



Cold Shot: A Novel (a Jonathan Burke/Kyra Stryker Thriller)

By Mark Henshaw

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This ingenious thriller follows two CIA analysts on the hunt for a dangerous Iranian nuclear scientist hell-bent on building a bomb right on America's doorstep.

The USS *Vicksburg* is returning home when the crew comes upon a lifeboat bearing a dead Somali pirate who shows signs of torture. Questions immediately arise: Who is this man, and which ship did he come from? Who tortured him? Soon Red Cell analysts Kyra Stryker and Jonathan Burke have traced the dead man back to an Iranian ship currently bound for Venezuela—and the ship appears to have dangerous, radioactive cargo on board.

The Iranians' plan quickly becomes clear—they're building a nuclear bomb in politically unstable Venezuela, away from the UN's prying eyes. Stryker and Burke must tread carefully, though, because diplomacy in Venezuela is tricky at best. A civil war is at stake if word gets out. Can they stop the Iranians before it's too late?

From current CIA analyst and Red Cell think tank veteran Mark Henshaw, *Cold Shot* is a fascinating, thrilling, and richly detailed journey into the intelligence world that only a true insider could create.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Henshaw's follow-up to his terrific debut, *Red Cell* (2012), continues the adventures of analysts Kyra Stryker and Jonathan Burke, well-rounded and fascinating characters with enough personal foibles to give them depth. This time they must investigate a strange discovery by the crew of the USS Vicksburg. The vessel was heading for shore when it stumbled upon a lifeboat with a dead Somali pirate inside who was clearly tortured. Stryker and Burke trace the pirate back to an Iranian ship heading for Venezuela, which frightens Stryker since she had a bad experience the last time she was in that country. And the evidence seems to indicate that people onboard the ship are planning to build a nuclear bomb. Henshaw, who spent 13 years as a CIA analyst, has a firm grasp of how the intelligence community operates, and uses that knowledge to deliver another winner. Readers seeking a revealing portrait of the covert world need look no further. --Jeff Ayers

Review

"Before it's in the news, it's in Mark Henshaw's novels. *Cold Shot* has all the hallmarks of a masterful espionage thriller—killer action scenes, heroes and villains on every side, suspense to spare, a timely plot, and above all else chilling insight into the secret world of intelligence. If you want to know what's going on in Venezuela, read this book. You will be entertained and amazed." (Stephen Hunter)

"Henshaw has a firm grasp of how the intelligence community operates, and uses that knowledge to deliver another winner. Readers seeking a revealing portrait of the covert world need look no further." (Booklist)

"Combines inspired data analysis, corrupt geopolitical maneuvering, and searing action." (Publisher's Weekly)

"Tense, suspenseful and loaded with immersive detail...[Henshaw] provides a Clancy-esque level of detail but without dragging the story down." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Cleverness runs rampant. The lead characters are always interesting and on their game, and the plot is excellently mapped out, increasing the chills and thrills by taking the reader through the almost supernatural world of American intelligence that only an expert writer could create. Hostile territory, radioactivity, the end of America, agents who will never stop until they have beaten the enemy—this one has it all." (Suspense Magazine)

Praise for *Red Cell*: "CIA analyst Henshaw's assured debut, an exciting espionage thriller, puts him solidly in the ranks of the top writers of the genre. Henshaw deftly weaves together all the major and minor players—the U.S., Chinese, and Taiwanese governments; the spies who provide information; and the analysts who turn that information into intelligence. The masterfully handled battle at the end is worthy of Tom Clancy." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Henshaw is a master of detail . . . and he knows how to tell a thrilling story." —Baton Rouge Advocate "[Henshaw] uses expert knowledge of the intelligence world to create a fascinating and totally believable pulse-pounding story." —Tucson Citizen "Like *The Hunt for Red October*, this is a suspenseful thriller for those interested in espionage and military conflict." —Washington Times "A lean and efficient effort fueled by an infrequent quality: believability . . . In this deft novel of intelligence, the CIA actually shines." —Kirkus Reviews "This technothriller is the perfect read-alike for fans of Tom Clancy, Dale Brown, Patrick Robinson, and Joe Buff." —Booklist "Red Cell is as

smart as it is exciting, a thriller that makes you think from the edge of your seat. Mark Henshaw's unique perspective from the inside makes it all feel terrifyingly real." —Howard Gordon, co-creator of *Homeland* and author of *Hard Target* "Mark Henshaw is the real deal and he delivers big-time in his debut novel *Red Cell*. Only a decorated CIA analyst like Henshaw could take you this deep into the psyche of CIA operatives—and even deeper into one of the most dangerous and imminent geopolitical flashpoints of our times. If the events Henshaw plays out on the pages of his novel have not already taken place in secret, they may well play out in public sooner rather than later. Mr. President, this intelligence briefing is worth your special attention." —Thomas Greanias, author of *Dominus Dei* "Mark Henshaw clearly knows the terrain, from the geopolitical to the tradecraft in the shadows. I'm surprised this made it past the CIA censors. A rock solid thriller as plausible as tomorrow's headlines." —Brad Taylor, author of *One Rough Man and All Necessary Force* "If you're looking for a great, authentic and thrilling story, look no further. Lock the door and turn off the phone, because you're going on a journey only a gifted insider like Mark Henshaw could take you on. This author is a rare double threat—a man with the knowledge and access few have, and the rare talent as a writer to bring it to life. If you want to learn how things really work when it hits the fan, you can apply for a job at the CIA or read Mark's book." —David Ayer, screenwriter of *Training Day* and *S.W.A.T.* (')

About the Author

Mark Henshaw is a graduate of Brigham Young University and a decorated CIA analyst with more than sixteen years of service. In 2007, Henshaw was awarded the Director of National Intelligence Galileo Award for innovation in intelligence analysis. A former member of the Red Cell think tank, Henshaw is the author of *Red Cell*, *Cold Shot*, and *The Fall of Moscow Station*, and lives with his family in Leesburg, Virginia. Visit him at MarkHenshaw.com.

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