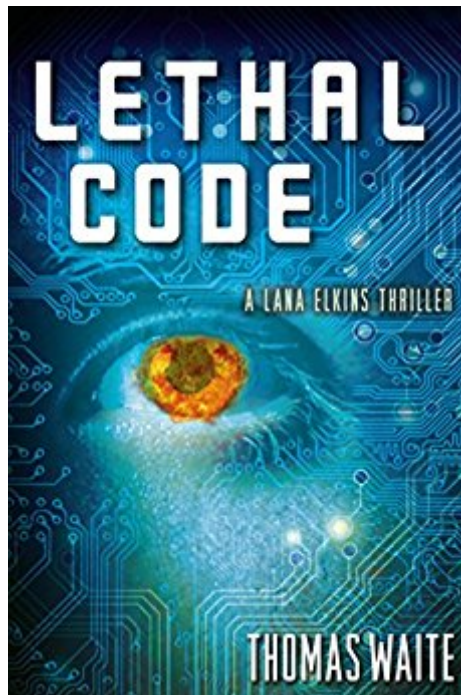




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# Lethal Code (A Lana Elkins Thriller Book 1)



## Synopsis

America's worst nightmare has come true: a "cyber Pearl Harbor" attack by unknown terrorists has crippled the nation's power grid and brought the land of the free to its knees. As widespread panic and violence ravage the country, its ruthless captors issue their ultimatums and vow an apocalyptic reckoning. A defenseless nation scrambles to fight an invisible invasion. Chief among America's last line of defense is Lana Elkins, head of a major cyber-security company and former top NSA operative who returns to her roots to spearhead the Agency's frantic efforts to combat the enemy's onslaught on its own terms. While she and her superiors take action to infiltrate a terrorist hotbed overseas, much closer to home ruthless jihadists with a nuclear bomb hijack a busload of schoolchildren including Lana's daughter and race toward a rendezvous with Armageddon in America's greatest city. With Lethal Code, Thomas Waite raises the international techno-thriller to dangerously exciting levels introducing a valiant new action heroine, and initiating a series that brings a harrowing new edge of realism to sensational speculative fiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I went through *Lethal Code* by Thomas Waite while on vacation a couple weeks back. I had some plane and bus rides to get from point A to point B, and the book did a good job in passing the time. While I liked the cyber-thriller angle of the story, there was a fair amount of "suspension of belief" that was necessary to buy into the plot. There are definitely vulnerabilities that can be exploited by hackers, but not at the level you see here... The story line revolves around a cyber-attack on the US that cripples nearly everything... power grids, control systems, nuclear facilities, etc. The terrorists make their initial show of force by turning off the power across the entire country for a 24-hour period, and tens of thousands die in various accidents and fires. But that's just the beginning, as they are not content to stop there. The plan is to eventually annihilate the country with their own nuclear missiles, and it looks like there is little that can be done to stop them. But that wouldn't be much of a story if that was it. A small (and unlikely) team of security and intelligence experts (and one person who was originally fingered as the mastermind of the attacks) are put together to head to the Middle East to infiltrate the suspected organization that is running the hacking operation. They have to do what no one else has been able to pull off... find the site of the hacking attacks and stop them before America becomes a heap of radioactive rubble. I liked the characters and the pacing of the story. I had no problems with feeling like things were dragging or that I didn't care what happened. I had more issues with the technical aspects of the story. Everything was just too perfect in terms of what the hackers could do. Things were done at a massive level with pinpoint precision, but many of the systems that were affected wouldn't have been accessible from the outside to begin with. While it might be possible to plant viruses in missile systems and such, there's no way that you could control them from an external site over the 'net. Also, knowing the technical state (or lack thereof) of many critical systems, the thought of being able to hack and control all of them at once is... non-existent. Having said all that, it was still a fun read. Techies might get overly hung up on the details, and as such would have a hard time enjoying it for what it is. But if you're willing to let that go and "go with the flow", it's good. Disclosure: Obtained From: Payment: Purchase

*Lethal Code* is a technological thriller in the vein of the *Live Free or Die Hard* movie. Thomas Waite hops into the action on page 2 with a massive cyberattack on the US, and sets off a great who-done-it chase with veteran cyber analysis Lana Elkins. They take you around to all the world's hot spots looking for the criminal group that has the entire US infrastructure

under their control. There are the plenty of twists and turns, and I believe the parts about the government being able to do nothing about it. I like the character dynamics. The diversity of players, multiple connections, and the teenage daughter stuck in the middle of the tragedy while the mother is stuck protecting the country from further attack. Waite investigates some of the Middle Eastern prejudices, and puts many of the hot topics from CNN right there into his story, adding a touch of realism, while timing the story where it could all happen tomorrow. It is a well written story, but overall not my type of action. The characters were good, there was no large info dumps, but the complexity of the computer is explained simply enough not to lose anyone. It is book one of a 3 part Lana Elkins trilogy.

Excellent read on a current topic that has not been taken seriously enough by either the public or private sectors. The characters could have been developed better but nonetheless are adequate for the story's purpose. The dynamics of the book lies in the potential consequences of a cyber attack on the US and the relative ease to accomplish that feat (very little cost, manpower or time required). I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a fast paced, concise and interesting narrative on a subject that is both relevant but often ignored.

Taking down the grid and its myriad ramifications electrifies a novel where the situation is all too real, and Tom Waite catapults you right inside the turmoil. Cyberterrorism becomes understandable, fascinating, and terrifying at the same time. It's hard to put this book down, and even harder to sleep afterward. In this tale, a female NSA contractor plays on a level playing field with the bigwigs and the stakes couldn't be higher. But the intelligence of the writer is equal to the task and what all the characters must face is realistic. Not only will you find the subject and the writing well done, but you will realize everyone needs to pay more attention to the importance of cybersecurity in our current world.

This could have been an outstanding book if he had just made the premise a little more believable. The writing is very good but he tries too hard and takes the story way outside the realm of what could actually happen. It would have been far better and equally chilling if he had kept his imagination in check.

Lana Elkins is a heroine we can all relate to. A single working parent with a teenager she is trying to keep out of trouble. The action is smart, fast paced and exciting. The topic is contemporary and on

point. Truly looking forward to more Lana Elkins stories.

Pretty cool book. Scary to think this could actually happen in the world in which we live with everything based upon computers today!! Definitely makes you think about it!! Only drawback was the end came very quickly where I think they could have went a bit further with it. Felt rushed at the very end.

Cyber War 1 is an alternate title that could apply to this novel. A very realistic story in our fast paced computer age. The characters are well developed and easily followed. Frighteningly realistic in the possibility of occurring in our lives. The story is believable and potentially prophetic. Hopefully computer security will improve to such an extent that this could not happen. Fortunately our military academies are currently teaching the computer skills for counter espionage. You will not want to put this book down once you begin reading. I will definitely read other works by this author.

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