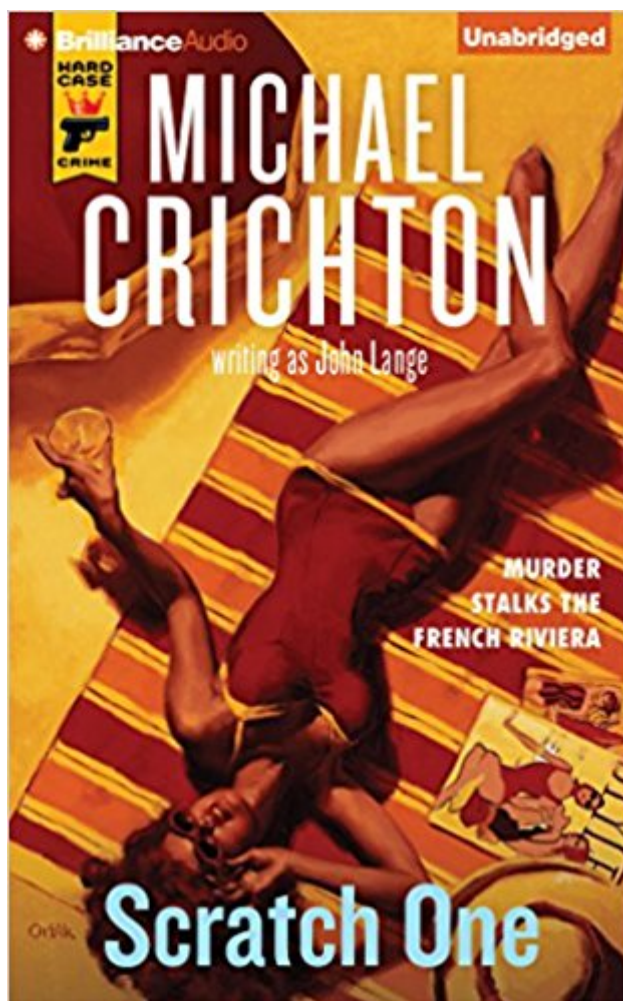




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Scratch One



Synopsis

To prevent an arms shipment from reaching the Middle East a terrorist group has been carrying out targeted assassinations in Egypt, Portugal, Denmark, France. In response, the United States sends one of its deadliest agents to take the killers down. But when the agent is delayed in transit, lawyer Roger Carr gets mistaken for him. Now, with some of the world's deadliest men after him, will he survive long enough to prove his identity?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Before he was the Michael Crichton, the author published a handful of thrillers under a pseudonym, John Lange. They're slick and formulaic novels, lots of fun, but not what you'd normally expect from Crichton. This one, from 1967, involves a group of terrorists who are executing a series of assassinations and an unfortunate American lawyer who, due to a rather contrived case of mistaken identity, is believed by the terrorists to be a top U.S. agent sent to stop them. Mayhem ensues. The book is much closer to 1950s paperback fiction than it is to typical Crichton fare; the characters are nicely drawn, and the action is enjoyable, but this is in no way a science-based thriller. It's a straightforward adventure yarn. And a pretty good one, too. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"One of the best books in the Lange bunch." - Trash Mutant "Scratch One is a great starting point for this 'new-old' series, and should have alerted the world in 1967 that an excellent, up-and-coming novelist was in our midst." Borg.com "Pure, high-octane entertainment." - Pop

Mythology"A joy to read." - Geek Nutz"Great delight to Crichton fans who are still mourning his 2008 passing."Ã Â Geek Girl Project --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book wasn't written in what I have come to expect of Michael Crichton excellence. However, it is entertaining. The action is non-stop although at times seemed drawn out. The premise of this book is another "mistaken identity" - a businessman (realtor) is mistaken for a ruthless arms dealer. The main character is unaware of his mistaken identity although calamity seems to follow him throughout his business trip. He seems a bit dense at times and doesn't react with as much fear of his captors/circumstances as an "average Joe" would have. I would have enjoyed reading more descriptions of how he relied on ingenuity to get out of the jams he found himself in, rather than rely on his captors to realize their mistake and let him go. This book lacked passion which, for me, spoiled suspense and thrill.

Another early book from the Master of the Techno-Thriller. Michael Crichton's second book was written while he was young and in college. Not as great as his later works, but still a good read. A mild-mannered Lawyer gets mixed up in the world as international espionage and political assassinations. Main character leaves something to be desired, though. If you're a Crichton fan, give it a read.

I enjoyed it very much. It belongs in the Hard Case Crimes section. I was surprised that it was written by a college student, even though he later became a very successful professional author and producer.

This one is not a typical Michael Crichton novel but it was still good in a "James Bond" sort of way. If you like that type of novel/story/plot, you will probably like this one. In fact, reading it has caused me to want to re-visit all of the James Bond movies! It's been a while!

Apparently Michael Crichton polished his skills greatly after writing this one. I've read everything he's done and while not totally disappointed with this one, it is definitely a weak offering compared to his later ones.

Excellent, early Crichton. A good read.

You can tell Crichton was still developing as a writer, but I enjoyed this story (and other books in his crime series) and will continue reading them until I've covered them all.

Scratch One is a gripping espionage thriller, nothing more, nothing less. I enjoyed it thoroughly and found myself picking it back up after I had just put it down.

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