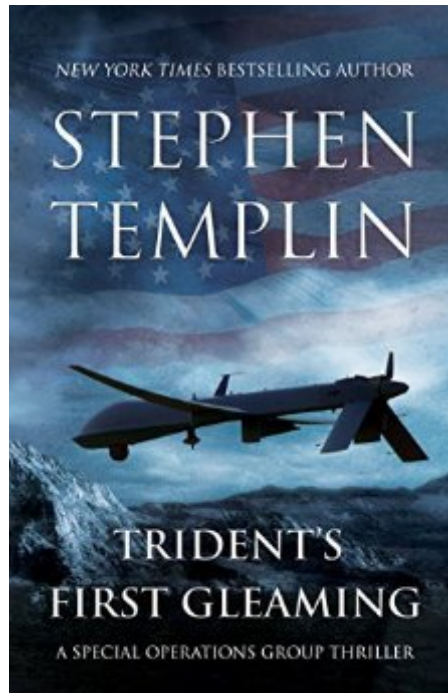


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Trident's First Gleaming: [#1] A Special Operations Group Thriller



Synopsis

Former SEAL Chris Paladin leaves SEAL Team Six to become a pastor, but CIA spook Hannah Andrade pulls him back into Special Operations Group, the ultra-secret unit that SEAL Team Six operators and others served under to eliminate bin Laden. Chris and Hannah are joined by Delta Force's Sonny Cohen to stop a new terrorist threat from launching a deadly cyber-terror against the United States.

PRAISE FOR STEVE'S BOOKS:

- "As action packed as a Tom Clancy thriller" — *harrowing* — *adrenaline-laced*. — Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*
- "Pulses with the grit of a Jerry Bruckheimer production" — Stephen Lowman, *The Washington Post*
- **Praise for *Trident's* First Gleaming** Another great novel reflecting our Spec Ops forces' global capabilities. Written by a proven and insightful master storyteller. — Howard E. Wasdin, *SEAL Team Six Sniper* and *NYT Bestselling Author of SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper*
- "Stephen Templin's *Trident's* First Gleaming is a muscular thrill ride that's rich with detail and full of heart and energy. A stand out in the ranks of modern action-adventure thrillers, *Trident's* First Gleaming is a blast." — Mark Greaney, #1 *NYT Bestselling Coauthor of Command Authority*, by Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney.
- "There are few authors who have as deep an understanding of the shadowy world of global special operations as Stephen Templin. And there are fewer still who can synthesize that knowledge into a thrilling narrative so deftly. In *Trident's* First Gleaming, Stephen weaves a tale that reflects today's complicated reality, where motives and allegiances are rarely black and white and there are no easy answers. Even more impressively, he manages to do this while still bringing plenty of visceral gunfights and car chases." — Chris Martin, *Bestselling Author of Beyond Neptune Spear and Shaping the World from the Shadows*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR STEPHEN TEMPLIN completed Hell Week, qualified as a pistol and rifle expert, and blew up things during Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training. After the Navy, he volunteered as a missionary and attended college. Then he lectured as a tenured university professor in Japan for fourteen years, where he also practiced the martial art aikido. Currently, he lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

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Customer Reviews

It is tough to write a bad review. I was expecting to enjoy this thriller, but was very disappointed with it. For one thing, the writing was just too simple. Things came too easy for the 3 main characters in the book. I have read many special ops/spy thrillers by authors like: Brad Thor, Jon Land, Robert Ludlum, and David Morrell, and this story was not close to any of those. The whole SEAL turned preacher angle was really wasted. Our hero quits the SEALs and then becomes a preacher. But less than 3 pages is spent on this and WHAM, he is right back into the special ops mix. I could have done without the love angle aspect as well. A better book to choose along these lines would be:

Reckoning by James Byron Huggins (on my Goodreads favorites book shelf). And some elements of the story were stretched a bit too thin. One of the bad guys just happened to be involved with kidnapping our hero when he was a kid. Then this same bad guy pops up years later and is now trying to kill this same kid (now grown up) who is the preacher/SEAL?!? With a world of bad guys to choose from, what are the ODDs of this happening? The main villain just happens to choose a SEAL instructor (close to our hero) as one of his victims? Thank goodness I picked up this title on sale. I would be highly upset to have spent big \$\$ on this. Story was too simple, the preacher/SEAL aspect was not really a factor, the hero kills people at the drop of a hat but won't drink a beer, whines all the time about saving himself for marriage (all very noble, but then he spends most of the story working side by side with this hot special agent).

I waited to start this book until it was released last week on Audible. I finished it last night while

driving around my neighborhood because I simply couldn't stop listening. There are so many things that are right with this book that it is difficult to find a place to start. Here are a few that really stood out for me.- I've read very few authors of fiction that can so accurately involve the reader/listener into the experience of war. Not just describe the experience. But, truly bring you INTO the experience. The emotions, the thoughts, the smell, the taste of acid in your mouth, the resolve to push forward in spite of fear, understanding the real fear - letting your teammates down, and the war inside of a man of faith who is also a warrior- In the same way the experience of battle is developed in such understandable detail, the character development of the primary character in this novel is DEEP. You really get to know this guy. He is surrounded by a series of characters that are believable and interesting, each in their own way. I can put a name on each one of these people from someone I know in the Teams, SOG/SAD, or CAG. It reminds me of the best of Vince Flynn and John Gilstrap in how he captures the interactions within the warrior brotherhood.- I mentioned this previously, but it deserves its own point. The author's willingness to explore the internal conflict of someone who holds himself to the standard of being a man of God, yet has a past, and a talent, that leads him back to the very dark world of men that hold themselves to a different standard of evil. While at the SAME time, he develops characters who exhibit the antithesis belief system and somehow shows how they coexist when they join together towards a common end.

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