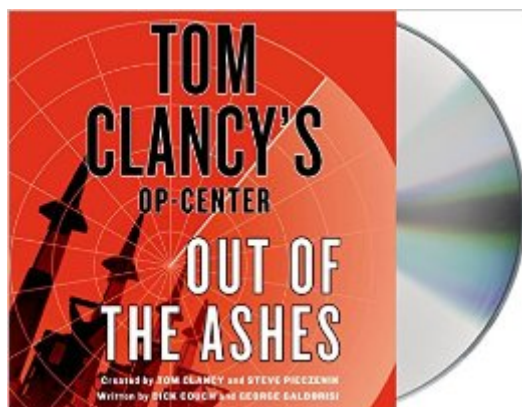


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# Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Out Of The Ashes



## Synopsis

Before 9/11 America was protected by a covert force known as the National Crisis Management Center. Commonly known as Op-Center, this silent, secret mantel guarded the American people and protected the country from enemies. The charter was top secret and Director Paul Hood reported directly to the president. Op-Center used undercover operatives with SWAT capabilities to diffuse crises around the world, and they were tops in their field. But after the World Trade Center disaster, in the interest of streamlining, OP-Center was disbandedâ leaving the country in terrible danger. But when terrorists detonate bombs in sports stadiums around the country leaving men, women and children dead or mutilated, the President executes an emergency order to bring back Op-Centerâ an Op-Center capable of dealing with the high tech crises of the 21st Century, and there is a lethal one brewing in the Middle East. A renegade Saudi Prince with ambitions of controlling the world's oil supply has an ingenious plot to manipulate America into attacking Syria and launching a war against Iran. Next, they would ignite a sleeper cell to attack the American homeland, resulting in a bloodbath unlike any other. Only the men and women of Op-Center, using sophisticated technology, realize what is about to be unleashed. Only they have the courage to issue a warning no one wants to hear. But will anyone believe them?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Early in his career, when he was still at his best, Tom Clancy wrote carefully researched, credible thrillers. Clancy co-created the Op-Center series but Jeff Rovin wrote the novels that appeared

between 1995 and 2005. Although Clancy died in 2013, his name appears in the largest font on the cover of *Out of Ashes*, while the names of the actual authors appear in the smallest font. If not for the Clancy name, I suspect few people would buy this lackluster book. The Op-Center uses the same notion as Brad Taylor's Taskforce novels -- a covert unit operates with the knowledge of the president but without congressional authority, doing what it needs to do to protect the country. The difference is that Taylor's books are smart, lively, and nuanced while *Out of Ashes* is dull, half-baked, and preposterous. *Out of Ashes* is a strikingly unimaginative story that begins with a Kuwaiti blowing up football stadiums. How he manages to carry out his coordinated attacks is glossed over, probably because the authors couldn't think up a way to make it work. How does the Kuwaiti "hack" into the PA systems of nine football stadiums to play chaos-inducing recordings at the same moment? Where does he get enough C4 to blow up four stadiums and why does nobody notice when he places it in position? We never learn the answers because the writers have none. In any event, the president decides it is time to get the Op-Center back in business, a task that occupies the first quarter of the novel. After many "earnest discussions" which consist of characters telling each other how great they are, Chase Williams is chosen to head the revived Op-Center. His brilliant idea is to hire computer geeks to do intelligence analysis (gee, why didn't NSA think of that?).

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