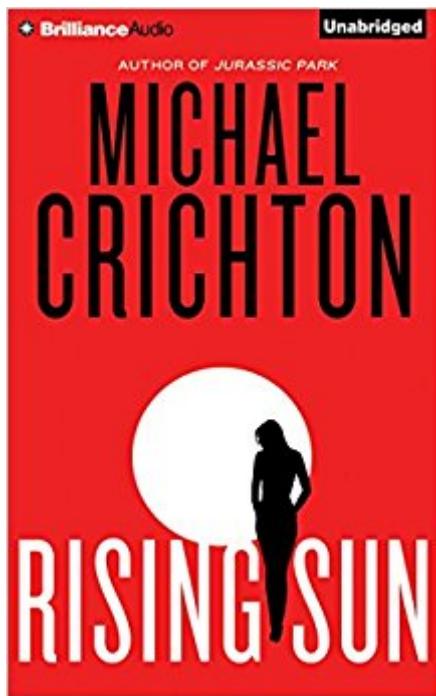


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# Rising Sun: A Novel



## Synopsis

A riveting thriller of corporate intrigue and cutthroat competition between American and Japanese business interests. On the forty-fifth floor of the Nakamoto tower in downtown Los Angeles—the new American headquarters of the immense Japanese conglomerate—a grand opening celebration is in full swing. On the forty-sixth floor, in an empty conference room, the corpse of a beautiful young woman is discovered. The investigation immediately becomes a headlong chase through a twisting maze of industrial intrigue, a no-holds-barred conflict in which control of a vital American technology is the fiercely coveted prize—and in which the Japanese saying “business is war” takes on a terrifying reality. *Rising Sun* was made into a film, starring Sean Connery. “As well built a thrill machine as a suspense novel can be.” —The New York Times Book Review “A grand maze of plot twists” —Crichton’s gift for spinning a timely yarn is going to be enough, once again, to serve a current tenant of the bestseller list with an eviction notice. —New York Daily News

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A young American model is murdered in the corporate boardroom of Los Angeles’s Nakamoto Tower on the new skyscraper’s gala opening night. Murdered, that is, unless she was strangled while enjoying sadomasochistic sex that went too far. Nakamoto, a Japanese electronics giant, tries to hush up the embarrassing incident, setting in motion a murder investigation that serves Crichton (Jurassic Park) as the platform for a clever, tough-talking harangue on the dangers of Japanese

economic competition and influence-peddling in the U.S. Divorced LAPD lieutenant Peter Smith, who has custody of his two-year-old daughter, and hard-boiled detective John Connor, who says things like "For a Japanese, consistent behavior is not possible," pursue the killer in a winding plot involving Japan's attempt to gain control of the U.S. computer industry. Although Crichton's didactic aims are often at cross-purposes with his storytelling, his entertaining, well-researched thriller cannot be easily dismissed as Japan-bashing because it raises important questions about that country's adversarial trade strategy and our inadequate response to it. He also provides a fascinating perspective on how he thinks the Japanese view Americans--as illiterate, childish, lazy people obsessed with TV, violence and aggressive litigation. 225,000 first printing; BOMC main selection. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-- The celebrity-studded opening of a huge Japanese office building is marred by the murder of a beautiful American woman. Lt. Peter Smith is called in to investigate and is requested to bring along John Connor, an expert on Japanese culture and fluent in the language. So begins a riveting tale that combines suspense, technology, and a full-scale economic battle for survival. YAAs will have no problem following the complex corporate business schemes described by Crichton, whose loyalties are obviously with America. Readers who fear that the Japanese are taking over the U. S. economy will not be reassured.- Katherine Fitch, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke, VACopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read this book years ago when it was first published. Like nearly all of Michael Creighton 's books, it's not a one time read. You read it a second time to catch any story nuances, that you might have missed the first time. Then a year later, you think, "Wow! That was a great book"! Every once in awhile, you get the urge and read it again! Lots of info on Japan, America's economical situation in the 90's and a great plot with great characters! The movie didn't do it justice, Wesley Snipes was not a good fit for the part, Sean Connery part would have been fabulous if they had stayed true to the book!

"Rising Sun" is a well constructed murder mystery, used as an excuse by the author to expose his view of the commercial relation between Japan and USA. This is a fact, that has been badly criticized by many, as if literature (and art in general) wasn't often about transmitting something different (or deeper, if you will) than what you actually say or write. That aside, I found this novel to

be very well written, with nicely developed characters and an intriguing plot.

Michael Crichton was, of course, a master of the techno-thriller. Jurassic Park, The Andromeda Strain, Sphere, Prey - From the 70s until the late Aughts, when Crichton passed away, there were few better masters of plotting and pacing. Often overlooked in his resume, though, is Rising Sun, a book that is really interesting to read even now, 25 years after it was published. Rising Sun is, primarily, a murder mystery, a standard thriller novel, but placed in a slightly different timeline than ours. In this timeline, the Japanese have leveraged their ability to protect their markets while exploiting ours to become the foremost producer of just about everything modern. As a result, they find themselves owning most of Los Angeles, where Rising Sun takes place. Interwoven through the very good murder mystery are occasional sidelines into the corruption of modern Washington politics and the media, as well as the nigh-impenetrable facade of Japanese business culture. There are warnings in Rising Sun (again, written 25 years ago) that appear to have born fruit today - the decline of manufacturing in America, our dependency on Wall Street, and the imminent rise of "alternative facts" (the idea that the real truth doesn't matter, perception is all that counts). Of course, there are plenty of things that stick out to a modern reader. VCRs and car phones, for instance, will be just about incomprehensible to younger readers, as might pay phones and "land lines", but they don't detract from the plot terribly much. I'd say that, overall, Rising Sun holds up remarkably well 25 years after it was written.

This book was probably more interesting 20 years ago or so. A young woman is murdered at the grand opening of a big new Japanese owned hotel. As detectives Smith and Connor try to solve the mystery, the Japanese fight them and refuse to cooperate at every turn. The subjects of racism and Japanese imperialism come up often. In the end, there is a twist when the murderer is revealed but honestly it got very tiring hearing the long and constant drabble about the Japanese superiority and the Japanese this and the Japanese that. It was just too much. This book could have been half as long and more interesting. I also objected to the ridiculous way Connor never ever told his partner about any theories or developments in the case. Smith was useless and a terrible cop. Kind of dull and very unrealistic. Waaaayyy too wordy

A great mystery written only as Michael Crichton can write. What makes the story so good is the

interaction between Americans and Japanese and how each has different morals and values. I highly recommend this book to mystery lovers and I think you will find the subtlety between the American detectives and the Japanese entertaining as well as enlightening.

This book was interesting in two dimensions. First, the murder plot held my attention as it was full of unexpected twists. Second, the effect of the Japanese culture and the relationship of the Japanese population with the LA police provided additional unexpected turns. I believe this book was turned into a movie a few years ago where Sean Connery played the lead detective. Whether or not that is true, picturing Connery as the lead, Japanese-astute detective made the book come to life more vividly.

There was so much foul language in the book I just couldn't get through it. It is so unnecessary! This book was made into a movie, also very dark and I was hoping the book would develop characters a bit more and focus less on the gruesome. I was very disappointed in Michael Crichton and his decision to take this story to the totally dark side.

I read this when it was first published in 1992. It was excellent and this is the first time I've gone back and reread it. It holds up exceptionally well, in fact, it's amazing how prescient Creighton was. Sure, there are certain exceptions (digital editing of images has progressed by orders of magnitude), but it was definitely ahead of its time. There are many passages in the book that are chilling in their direct and accurate mirroring of our today. Creighton is on record as intending this book to criticize America but ended up - to his great surprise - being labelled a racist for his portrayal of the Japanese. If one now makes unfavorable observations regarding China's business practices, you also stand a likely chance of being labelled a racist. As the proverb goes: plus *ÃfÃE'Ã Ä§a change, plus c'est la mÃfÃE'Ã Ä§me chose.* Yes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Great who-dunnit.

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