Clear And Present Danger
A new storm is rising...in the jungles of South America. The U.S. ambassador to Columbia has been murdered by drug lords. Enemy covert agents filter into the jungles of South America -- and Central America is ready to explode. FBI man Jack Ryan is in the eye of a storm -- and for the U.S. the stakes have never been greater. Tom Clancy captured worldwide attention with the Hunt for Red October and Red Storm Rising. He set new standards for storytelling excellence in The Cardinal of the Kremlin. Now he unleashes his most harrowing thriller yet -- in a story of international brinksmanship.

**Synopsis**

The book begins like modern headlines and top stories in the news: a Coast Guard boat discovers several dead bodies on a drifting boat out at sea ... piecing together the scenes ... the Captain and his crew understand the grisly details which became all too clear. Before the discovery, they announce their intention to board the boat, only to find two Columbians who speak little and look guilty as sin. The Captain and crew have the presence of mind to record on film permanently what they encountered. They nearly gag at what they find. Contrary to usual procedure, they create a "justice at sea" bogus trial based on some ancient mariner's manual. It is just the right scenario to create fear in their prisoners which extracts a confession from them that the Coast Guard believes will stand up in court and get them prosecuted. In Washington, DC clandestine operations are executed for a secret American plan to use the most talented night warriors the US Army has ever produced to fight the drug cartel in Columbia, on their own turf. The select group all have Spanish...
roots and were salvaged from a life on the streets, where they would surely work against the system, to build a clean life in the Army ... the better alternative. This book shows how power politics, secret hand-shake decisions, and behind the scenes operations occur which could shake up the core values of a country. Clandestine activities work outside the boundaries of national and international law. If they were made public, there would be a huge outcry from USA citizens and of the world judgement. It is at this time that Jack Ryan becomes Acting Director of the CIA. The CIA Director is in the hospital with a terminal illness ... The current president has not a clue of how the drug war is being fought and won.

Murder, covert operations within the government, drugs, and the few risking their lives to stop it all are what you’ll find in Tom Clancy’s Clear and Present Danger. Drugs are being imported into the U.S. and the American people aren’t very approving. In an attempt to stop the influx of narcotics and increase his popularity for the upcoming election, the President has begun a series of covert operations. There is one man the government is out to get, Felix Cortez, and just how they’re going to do it isn’t quite clear yet. Dr. Ryan is out to stop the operations before they get out of control and out to the public, but just how and why would he do something like that? Clancy stories, many about government and military operations, range from futuristic (Net Force) to present, it-could-happen type novels (Rainbow Six, Clear and Present Danger). His style is to explain every last word and situation in the beginning and leave you to fend for yourself towards the end. He is deep into detail and dedicated to giving you all the background information. This causes the stories to start off slowly. As you continue on in the book, references become less and less explained and the story picks up faster. Even when he explains in his novel some of the military terms and procedures, if you’re not familiar with them on an intimate level, it can get pretty challenging. Clear and Present Danger is no exception. Clancy is, nonetheless, an expert writer and storyteller. His ability to surround you with the sights and sounds within the book are extraordinary. I would give this book about an average score of three out of five. The beginning gets a rank of about two, not for detail and clarity, but for lack of suspense or action. Clancy has created catchier openings.

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