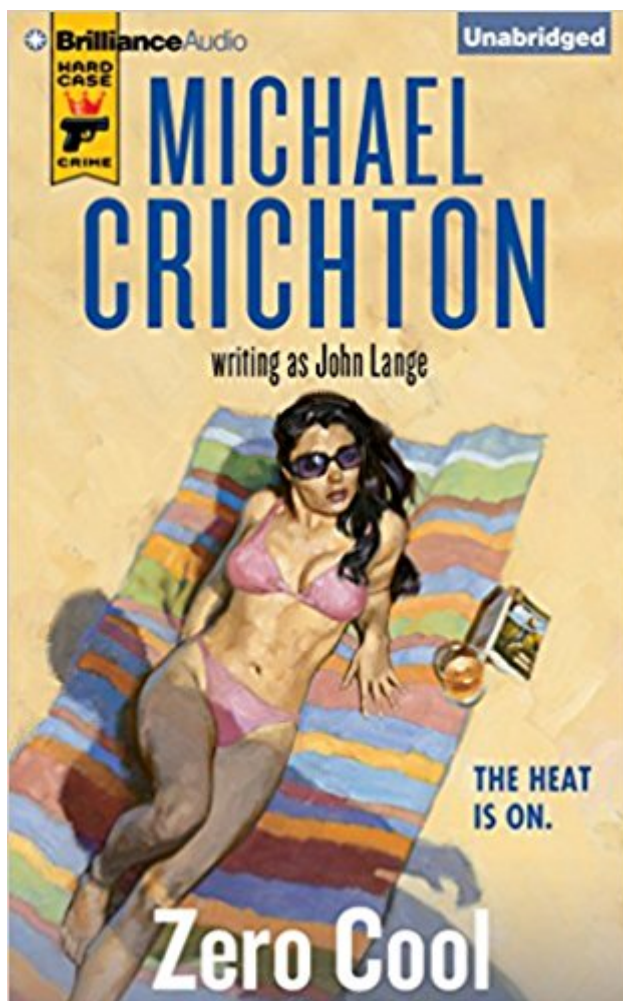




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# Zero Cool



## Synopsis

American radiologist Peter Ross just wanted a vacation. But when he meets the beautiful Angela Locke on a Spanish beach, he soon finds himself caught in a murderous crossfire between rival gangs seeking a precious artifact. From Barcelona to the rain-swept streets of Paris, from the towers of the Alhambra to its darkest catacombs, Peter Ross is an ordinary man in desperate circumstances: racing to uncover a secret lost for centuries, before he becomes its next victim.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An equal amount of excitement and humor. It's that great mix of funny and suspense that unfolds a fun story for the readers." - Atomic Moo  
"Great delight to Crichton fans who are still mourning his 2008 passing." - Geek Girl Project --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Michael Crichton was a writer and filmmaker, best known as the author of Jurassic Park and the creator of ER. One of the most popular entertainers in the world, Crichton sold more than 200 million copies of his books which have been translated into 40 languages and adapted into 15 films. Long before the carefully researched techno-thrillers that ultimately brought him to fame, Crichton wrote high-octane suspense novels to support himself while studying at Harvard Medical School. He published eight of these books under the pseudonym John Lange between the years of 1966 and 1972. They provided him with the means to complete his education. He graduated at the top of his class.

a short entertaining novel written by Michael Crichton while in med school. Although there are a few obvious lapses in the story, it does contain some plot twists which the author was famous for. Still, Crichton fans should find this novel enjoyable.

John Lange wrote eight great novels in the 1960's then totally dropped out of sight. The reason is because John Lange was secretly Michael Crichton, the best-selling mainstream author of such blockbusters as *Congo*, *Sphere* and *Jurassic Park*. *Zero Cool* was released in 1969, the same year Crichton had *The Andromeda Strain* published his "first novel" under his own name. This like the other seven John Lange novels may not be a masterpiece but it is an excellent fun romp of an action & mystery novel. Pretty woman and globe hopping adventure abound. It stars vacationing radiologist Peter Ross who gets sucked into this breakneck story. When *Hard Case Crime* first brought this story back in print in 2008, Crichton wrote some new prose for the beginning and endings to make it seem more timely. *Hard Case* is now reprinting this and all eight books in its new over-sized editions from Titan books. Although the 2008 edition in the small size is still available I recommend buying the 2013 edition. It is much easier to read and the stunning cover art by Gregory Manchess deserves the large treatment. **Highly Recommended**

I'm a big fan of Lange's *Grave Descend*, but this book is even better. This is the classic Hitchcock plot; ordinary guy gets caught up in a web of intrigue beyond his comprehension in 1950's Europe, principally Spain. No one is whom they seem to be, there's a beautiful woman who may be more than she seems, and events move faster and faster towards the close. What makes this better than the average noir story is the unfolding clues and sense of mystery as the protagonist, Peter Ross, comes closer to the truth. The locale descriptions are detailed and captivating. The final scenes, played out in the catacombs of the Alhambra, are quite exciting. If you like fast-paced thrillers like *The Da Vinci Code*, you'll like this fine reissue by *Hard Case Crime* a lot. They have yet another winner.

I like this better than the other John Lange/Michael Crichton books I have read because it is short and sticks to the plot. It's a mash-up of *The Maltese Falcon* and *Charade* with plot holes so large that it makes more sense to call it a few threads of plot stretched over a chasm of implausibility. The characters are thin, the dialog wooden and the non-scientific description missing in action. But it's clever and it moves fast and it has a lot of accurate historical and scientific detail. If you keep your expectations low, you will enjoy this forgettable thriller.

Light, fun reading. I would call this style "noir light". Fairly predictable but a fun fast read about a young doctor on vacation in a foreign country and suddenly caught in the middle of an elaborate conspiracy - classic Hitchcock type twists but due to the predictability it lacks the appropriate level of suspense.

This was a fast moving and entertaining story, full of questionable characters, and vicious nefarious sorts reminiscent of gangster-type noir films. The protagonist never has a very clear picture of what he is dealing with and why. There are twists and innovative surprises to keep you from putting the book/eReader down, but it is a quick read as a result. Easy to believe Zero Cool author John Lange is the eventual author of Andromeda Strain.

Another early book from Michael Crichton, the master of the Techno-Thriller. This book is light-hearted, comical and the plot is far-fetched. Reminded me of the Maltese Falcon, Joe Average Man gets caught up in quest for ancient Relic. A good, fast read, but don't expect Jurassic Park.

Excellent!

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