Born In Maryland

Tom Clancy

By Christopher J. Ryan

Techno-thriller novelist Tom Clancy, was born on April 2, 1947, in Baltimore, MD. "The Hunt for Red October" was Clancy's first published novel (1984) and "Clear and Present Danger" sold 1,625,544 hardcover copies, according to the Washington Post, making it the No. 1 bestselling novel of the 1980s.
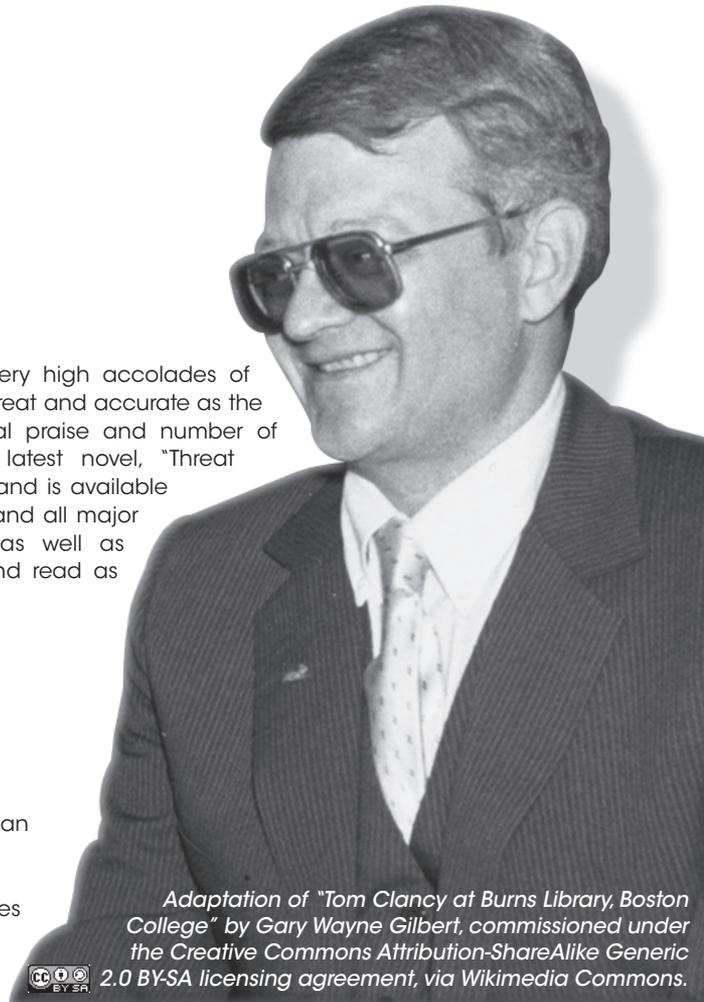
Clancy is more than a novelist, though. He is a raconteur with special interests in politics and government, military and technology. YouTube interviews and speeches suggest this is so, being featured on CNN post-9/11 and as the keynote speaker at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in 1992. Perhaps what Clancy is best at is creating and inspiring culture and awareness. Books, movies, video games, and even two board games, have been adapted from his writing.

A few of Clancy's most noteworthy achievements are: (1) Clancy is one of three authors to sell two million copies on a first printing in the 1990s, alongside John Grisham and J.K. Rowling; (2) In 1990, Clancy received the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement from the Naval League of the United States; and (3) Clancy has 17 No. 1 New York Times Best Sellers.

These three achievements are very high accolades of social proof that his writing is as great and accurate as the authorship comparison, individual praise and number of books sold suggests. Clancy's latest novel, "Threat Vector," was released on Dec. 4, and is available on his Web site, tomclancy.com, and all major retailers, like Barnes & Noble, as well as amazon.com. I'm sure it'll sell and read as well as his past novels.

Fun Facts

- Life Member of the National Rifle Association since 1978
- Honorary Yeoman Warder of The Tower of London, with the official title Supernumerary Yeoman
- Awarded a Doctorate in Humane Letters
- Part owner of the Baltimore Orioles

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