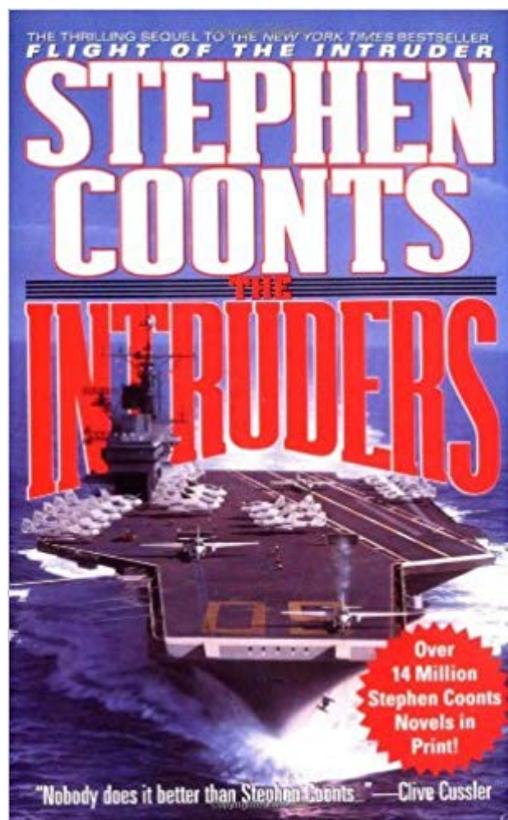


The Intruders *by* Stephen Coonts



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Landing an excruciating eight-month cruise on an aircraft carrier, Navy lieutenant Jake Grafton is ordered to teach his Marine charges about carrier aviation and is met with strong hostility. Reprint.



Reviews of the *The Intruders* *by* Stephen Coonts

Zuser

I had to put this book down. Way too boring. This seemed to be an instructional book on naval ships and jets used in warfare. Although interesting in itself, this book was not entertaining, which is what I want in a book. So unless you want know the ins and outs of a naval aircraft carrier life etc., I don't recommend this book. I've enjoyed the other Jake Grafton books I've read. But, not this one.

Prince Persie

With lots of aerial action and detail this is a great vintage Stephen Coonts about life on an aircraft carrier. "The Intruders" is set in 1973, shortly after the end of the Vietnam War and tells the story of Jake Grafton's experience after the stresses of Vietnam. Actually this is a bit of a 'prequel' because it was written out of sequence (it should have been book 2 after "Flight of the Intruder" but was written as book 5 after "The Red Horseman").

The main story is about Jake Grafton adjusting to a degree of normality after the stresses of Vietnam and his life as a carrier pilot. We also revisit Grafton's budding relationship with and love for Callie McKenzie that carries through strongly in later books. The book contains some memorable words about his first contact with his future father-in-law:

"You....drop...bombs?" His face was blank, incredulous. "And shoot missiles." Jake said firmly...."Doesn't it bother you? Dropping bombs?" "Only when the bad guys are trying to kill me."

A lot of the book is taken up with Coonts detailed description of shipboard life for a carrier pilot, how naval aviation worked at that time (things have changed a bit since then) and the action and excitement of flying in a dangerous environment.

If you like that kind of thing then you will love this book. Otherwise wait till later books when Grafton matures and gets promoted into an environment of world shattering responsibilities.

Talvin!

Read this 15+ years ago - and the rest of the series at that time. Delightfully, as with Final Flight (reading again now) I don't remember much. Don't take that the wrong way, but wonderfully so. It is a treat once again! But I wonder what I missed the first time (did you say the whole book, haha?) What I mean is I now am more educated of the goings on but I want more. I'm reading now to get more and more of a feel for the carrier life. Thanks for the insight and your service Mr. Coonts! a great book and series

Rob

Fordrellador

This book brought back many memories of my time with VAH-8, USS Midway, and VAH-123. I was with VAH-123 when they converted to the A-6 in the late 60's. My wife and I adopted our son in Bremerton in 1967. We loved Whidbey Island but got transferred to the Jacksonville, Fl on the Shangri-La in 68. While reading ts book, I could recall all the noise, smells, and the Pollywog initiation in crossing the equator aboard the Shang. Having retired in 1990, my wife and I can find nothing bad about our life in the service of our country. The reunion after a cruise was worth it. God bless all or men and women who are now serving or have served.

BoberMod

A truly enjoyable military techno-thriller starring Coonts' Jake Grafton. I use "starring" deliberately, because the book is conceived cinematically. Set in 1973 the plot is a string of episodic flying trials that Jake and his masterfully comic BN "Flap Le Beau must survive, culminating in a James Bondish final brush with some really bad guys. The plot is really secondary to the character development, however, which is very well done. It has the genuine feel of 1973 while Jake tries to figure out just who he is and what he wants to do with his life, and Le Beau, as with all great sidekick creations, seems to go on after the book ends with a life of his own. Only once does Coonts really go overboard with the catalog of then current jet technology--after all, we don't really need to know how to fly one of these things--and that passage is easily skimmed. The heart of the novel is the relationship between Grafton and Le Beau, where Coonts shows far greater novelistic skill than his higher profile rival Tom Clancy. Sure, all the thrills and chills are there, as advertised per genre, but this book is more than that and all the better for it.

Thozius

This book was set during my lifetime as a young man just out of high school and was very honest in it's depiction of the prevailing attitudes of both civilian and military. I was in the service during this stretch and believe the author did a great job of capturing both the boredom and terror that a serviceman (or woman) can experience even during "peace" time.

Although heavily detailed of the various aspects of flying these beasts on/off carriers and through the air, the story kept my interest throughout.

Skunk Black

Warm up the Flux Capacitor in your DeLorean time machine and set the year to 1973. The setting is just after the Vietnam war ended. Jake Grafton is a Navy Lieutenant with two cruises and a pilot during the Vietnam war. He has two problems to solve in his life: 1. Whether to stay in the Navy or leave it for a civilian job, 2. Whether to marry Callie McKenzie who he met in Hong Kong.

Jake is assigned to a Marine carrier with a Grumman A-6 Intruder wing as an instructor. His Bombardier-Navigator (BN) is Flap Le Beau. Someone defined flying a "Hours of boredom punctuated by moments of terror." The same can be said of this cruise for Jake.

This is part of the "Flight of the Intruder" Jake Grafton series. Coonts has superb description of US aircraft carrier operations. I should know; I'm a Navy veteran and spent time on carriers. If you like sea stories and Navy stories, read this and the whole series.

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