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Violent riots formented by foreign agents are breaking out in South Korea. Seizing the opportunity, North Korea launches a lightning invasion, with heavy Soviet support, whose aim is to unite North and South under Communist rule. The second Korean War has begun and World War III may be imminent.

Red Phoenix Details

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From Reader Review Red Phoenix for online ebook

Rodney says

Clancy-esque Thriller

Great story that reminded me of a Tom Clancy thriller! Although the story is dated, the writing is excellent and you can picture yourself in the Cold War era

Nathan says

A superior offering from the genre. Kim Jong Il invades South Korea in a surprise attack, and it's up to the brave plucky men (and one woman) of the US and South Korean military to fight them off. It all works out in the end, with the fighter pilot getting the girl (no Top Gun subtext here) and the rookie young officer becomes a Man. Still, a lot less jingoistic than most, and without the Mary Sues that pollute Clancy's offerings. And the author tricked me in the end just like he did the NKs, which is unusual in these books. 4/5.

Corey Friedrich says

This book may seem like a typical technothriller, but THIS is the book that made me realize that one could actually read just for the pleasure of it. Everything I'd read up until this book was because I had to read it for a class or because someone thought I'd like it. This is the first book I ever thoroughly enjoyed.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I read a lot of "Techno-Thrillers" at one time and I really liked this one. This is another time when I'm not sure that using the word "enjoyed" would be appropriate as this book concerns a fictional war in Korea.....however it is a well done book. the technology and the story telling are both first rate and "if you like this type of book" this may be for you.

I recommend it.

Sarah says

The book that first got me interested in Korea.

Erin says

Really enjoyed the tactical level of this book, with all the techno-babble and "boots on the ground" perspective. It was fun to read a book written at that level instead of at the higher up, more political tone most of these types of novels follow. The material is definitely a little dated (Soviets, etc.) but still reads as an interesting, plausible story.

Michael says

Fantastic book. Held my attention through all 700 pages. Very well put together with great information. Puts you right in the action.

Zare says

My first contact with Larry Bond was via Harpoon, great strategy focused on naval warfare. Then I read "Red Storm Rising" he wrote in cooperation with Tom Clancy. [return]Although I like techno-thrillers thing that annoys me the most is that political maneuvers are always very highly polarized - you have good guys and bad guys (no gray area) and soldiers fighting (but commendably soldiers are never declared as bad guys because they are always ordered to war by the bad guys) - it is just not the way things are on the greater scale (IMO books with more grasp on reality regarding this factor are Dragonstrike/Dragon Fire/Third World War (all by Humphrey Hawksley)).[return]This one is not very different but nevertheless it is an interesting read.

Jim says

Enjoyable techno-thriller depicting a second Korean War. The sort of thing that fans of Tom Clancy (esp. Red Storm Rising, which Bond actually co-authored) would enjoy, although some of it certainly outdated by now - I read it almost 20 years ago.

Brian says

In Larry Bond's first departure from co-authoring with Tom Clancy (Bond co-wrote Red Storm Rising), this modern war tale, centered in Korea, is very much in the same style as Red Storm Rising and just as good. This is one of my favorite books ever and I wish there were more like it (but then the few that are around wouldn't be as special).

Christian D. Orr says

I just finished reading this book for the second time. The first time was in the summer of 1999, at the age of

24, shortly before I shipped off to Air Force boot camp. I decided to re-read it with the perspective of a military veteran and world traveler under my belt, especially with North Korea having been back in the news in such a big way.

I still found the book highly enjoyable, with harrowing action scenes, engrossing story lines, and interesting characters on both sides of the conflict.

Mind you, having been published back in 1989, two years before the Cold War ended, obviously the novel is a bit dated, but you can't blame author Larry Bond for not having a crystal ball! That said, as much as I still enjoyed this novel on the second reading, as a military veteran and former International Relations major in college, there are a few technicalities I must nitpick which make me reduce my original 5-star rating down to 4 stars:

--Bond incorrectly refers to a Lieutenant Colonel (O-5) as a "bird colonel," when in fact the "bird colonel" slang phrase actually applies to a *full* colonel, i.e. an O-6.

--The Soviet fighter and bombers pilots use the NATO designations for their aircraft as their call signs, i.e. "Fulcrum Lead," "Fishbed Lead," "Badger Lead," The Soviets themselves did not refer to their own planes by the NATO code names.

--Bond refers to a Russian Navy "Lieutenant Commander;" the correct Soviet/Russian designation for this pay grade is "Captain Third Rank."

--The B-52 Stratofortress is conspicuous by its absence from the book. If a Second Korean War were to really break out, the "Buffs" would almost certainly be moved up from Guam to the staging point in Diego Garcia, and from there launched into action to carpet-bomb North Korean troops formations into oblivion.

--In the novel, when the U.S. imposes economic sanctions on South Korea as punishment for human rights abuses, Western Europe and Japan quickly follow suit. In reality, instead of joining the U.S. in such sanctions, these countries would almost certainly seize the opportunity to fill in the gap left by our absence from the trade partnership. Consider that the Western Europeans and the Japanese did not follow our lead when we imposed a trade embargo on Cuba. Nor were they ready to emulate us back in the 1990s when we threatened to deny Most-Favored-Nation trade status to mainland China on account of the PRC's abysmal human rights records. If our trade competitors are historically unwilling to impose economic sanctions on Communist countries, why would they be expected to do so against a free-market capitalist country like South Korea. I realize that in the case of this novel, it's an angle that advances the main plot line, but still, it's a stretch of credibility.

All those caveats and nitpicks aside, it's still an exciting, highly enjoyable, action-packed novel that I highly recommend to any fan of action-adventure, military, and/or political intrigue.

David Marshall says

This is good of its time and worth 3.5 stars. The reason for slightly marking it down is that although the military side of action is well-developed, I found the politics somewhat superficial and the plot somewhat formulaic.

Jon Molesan says

Great book, couldn't put it down!

Terric853 says

If you are a Tom Clancy fan, you'll like this book (although I think Clancy is a better writer). The premise is that the US imposes sanctions against South Korea because of student rioting (it's a long story) and the economy begins to collapse. North Korea's Kim Jong Il decides that the time is ripe for North Korea to liberate South Korea from the imperialist US influences and begins a war. The book follows several of the US, South Korean, North Korean and Russian combatants as the war progresses.

The book starts a bit slowly in order to introduce all the characters and their backgrounds, but, once the war starts, things really pick up. You see personal and professional growth, a tiny bit of romance, guts and wisdom develop. I liked all the main characters and was intrigued by their stories. Since I know almost nothing about the politics of that region, I found that aspect fascinating. I also enjoyed the US political "behind the scenes" wrangling, which I'm sure was not exaggerated.

Justin Roberts says

The romance scenes are unnecessary.
