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.

Key: **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

>>>

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.

>>>