



Balance of Power (Tom Clancy's Op-Center, Book 5)

By Tom Clancy, Steve Pieczenik, Jeff Rovin

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Spain is a nation poised to suffer its worst internal strife in centuries. Certain well-placed Spanish diplomats sense it. Op-Center intelligence corroborates it. All the United States and Spain have to do is find a way to avert it. Before they can, an Op-Center representative is assassinated in Madrid on her way to a top secret meeting. Now all fears are confirmed. Someone very powerful wants another Spanish civil war--no matter what the cost.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Another in the popular series of Op-Center thrillers, *Balance of Power* sets the stage in Spain, as tensions between various ethnic factions are pushing the country to the brink of disaster.

This audio version is narrated by Jay O. Sanders (*JFK, Kiss the Girls*) in a rich basso profundo, but the usual Clancyesque intelligence jargon, technospeak, and geopolitical shorthand prove to be more than a mouthful. Sanders does his best to keep pace with the considerable action, but it's a tall order, especially with the added complications of Spanish names, places, and dialogue, which, for him, are obviously in a foreign language.

As the story unfolds, high-level diplomatic and intelligence teams are working overtime to diffuse the crisis when their efforts are shot down by an assassin's bullet. That's when the real trouble begins: "As intelligence chief Bob Herbert had put it before Martha had left Washington, 'This will make the Spanish Civil War look like a brawl.'"

The story features a broad cast of characters, some of which may flirt with stereotype. Despite this drawback, it's interesting to find these relatively obscure politics brought front and center. While this may not be the very best that Op-Center can produce, for die-hard Clancy fans it's another chance to enter the fray. (Running time: 4 hours, 4 cassettes) --*George Laney*

From Library Journal

This latest in the Clancy-Pieczenik "Op-Center" series focusing on Spanish civil strife is another well-read, nicely engineered audio offering that seems to suffer by being abridged. Jay O. Sanders does a fine job with Spanish, Italian, and several varieties of American accents, and the listener learns enough of the political and ethnic rivalries in Spain to understand how such an absurd scenario could in fact play out. It's "U.S.A. to the rescue," with too many characters, too much technobabble, and way too much in the way of incredible coincidences to be the slightest bit believable. There's not really much here for the adult listener. On the other hand, Clancy is popular, and many characters appear to be carried over from other works in the series. With that audience in mind, recommended with reservations. ?Cliff Glaviano, Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH

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From the Inside Flap

4 cassettes / 4 hours

Read by Jay O. Sanders

"Clancy knows how to build a thriller." - Boston Globe

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Before they can, an Op-Center representative is assassinated in Madrid on her way to a top secret diplomatic meeting. Now all fears are confirmed. Someone very powerful wants another Spanish civil war -- no matter what the cost.

A powerful profile of America's defense, intelligence, and crisis management technology, **Tom Clancy's Op-Center** is the creation of Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik - inspiring this and other gripping novels.

Users Review

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