truly enter the story and be an integral part of the action.

Language and Meaning

Tom Clancy has chosen to discuss an issue that affects the entire world, that of terrorism. What is unique about this novel is that he deals with the issue of the Irish Republican Army form of terrorism. Most Americans are quite united in their stand against terrorists, especially ones from the Middle East, and even our homegrown variety. What is more difficult for many Americans is the question of terrorism in their distant Irish relatives. By facing this question directly, Clancy forces the reader to evaluate the question of terrorism in and of itself, and not the source of origin. When Clancy opens the book with Ryan's family taking a working vacation in London, England, he creates a beautiful image of a close and happy family. That peaceful and charming image is then destroyed with the terrorist attack. This surreptitious attack on the reader becomes even more evident when it is discovered who Jack Ryan actually saved, another father, mother, and child.

What Clancy intends to do is to paint the picture of terrorism as starkly and as honestly as possible. Once it is established that the attackers are terrorists, the question of their origin is discussed. Had Clancy tried to go about the issue any other way, the reader could possibly have resisted what Clancy was trying to accomplish. Many Irish-Americans are tremendously proud of their Irish heritage, and yet most of them will claim absolutely no knowledge to their relatives, distant or not, being part of a revolutionary terrorist group. By introducing the reader to the characters, Edward



Donoho and his uncle John, Clancy shows just how the Irish-American's sentimentality toward the country of their heritage can blind them to the real issue that is the source of the problem, the PIRA and its political mouthpiece, the Sinn-Fein. Since the publication of the book, the political temperature of Ireland has changed, however to ignore what has happened in the past is to invite it to happen again.

Structure

Patriot Games is set up in twenty-six chapters ranging in length from approximately fourteen to forty pages each chapter. The chapters are numbered and given a title that sometimes is a play on words, for example, Chapter Two is entitled "Cops and Royals" rather than the traditional child's game of "Cops and Robbers". Within each chapter, Clancy breaks each chapter up into no fewer than three to four scenes per chapter, and some of the more thrilling chapters have dozens of scenes where the action moves from scene to scene with the rapidity of the machine-gun fire described in the story. This accomplishes the goal of creating a strong sense of urgency, forcing the reader to read on just to satisfy one's curiosity that at least for now, all will be well. Several chapters do end in a cliffhanger style ending, designed to coax the reader into just one more chapter.

Clancy's extensive research shows throughout the entire book. He has educated himself on all matters military and of law enforcement procedure. He goes into substantial detail when giving his expository descriptions of the thrilling scenes. With his characters' thoughts, Clancy is able to give vent to his overall theme of the book, the one dealing with terrorism. He goes into the heads of many of the characters, giving their opinion of the situation as it pertains to them, and the justification for that position. The story-telling style moves from scene to scene, from character to character. Many times the reader knows more than the main characters do and this too serves to heighten the drama and sense of urgency the reader feels.

Beginning the novel with the line, "Ryan was nearly killed twice in half an hour." Page 10, Chapter 1, Clancy immediately draws the reader into the story of Jack Ryan and his family. It takes little time for the reader to become attached to Ryan, his wife and little girl. With that attachment is a sense of injustice when the terrorist attack occurs near enough to possibly cause injury to the family the reader has just met. Clancy continues to insult the reader's personal feelings of right and wrong as the terrorist group continues to target Ryan's family, who are completely innocent of any wrongdoing. It is a little easier to understand the motivation for attempting to kidnap the Royal Family, as public figures their life really is not their own, but for the Ryan family to be under attack insults the reader's sense of justice. By creating intense emotions at the very beginning of the book, Clancy ensures the successful completion of the entire book.



Quotes

" 'Get down!' Ryan grabbed his daughter's shoulder and forced her to the ground behind a tree, yanking his wife roughly down beside her. A dozen cars were stopped raggedly behind the Rolls, none closer than fifty feet, and these shielded his family from the line of fire. Traffic on the far side was blocked by the sedan. The man with the Kalashnikov was spraying the Rolls for all he was worth." Page 15, Chapter 1.

"Indeed they are, Dr. Ryan. It is rather remarkable how terrorists can always seem to find a way to shock us, no matter what horrors have gone before." Page 45, Chapter 2.

"Today, the most famous Irishmen in the world are the maniacs who leave bombs in parked cars, or assassins who kill people to make some sort of political point. I don't like that, and I know my dad wouldn't like it. He spent his whole working life taking animals like that off the street and putting them in cages where they belong. We've worked pretty hard to get where we are—too hard to be happy about being thought of as the relatives of terrorists." Page 52, Chapter 2.

"Tony, you know the difference between him and me? I can say that I used to be a Marine, and that's enough. But that poor guy's got to prove it every damned day, to everybody he meets. I guess that's what you have to do when you're in the public eye all the time." Page 67, Chapter 3

"They seem to specialize in high-risk, high-profile operations. It took over a year to confirm that they exist at all: we thought they were a special-action group of the PIRA. They're an anomaly within the terrorist community. They don't make press releases, they don't take public credit for what they do. They go for the big-time stuff and they cover their tracks like you wouldn't believe. It takes resources to do that. Somebody is bankrolling them in a pretty big way. They've been identified for nine jobs we're sure of, maybe two others." Page 88, Chapter 4.

"A conscience is the price of morality, and morality is the price of civilization Dad used to say that many criminals don't have a conscience, not much in the way of feelings at all. I guess that's what makes us different from them." Page 97, Chapter 5.

"This wasn't an animal in a cage, after all. Miller had intelligence and education. He could think and plan, as a human could, but he would not be restrained by any human impulses when he decided to move. Jack's academic investigation of terrorists for the CIA had dealt with them as abstractions, robots that moved about and did things, and had to be neutralized one way or another. He'd never expected to meet one. More important, Jack had never expected to have one look at him in this way." Page 125, Chapter 6.

"Hate was such a useful asset. Even more than fear, hate was what sustained the Cause." Page 156, Chapter 7.



"That's a cold piece of work, Murray told himself. Even with her hair wet, with no makeup, she was pretty enough, he thought. Nice complexion. It wouldn't hurt her to knock off eight or ten pounds, but in nice clothes that wouldn't matter very much. You could pass her on the street, or sit next to her in a bar and offer to buy her a drink, and you'd never suspect that she was carrying two pounds of high explosives in her purse. Thank God we don't have anything like that at home. . . . He wondered how well the Bureau would do against such a threat. Even with all their resources, the scientific and forensic experts who back up the special agents in the field, this was no easy crime to deal with. For any police force, the name of the game was wait for the bad guys to make a mistake. You had to play for the breaks, just like a football team waited for a turnover. The problem was, the crooks kept getting better, kept learning from their mistakes. It was like any sort of competition. Both sides become increasingly sophisticated. But the criminals always had the initiative. The cops were always playing catchup ball." Page 162 - 163, Chapter 8.

"Miller considered that for a moment, waiting for a fitting reply to spring from his brain as he held the gun at his hip. A quote from Josef Stalin came to mind. He raised his gun. 'Gratitude, Mr. Highland . . . is a disease of dogs' He fired two rounds from a distance of fifteen feet." Page 189, Chapter 9.

"This was treason—it was worse than treason—a concept that Owens hadn't even thought possible until the last week. Whoever had leaked this had also to have been involved in the attack on the Royal Family. To betray national security secrets to a foreign power was sufficiently heinous to make the Commander think in unprofessional terms. But deliberately to endanger the Royal Family itself was so incomprehensible a crime that Owens had scarcely been able to believe it possible. This wasn't someone of dubious mental state. This was a person with intelligence and considerable skill at dissimulation, someone who had betrayed a trust both personal and national. There had been a time in his country when such people died by torture. It was not a fact that Owens was proud of, but now he understood why it had happened, how easily one might countenance such punishment. The Royal Family served to many functions for the United Kingdom, was so greatly loved by the people. And someone, probably someone very close to them, was quite willing to betray them to a small band of terrorists." Page 202, Chapter 10.

"For all the madness of their actions, terrorists were rational by their own standards. However twisted their reasoning appeared to an outsider, it did have its own internal logic. The PIRA and INLA had such logic. They had even announced their rationales, and their actions could be seen to fit with what they said: To make Northern Ireland ungovernable. If they succeeded, the British would finally have enough of it and leave. Their objective, therefore, was to sustain a low-level conflict indefinitely and wait for the other side to walk away. It did make conceptual sense." Page 206, Chapter 10.

" 'Do you really think he cares about that?' Ryan snapped angrily. 'These bastards kill people they don't even know. They almost do it for fun. They want to change the world into something they like, and they don't give a damn who's in the way. They just don't care.' " Page 233, Chapter 11.



"Special-Intelligence-Codeword was a level of classification higher than top secret. People had to be individually cleared for the data, which was identified by a special codeword. Even the codeword itself was secret. Ryan had only twice before seen data of this sensitivity. But now they're going to lay it all out in front of hem, he thought as he looked at it. Greer must really want me back to open a door like this." Page 239, Chapter 12.

"O'Donnell looked over at the younger man, knowing why the plan had been formulated. It was a good plan, he admitted to himself, an effective plan. It had elements of brilliance in its daring. But Sean had allowed personal feelings to influence his judgment. This wasn't so good." Page 241, Chapter 12.

"The time for grief was already ending, carried away by his own tears. Though it had not yet happened, Ryan's intellect was already beginning to think of the time when his emotions would be at rest—most of them. One would remain. He would control it, but it would also control him. He would not feel like a whole man again until he was purged of it." Page 321, Chapter 16

"He's never lifted a gun that we know of. He's their mouthpiece, he comes over here and raises money so that they can do things like this at home. Oh, he never gets his hands bloody. He's too smart for that. But now they're playing their games over here." Page 326, Chapter 16."

"Greer turned to refill his coffee cup from the drip machine behind his desk. He'd liked Jack almost from the first moment he'd met him. This was a young man accustomed to having his way, though he was not arrogant about it. That was a point in his favor: Ryan knew what he wanted, but wasn't overly pushy. He wasn't a person driven by ambition, another point in his favor. Finally, he had a lot of raw talent to be shaped and trained and directed. Greer was always looking for talent." Page 341, Chapter 17.

"The personality of a security officer is much the same all over the world. They do not believe in coincidences, though they do believe in accidents. They lack any semblance of a sense of humor where their work is concerned. This comes from the knowledge that only the most trusted of people have the ability to be traitors; before betraying their countries, they must first betray the people who trust them." Page 348, Chapter 18.

"In any case my sympathy for their aim is, shall we say, limited by their choice of technique. You can't build a civilized country on a foundation of murder." Page 376, Chapter 19

"So, on an international level, terrorism was a form of war that didn't even have to interrupt normal diplomatic relations. America itself had embassies in some of the nations even today. Nearer to home, however, it was being treated as a crime. He'd faced Miller in the Old Bailey, Ryan remembered, not a military court-martial. They can even use that against us. It was a surprising realization. They can fight their kind of war, but we can't recognize it as such without giving up something our society needs. If we treat terrorists as politically motivated activists, we give them an honor they don't



deserve. If we treat them as soldiers, and kill them as such, we both give them legitimacy and violate our own laws." Page 406 - 407, Chapter 21.

"There's even a song about it. I heard it at Riordan's on St. Patrick's Day. 'I've learned all my heroes and wanted the same/To try out my hand at the patriot game.' " Page 429 - 430, Chapter 22.

"The spell was broken. Jack swallowed twice and took a breath. What he saw now was something less monstrous than before. Fear had given Miller the humanity that he'd lacked before. He was no longer an animal, after all. He was a human being, an evil example of what could happen when a man lost something that all men needed." Page 534, Chapter 26.

Adaptations

Patriot Games was made into a motion picture and released by Paramount in 1992. It was produced by Mace Neufeld and Robert Rehme and directed by Phillip Noyce. The screenplay was by W. Peter Iliff and Donald Stewart. Harrison Ford plays Jack Ryan in the motion picture. Although reviewers praised his performance, the word stupid was frequently applied to his character's actions.

The scene-stealer is Sean Bean, who plays the ultra-evil terrorist Sean Miller. James Earl Jones reprises his role from *The Hunt for Red October* as Admiral James Greer, Anne Archer plays Jack Ryan's wife Cathy Ryan, and Thora Birch plays their daughter Sally Ryan. *Patriot Games* was America's top grossing motion picture in 1992, taking in over eighty million dollars.

Tom Clancy very much disliked this motion picture, but publicly he just says that he has made his peace with Paramount over the movie.



Key Questions

It is unfortunate that the topic of *Patriot Games* is as contemporary now as it was when the novel was written. A discussion of its ideas and themes could become quite heated, especially when focused on Clancy's examination of the rationales behind terrorists' actions and behind the support they receive from others. Do Irish terrorists have the right to kill people? If theirs is a military struggle, why are their targets civilians unconnected with the military?

Another way of discussing *Patriot Games* would be to approach it not from the direction of its topic but from the direction of its art. It represents a new level of sophistication for Clancy. The characterizations for even secondary characters are deeper, richer than in *The Hunt for Red October* and *Red Storm Rising*.

Further, the themes are more complex and more thoroughly worked out. In particular, Clancy presents the moral implications of everybody's actions, good and bad, in detail. A good discussion could be generated out of an examination of how well-rounded his characters are and how well-thought-out his ideas are.

Another possibility would be to begin a discussion by looking at how he generates suspense. Note the differences and similarities between *Patriot Games* and *The Hunt for Red October*, a very suspenseful novel. Note how technology dominates the narrative of *The Hunt for Red October*, mighty warships seek each other out in the dark, listening desperately for clues as to what is really going on. In *Patriot Games*, Clancy takes a somewhat different tack. People still seek clues in the dark, but the darkness is in the human heart.

1. Do American citizens still give money to terrorists? Why would they ever give money to terrorists?
2. Who are the patriots in *Patriot Games*? Who believe themselves to be patriots but are not?
3. What does Clancy mean by "games"? Who is playing? What are the rules?
4. What governments does Clancy compare favorably to the United States when it comes to their handling of terrorism? Is he fair in his assessment of what governments do the best job?
5. Does Clancy seem to admire the English? Does he exaggerate his admiration?
6. How much courage would it take to write a novel about terrorism? What if the writer were of Irish descent and writing about Irish terrorists?
7. How successful is Clancy at presenting the workings of evil minds? Do you find their rationales credible? How hard is it to find the flaws in their rationalizations?



8. In classic adventure-tale style, *Patriot Games* has striking moments of derringdo and unlikely but dramatic moments of conflict. Do these moments ever stray too far from credibility? What of Ryan's saving the Prince and Princess and their child? What of the defense of the Naval Academy when the terrorists invade?

9. How much hatred is there in the novel? Who hates whom or what? How do civilized people handle their hatred?

10. Are the motivations of characters clear? Are the motivations plausible?

11. Why would Clancy have been angry about the motion picture version of *Patriot Games*?



Topics for Discussion

Why does Jack Ryan get involved in the attack on the car in the first chapter of the book?

Did Jack Ryan consider every possible ramification for his actions? If he had, do you believe that he would have acted in the same way? Why or why not. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Describe Cathy Ryan. How did her personality make her a fairly easy target?

How should the Irish solve their issue with Britain?

Define Sinn Fein and PIRA. How are they related? Why do many Irish Americans support them? Are they wrong? Why?

Discuss Jack Ryan's reluctance to join the CIA. What changes his mind? Explain how this made a difference to him in how he handled the problem of his family.

Discuss some of the techniques Clancy uses in his book to elicit the greatest emotional response possible from the reader.

What did Jack Ryan say to the Prince of Wales on their first meeting? Was he out of line? Was it respectful? Should he have done it? Explain.

Compare and contrast Sean Miller and Alex. Is one man better than the other or is a terrorist just a terrorist?

Is there ever a reason to resort to terrorism? If so, explain what it might be. If not, explain why not.

Talk about John Donoho and how Clancy uses him to personify the average Irish-American. How is Donoho misled? Is he responsible for the misunderstandings?

How much responsibility should an individual take when supporting groups based merely on heritage? Does giving support to the PIRA make the donor a terrorist? Why or why not?

Discuss Jack Ryan's reaction to the raid on the French camp. Does his opinion change later? Why or why not?

If you were in charge of His Royal Highness and you had the intelligence the CIA and FBI had, what would you have suggested be done differently in terms of the Royal visit to the Ryan house? Why?



Literary Precedents

Terrorism is such a fact of modern life that it figures in numerous novels about international relations; its tendency to victimize people who have no idea of what is going on makes it particularly useful as a symbol of the chaotic nature of modern societies, especially modern technology. Salman Rushdie uses it to trigger the plot of *The Satanic Verses* (1988; see separate entry); protagonists Gibreel Farishta and Saladin Chamcha meet when their Air-India airliner is hijacked and blown up by Sikh terrorists.

Author Rushdie himself became an example of victims of terrorism when the leader of a nation, Iran, that funded terrorists took exception to his satire and issued a death sentence on him, offering to pay money to anyone who killed Rushdie. Writing about terrorists and the cultures that spawn them can be risky business.

An author who has made extensive use of terrorism in his novels is Robert Ludlum, whose *The Bourne Identity* (1988), *The Bourne Ultimatum* (1990; see separate entry), and *The Icarus Agenda* (1988; see separate entry) prominently feature terrorists. Ludlum's terrorists tend to be thugs-for-hire who take pride in murdering innocent people and in frightening other people. In particular, Carlos the Jackal is noted for assassinations of government officials that send messages of terror to other government officials. Just as *Patriot Games* is inspired by real-life terrorism, so too is Ludlum's work; a real-life Carlos, a terrorist for hire, has murdered numerous people in terrorist attacks paid for by various nations and political figures.

In *The Windmills of the Gods* (1987; see separate entry), Sidney Sheldon invents the Patriots of Freedom, a misnamed group of terrorists who are united primarily by their desire for the cold war to continue. Their services may decline in demand if the communist and capitalist nations actually make peace with each other. Sheldon pulls together a complex tale of international intrigue, much as Clancy does in *Patriot Games*, although Clancy's novel is somewhat less fanciful.

Another best-selling author who focuses a novel on terrorism is John le Carre, author of numerous novels about espionage and the moral toll it takes on its practitioners. In *The Little Drummer Girl* (1983; see separate entry), le Carre tells of the struggle between Israel and Palestinian terrorists; many bombs go off in the novel—intended to harm Jews. The Israeli secret services fight back with tenacity, sometimes forgoing ethical inhibitions, as when agent Kurtz kidnaps and brainwashes Charlie, an actress, in an effort to make her into a double agent.

Much of le Carre's novel is devoted to questions of how good people may fight terrorism, and what the spiritual costs of the fight may be. In *The Terrorists* (1976; see separate entry), Maj Sjowal and Per Wahloo tell of how law enforcement officers deal with urban terrorists— especially suicide bombers. Pluck, skill, and an implausible amount of luck enable law enforcement officers to overcome terrorists with little violence.



Like le Carre's *The Little Drummer Girl*, Clancy's *Patriot Games* focuses on plausible terrorists from a region plagued by political murders, and like le Carre's *Defence*, much of the narrative is given to analyses of motivations. Both novels feature distinguished prose, although le Carre's style is somewhat murky, perhaps reflecting the murky tangle of motivations of its characters, whereas Clancy's style is sparkling clear, suited to a hardedged examination of his characters. Like the other novels, *Patriot Games* has its fanciful moments such as the heroic battle of midshipmen to protect the Naval Academy, but in general it is surer in its depiction of terrorists, and it has a sharper realism.

Related Titles

Jack Ryan is a significant character in *The Hunt for Red October* (1984; see separate entry), *The Cardinal of the Kremlin* (1988; see separate entry) and *Clear and Present Danger* (1989; see separate entry).

Clancy repeats several of his characters in his novels. Submariner Bart Mancuso, FBI agent Dan Murray, CIA Director Judge Moore, and assistant director Admiral Greer reappear often. *Patriot Games* explains how some of their relationships developed and how Ryan came to be both a pencil-pusher and a man of action.

The repetition of the characters creates continuity between the novels; *The Cardinal of the Kremlin* and *Clear and Present Danger*, in particular, make frequent allusions to the other novels.



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