



Dragon Strike

By Simon Holberton

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The deafening roar of Chinese Air Force SU-27 Flankers shreds the tranquility of the gathering dawn. Within minutes burning phosphorus, shrapnel, and delayed action mines have ripped apart the main naval base at Cam Ranh Bay. Operation Dragonstrike has begun.

By the end of the 20th century, China had grown from one of the most impoverished, technologically-destitute nations of the world, to a regional superpower with global ambitions--ambitions that some in the Chinese government will stop at nothing to achieve.

When a desperate China, weakened by the economic turmoil in Asia, seizes the oil-rich South China Sea, it ignites a furious conflict with Vietnamese and Taiwanese forces. As U.S. and British task forces arrive to impose order, the Chinese strike first, sinking U.S. warships and killing hundreds. Suddenly, Americans find themselves fighting a desperate battle on, above, and beneath the ocean: F-14's rocket through missile-choked skies, naval officers frantically try to outmaneuver the Chinese Navy, and SEAL teams fight a brutal action against elite Chinese Marine commandos. Diplomacy proves useless as the conflagration in the South China Sea threatens to engulf the entire world.

Four days later, American satellites detect Chinese nuclear missiles being prepared for launch.

From its riveting description of a tense submarine duel beneath the surface to its compelling portraits of men under fire, *Dragon Strike* offers a gripping portrayal of the fury of modern warfare. A military thriller in the tradition of Tom Clancy's *Red Storm Rising*, *Dragon Strike* grabs hold and doesn't let up until the final page.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Long on political detail and short on well-drawn characters, this debut thriller from a pair of British foreign correspondents posits a chilling nuclear standoff with China that remains compelling despite the lack of a conventional cast of characters. Conflict is sparked when the Chinese begin a series of preemptive strikes against the Vietnamese in the South China Sea, intent on taking several small islands to gain control of critical trade routes in the resource-rich region. At first the battle seems like a controllable local incident. But when the Chinese sink an American vessel attempting to rescue U.S. workers stranded on one of the islands as de facto political prisoners, tension escalates exponentially, driven by a series of border skirmishes between the Vietnamese and Chinese and an underground nuclear test conducted by Japan in response to the Chinese aggression. Rather than creating the usual cast of high-placed political characters to carry the story, the authors have chosen to make the representatives of the nations themselves the characters, via a relentless series of dispatches documenting in detail the various moves of China, America, Britain, France, India, Vietnam, Korea and Japan as nuclear war becomes imminent. Their device is a series of dense, detail-riddled reports that will appeal to CNN junkies. It's a tribute to both the power and plausibility of the plot that this "narrative" remains riveting despite the difficulties inherent in plowing through wire service-like prose, and this title seems likely to attract attention, especially in political circles. (Nov.)

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From Library Journal

In this timely novel, set in the year 2001, China attacks other Asian nations, hoping to deflect attention from internal woes while achieving some economic gains and retaking "traditional" territories lost in decades past. The United States, Great Britain, and France are soon drawn in, and the world stands on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe. The novel, which draws on the authors' extensive knowledge of Asia, acquired while working for the BBC and the Financial Times, is told as a future history and even includes an index. Despite some dry "briefings" and technical passages about world finances, this is a surprisingly fast, gripping, and all-too-plausible read that is particularly relevant considering our current relations with China. For larger collections.

ARobert Conroy, Warren, MI

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From Kirkus Reviews

From two experienced British journalists, a step-by-step scenario describing the world's brisk march toward self-destruction. Though subtitled a novel, it isn't really, at least not in the accepted sense. No heroes, no villains, no psychological delving into character, no insights into the human condition, no sex, none of the stuff that has always made fiction so sturdy an escape vehicle. "Future history" is the way the authors describe what they're about an exercise in military and political prediction." It all begins with China's attack on North Vietnam on February 18, 2001. Ostensibly, the quarrel is over offshore oil in the South China Sea the Vietnamese control it, the Chinese want it in order to be less dependent on untrustworthy sources. But Dragonstrike, as China dubs the operation, is far more complex than that. Dragonstrike shows China shedding its inferiority complex, flexing its superpower muscles, and unmasking its global aspirations. Dragonstrike's real goal, then, is to force a confrontation with the US, driving the despised interloper first from the South China Sea and ultimately from Asia. The Chinese attack is a provocation that causes diverse and often opportunistic reaction in the international community. France sees geopolitical advantage in offering aid to Vietnam, its erstwhile enemy. Japan seizes its chance to become a nuclear power. When the US sends a ship to rescue a group of oil workers held hostage by China, the Chinese sink it. Air and sea battles rage as those nations with high-tech toys rush to employ them. At length, China and the US go one-

on-one, facing each other's threat of nuclear extinctionneither doubting that under certain circumstances the other would pull the trigger. In Hawksley and Hollertons scenario the world survives, but the authors leave behind a dismal epigraph from Plato: ``Only the dead have seen the end of war." Meticulous, persuasive, disheartening. -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sarah Ruff:

This Dragon Strike tend to be reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The key reason why of this Dragon Strike can be one of the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you with information that maybe will shock your earlier knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed types. Beside that this Dragon Strike forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Diane Gibbons:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book Dragon Strike it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Leo Osborne:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled Dragon Strike your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one application form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get previous to. The Dragon Strike giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Debra Davin:

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, short story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not striving Dragon Strike that give your

enjoyment preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading behavior all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world far better than how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be said constantly that reading routine only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you are able to pick Dragon Strike become your personal starter.

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