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In these harrowing times, with our enemies lurking in the shadows and their widespread tactics of unconventional warfare limiting the ability of our traditional armed forces, special measures are needed to fight this war on terror. Heeding this call the President has set up the Joint Services Special Demands Project. Known as "The Team" it is a unique unit existing beyond the bureaucratic restraints of either the U.S. intelligence or military establishments. With an almost unlimited budget, the Team--consisting of a CIA officer, two Special Forces commandos, and one outnumbered Marine--is authorized to track vital intelligence and then take immediate action. Called upon to track a quantity of radioactive waste that has gone missing in the former Soviet Union, the Team is faced with the fact that this material is now in the wrong people's hands. . . . And these terrorists are geared to wage the single deadliest attack ever on U.S. soil.

Larry Bond's First Team Details

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Amy Coats says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
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Deane Barker says

I read this book because I loved Red Storm Rising (which Bond co-wrote) when I was in high school, and was looking for a way to recapture that. The result was mixed. This book was less "nation states at war" and more "special forces beats the terrorists." The plot was very human-oriented, which wasn't quite what I was hoping for.

In the end, it's a standard techno-thriller about a four man "Special Demands" group that outwits some terrorists. I had some trouble following some of it -- there were a couple places where I couldn't quite figure out why the characters were in a certain place and what they were doing.

Additionally, there were two plot points in particular that I just thought were ridiculous [SPOILERS]:

* That the president's personal attorney would take over command of a Special Forces unit, and even join them in the field for missions.

* That two American soldiers (who were admittedly not language experts) could impersonate Russian intelligence officers well enough to break a known terrorist out of a Russian/Chechan prison under false pretenses. You're telling me that no one would pick up on their accents? Especially given what they were trying to do? *And they were were both Irish*, for goodness sake (their names: Conners and Ferguson), and probably didn't even look remotely Slavic. I just found this completely absurd.

Regardless, the ending of the book is undeniably exciting, and there's all sorts of military bravado throughout. The characters are a little thin (I never figured out the difference between Rankin and Conners), and the dialogue is super-manly and cliched, but I didn't really expect anything less.

It was okay. If you like Clancy-esque techno-thrillers, this one will probably be right up your alley.

Nate Hendrix says

I did not like this, I did not finish it. I have liked his past books, but not this one. This was more espionage and less war fighting.

Ron says

WAR sea adventures

SPY

GOOD WAR STORY DETAIL

EASY READ

GET MOR

Jerome says

I seriously considered quitting this book after about 100 pages. At this point the problem wasn't the storytelling, but the horrendous dialogue among the "First Team". I guess the authors were trying to add character to these people, but every other word was a joke or a lewd comment. This detracted from the already choppy story because it often seemed forced and out of place and incredibly unrealistic. I doubt soldiers trade crass jokes in the heat of battle.

The horrible dialogue tapers off somewhat and then the horrible story takes over. The authors can't describe scenery at all and do a horrible job of telling the reader why characters are in Iran, then in Russia, then split up into teams, then together. Why are they following a train? Why do they stop? How do they get to a US airbase from following a train? Those easy questions are never answered.

This book has the typical computer nerd working in a messy office at headquarters and he finds some useful info and shares it with the team in the field. Or at least I think he did. What he finds out and tracks makes no sense. The authors mention a May 11 memo. Where did this come from. Did I miss its introduction early in the novel?

The president of the USA sends a sexy 26 year old attorney who amazingly has gone through special forces training out in the field to go with the "Team" and to make all key decisions. Ridiculous.

The team and some Navy SEALS then raid a shipyard in Iran because they've been duped into thinking the ship with the wast was diverted there. This raid takes place very quickly, and there is zero debate or planning in the White House and Pentagon about such a sensitive and unprecedented operation. Ridiculous. A few chapters later, the same scenario plays out in Chechnya: this time a HUGE force of Special Operations personnel raid an airfield, and the only interference comes from some lousy Iranian MiG-29 fighter pilots.

Sarah Eckert says

I love military/CIA/FBI themed books. Especially one where protagonists go after terrorists and win.

Guess it's just the American in me.

I also like when authors think about ways terrorists can get us, then figure out how to make the protagonists figure out what the terrorists are doing and then stop them. It shows that they are thinking and that if the public reads these books might be on the lookout for ways terrorists might think to attack us and how we can stop them.

Or it might just make us paranoid.

I've always liked Larry Bond & John Nance. The two of them can write a book that I will read in one sitting -- or at least very few sittings as opposed to a book I can put down.

I also like that Larry has a very likable and knowable cast of characters that isn't so big (as in some military themed novels) that I can't keep them straight or there has to be a list at the front of the book to tell you who they are.

The language in this book is a little strong, though.

Martin Streetman says

The main reason I gave this book 4 stars was the perceived realism. I don't know if it was real or not but my perception was that it was real. Does anyone know if SEAL's and Force recon dudes don't get along? Did they really build a plane, great story. Tip of the spear type stuff. Hard decisions, good guys die. Thanks Nick, can I borrow the others?

Nigel says

Not one of Bond's best in my opinion. The basic plot was sound, Islamic terrorist are planning on building a dirty bomb and are targeting Hawaii. Investigating and trying to stop the terrorists are clandestine group called 'The Team' that operate independently of any real oversight, but they get the job done. As far as this went everything was good, the action and battle scenes were OK but lacked some of the technical punch that I have come to expect from Bond.

On the downside however there were a number of things that irritated me and prevented this from being a great book. For me there was not enough of Bond's brilliant combat scenes. Too much time seem to be spent in stake out /surveillance operations. Now there is nothing wrong with this it's just not what I expect from a Bond book. There was a major subplot of the new president being unhappy with the level of oversight on the Team and provide a new boss to provide the required level. He chooses one of his in house lawyers and then sends her out into the field with the 'Team' to manage the operation first hand. This was just not credible the skill set needed to survive in hostile territory is specialised and I can't see how a White House lawyer would be anything other than a hindrance to the Special Forces she is in charge of. Needless to say so isn't a handicap and seems to immediately excel as a field operative. Also I felt that too much emphasis was put on this plot and the associated one concerning the maverick leader of the Team who never follows orders and takes unnecessary risks. Which rather than improve the story caused it stagnate at times and loose the pace and tension that had been building up.

This reminded me of some of the reservations had over the early books in the Jerry Mitchell series which took a while to really get going in the Bond style. Hopefully the Team series will improve as it develops.

Lee says

The first book of Larry Bond's first team finds the NSA team trying to track down a group of terrorists who

are taking nuclear waste from Soviet Waste sites. As they travel between the various Soviet satellites trying to stop the attack. Ok read

Practical Mike says

Probably doesn't deserve the full 4 stars, but it's more than a 3 star book.

Some times there's just a few more details or actions at the wrong time that messes with the pacing of the story. And I had trouble connecting with the characters at times. They seemed a little one-dimensional.

All in all though, the book is a pretty decent read despite the minor-ish nit-picks above.

Elisif says

I don't know if I'm going to like this, but years ago I really enjoyed some of his other stuff. The military stuff I read is usually non-fiction, but fiction might be a nice change. I'm so busy these days, something escapist is best.

Roger Scherping says

This book is far too detailed to be enjoyable. The pace is very slow as the authors explain every possible detail of everything that is happening with the three concurrent story lines. The action sequences are so detailed that they're really difficult to follow.

The characters are not well developed at all. About the only things we learn about them are their name and branch of the service. And their dialogue of one-liner insults quickly gets irritating.

Take 200 pages out of this and make it into a movie. That might be very good.

I did enjoy the final action scene, though. That was exciting and moved quickly, and the authors deftly handled the three story lines.

Mike Emett says

I am not one to just stop reading book no matter how bad, dragging-ly slow it is, good, great etc etc etc it is... I will finish it!!!! However.... Larry Bond has the 'honor' of being my first book/author to just stop reading a book altogether. I love military/political techno-thrillers to the max! YET.... this book was dragging.... dragging.... I could not take it anymore! Sorry Larry. I had hopes for this series and other books but it drags on and on. I look into and read through other books of yours and they drag too.... I had to stop Larry Bond books and donate them. Sorry. Others may love his books and that is their prerogative and I respect them for that... I just did not like this book.

Pierre Tassé says

This book started with the names of people very difficult to read (pronounce) and the font was smaller than normal and the book was longer than average. I have read a lot of books and after the first two chapters I came to the conclusion that this book was not going to be worth my effort. It had the genesis of a good story but ...not for me.

Luna says

I had purchased this book for my hubby, and he just took too long to read it...and it looked lonely, so I read it. It quickly became one of my favorites even though it isn't a genre I would normally have touched. I'm glad I did, because there's spies, danger, excitement, and lots of cool weapons and stuff.

I am still heartbroken by the ending, but it is still one of my go-to reads when I don't feel like searching for a book.
