Stephen Coonts: Table of Contents

Use in combination with the program script

This table of contents works best as a guide for people who have listened to the CD and want to find favorite parts. Teachers may want to print it out and make notes on it as they listen to the program, choosing tracks for classroom use.

Classroom content: Stephen Coonts has written one best-selling book after another, often featuring military and intelligence technology. Elementary teacheers will want to use some tracks, but - because his work often contains violence - most tracks are most suited for older students. His descriptions of the way various items of technology work - a fighter plane, a device for breaking into a safe - are especially noteworthy. He is quite good at slowing down time, providing great detail about a few minutes: the fighter pilot waiting to be launched into the dark, the FBI informant waiting in the dark for a killer.

\* Tracks suitable for younger students are starred.

Kev: Italics: Coonts reading his work

W: Advice or conversation about writing

F/H: Fictionalizing history: turning actual events into fiction or poetry

CM: Childhood memories AM: Adult memories

CH: Cultural heritage

IWV: Identity as a West Virginian

CNW: Connection with the natural world: attachment to land and animals

CCF: Connection with community and/or family

J: Justice as a theme

- 1. (:16) Introduction: "I'm a storyteller, a professional liar, and a commercial writer..."
- 2. (:58) His books are "techno-thrillers" in which his heroes survive great dangers
- \* 3. (1:20) As a child, he read lots of books > if you want to be a writer, read > postive comments about growing up in Buckhannon
- \* 4. (1:40) His first airplane ride as a boy
- 5. (3:25) Reading from Flight of the Intruder: Jake Grafton, navy fighter pilot, waiting in the dark in his plane, waiting to be launched in the dark off a destroyer: excellent small detail
- 6. (:48) His background as a fighter pilot and various jobs after the service
- 7. (1:55) How he wrote his first book, The Flight of the Intruder.
- \* 8. (:45) Describes his main character, Jake Grafton, as "every man," "always tries to do the right thing"
- 9. (1:55) He had to learn to write love scenes
- 10. (:41) Jake Grafton blows up at an officer who tries to congratulate him for killing 47 people
- 11. (2:25) His story about the way Flight of the Intruder ended up on President Reagan's desk and in Fortune magazine
- 12. (2:17) From Flight of the Intruder: Jake and his bombadier have been shot down. The bombadier

- has a broken back. He urges Jake to leave him.
- 13. (3:20) Coonts had trouble selling the sequel at first > advice to writers: stick with it > tells a post-Vietnam story about discrimination against vets
- 14. (1:02) Is Jake your alter ego? His answer
- 15. (2:27) From Hong Kong: A computer tech in the USA blows up the Red Chinese missile supply from his home computer
- 16. (1:02) Introduction to reading from Under Seige: hitman is testing his weapons, sees a deer, turns gentle
- 17. (2:43) From Under Seige: scene between the hitman and the deer > after-comments about villains in real life, people who do ordinary things too
- 18. (:52) Introduction to another scene from Under Siege in which an FBI informant is waiting for a hitman to come try to kill him.
- 19. (3:04) That scene, set in a dark stairwell: creates great suspense through small detail
- 20. (1:19) From Under Seige: FBI informant survives and goes home to his grandma
- 21. (:58) How do you think up these ocmplex plots? His answer.
- 22. (4:14) How do you keep up with modern technology? His answer > Reading from Cuba. CIA guy trying to break in a safe. Once again, skilled detail-by-detail description.
- 23. (3:44) From Hong Kong: giant fighting robots attack the Chinese army
- 24. (2:15) From America: an international gang taking over a new U.S. nuclear submarine
- 25. (1:56) The ironic timing of the publication of America, a month before 9-11 > reader reaction > his plans for a post-9/11 Jake Grafton novel
- 26. (1:04) Has the government asked you to apply your mind to what the real terrorists might do? His answer.
- 27. (2:39) Description of his West Virginia farm > He has written a non-thriller set in West Virginia. His publishers are leery.
- 28. (5:14) From The Cannibal Queen: Coonts takes a chance on running out of gas as he flies his plane over the mountains in Washington state.