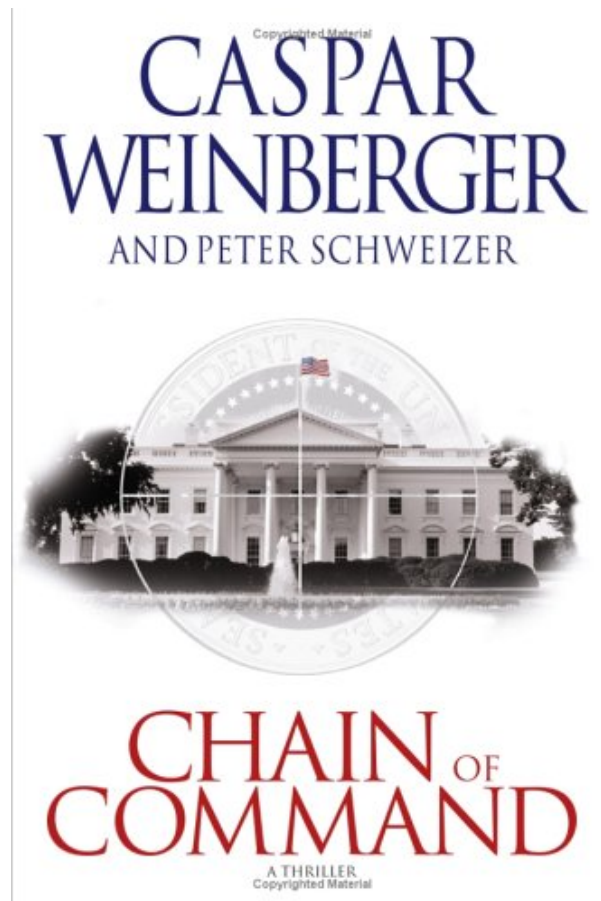


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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Two term Reagan Secretary of Defense Weinberger collaborating with Schweizer (*The Next War*) turns in a debut political thriller crackling with a chilling authenticity and riveting dirty dealing. When Secret Service Special Agent Michael Delaney, a longtime member of the presidential security detail, awakes blearily one morning at Camp David, he discovers that someone's swapped guns with him—and within minutes, the president and vice president are shot with Delaney's own Beretta. Before the wounded VP is taken to surgery, he's sworn in as president; moments later, multiple cities get hit in small but lethal coordinated attacks. The new POTUS, who sees opportunity in disaster, declares a state of national emergency, putting the entire nation under martial law, then prepares to take out a right-wing militia on whom he has pinned the attacks. Before a highly skeptical Delaney can catch his breath, he finds himself accused of being complicit in hitting the president and VP. The novel tracks, over nine days, the particulars of the White House power grab and Delaney's desperate attempts to derail it, both in the District and in some tense encounters with the Appalachia-based right-wingers. Despite some stilted dialogue, Weinberger and Schweizer have delivered a superbly paced, tightly plotted winner. (June)

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In this riveting novel by two of Washington's ultimate insiders, the chain of command is threatened when political power is bought in blood. Secret Service Agent Michael Delaney has devoted his entire career to protecting America's highest ranking elected officials. But when his gun is found next to the bloody corpse of the President of the United States, he becomes the prime suspect in a brutal assassination that stuns the nation. As the vice president assumes control of the shaken government, a series of violent terrorist attacks is launched in cities across America, causing the government to take ever more desperate steps to keep the population safe. Shockingly, the resourceful enemy they are fighting comes not from another country but from within America's borders. Unsure who he can trust, Delaney finds an unexpected ally in Mary Campos, the president's newly appointed terrorism czar. With each passing hour, the potential for catastrophe grows and the web of evidence implicating Delaney in the plot grows more convincing. It will take all his cunning and years of special training to find out who is framing him for the murder of a president. Not only are his reputation and liberty at stake but the liberty of all Americans. Former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and acclaimed writer Peter Schweizer take readers deep inside the U.S. government's secret halls of power. From the Pentagon to Camp David, from the White House Situation Room to the inner sanctums of the FBI, the authors share their intimate knowledge of Washington's behind-the-scenes world to spin an explosive tale of intrigue that is chillingly real and breathtakingly suspenseful.

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Thank you

By ibraheem khayyat

Thank you

2 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

A Thriller? It must be...it says so on the cover!

By S. A. Cartwright

Cap should stick to his day job. The publisher of Forbes magazine has teamed with novelist Peter Schweizer to pen this erstwhile thriller. With the ingredients of a presidential assassination, domestic terrorism, an intricate coup d'etat theme and a Harrison Ford/Clint Eastwood style hero you'd think this might be a hot novel. With Ronald Reagan's former Secretary of Defense (hey, the guy almost single-handedly won the cold war) at the helm, you'd think this would be the most revealing, intimate look at federal agencies and how they operate.

You'd be wrong. Instead, the suspense is non-existent, the storyline predictable and formulaic. 'Chain of Command' starts with a bang. POTUS is killed, and the next 300 pages devolve into a rather bland plot of framed good guy patriot versus dark-skinned evil South American hired guns working at the behest of Nixonian-like Presidential aids. (Cap still trying to distant himself from those guys?) The attempted plot twists are lame: Oh! Our hero, Mike Delaney, really isn't hiding under the tarp on the outbound train...it's a cell phone with a transmitter! My, my, what a surprise! Gee, any chance Delany will escape the next peril he faces? Readable over a weekend, it nonetheless is a story that feels crafted over a weekend, too.

Insultingly, six pages of pointless epilogue retell the whole tale as if you perhaps didn't understand the preceding pages. This brings the bore to a close. Mr. Secretary, please spend your time writing better stuff. Give us memoirs, political analysis, observations of life on Maine islands, whatever. Don't sully your rep with dime-store novels.

7 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Prescient warning for Americans

By Riley Gordinier

Not farfetched at all, and in some ways the fiction has been surpassed by truth.

There is the remarkable similarity of the fictional President Boyd's attempts to overthrow the Constitution, and what was attempted by the real President Bush. Although Boyd uses assassination and staged bombings in the U.S., Bush used 9/11 in a similar manner to induce fear in the population and provide a rationale for executive rule. Boyd's power play runs into more Congressional opposition and is less brazen than the reality of actions by G.W. Bush.

This is in the tradition of fictional warnings of dystopia, such as 'It Can't Happen Here', "Brave New World" and "1984".

It's also a good political action thriller; better than the Clive Cussler books.

Weinberger has certainly used his knowledge of the inner workings of government to good effect here.

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