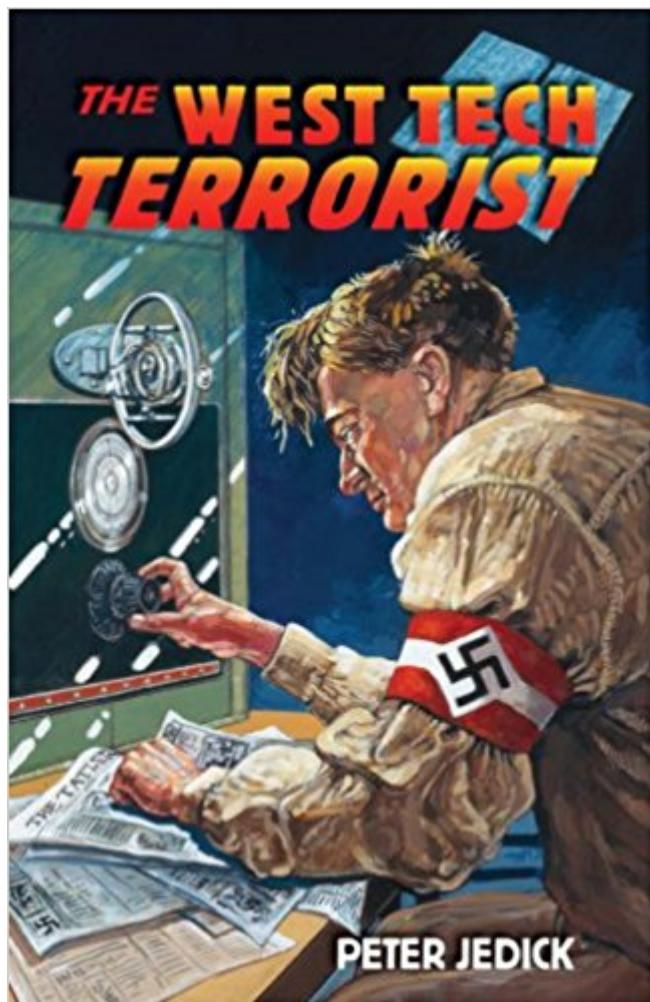


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The West Tech Terrorist



Synopsis

The West Tech Terrorist is a romance mystery novel. It is a fast-moving easy reading detective story that provides a taste of the home front during World War II America. The novel is set in the fall of 1941 at Cleveland's West Technical High School, one of the largest and most unique high schools in the country. The United States is on the brink of World War II. Victor Blazek, the sports editor of the West Tech school newspaper, suspects that a group of fellow students are Nazi sympathizers and that they have a secret plan to blow up a Cleveland defense plant. He enlists his girl friend, Doris, to help foil the plot. They fall in love while searching for clues throughout the school's many different departments, everything from aircraft engine repair to horticulture to welding. But their attempt as amateur sleuths puts their lives in danger. Will the surprise appearance of legendary crime fighter Eliot Ness save both them and the defense plant from destruction? Only The West Tech Terrorist knows for sure. The novel appeals to both adults and young adults and to both males and females.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A gripping, intriguing period piece...and smartly crafted historical allegory...well worth checking out."--Peter Chakerian, Managing Editor, CoolCleveland.com, December 12, 2007 Prior to the start of World War II, Nazi sympathizers in the United States attempted to lock up support for their movement by stealthily creeping into any and every organization they could--including high schools. Rocky River author and West Tech High School alum Peter Jedick tells of one such effort in his latest novel, The West Tech Terrorist. And from the opening scenes at the 1941 National Air Races

in Cleveland, he takes the reader on a gripping, intriguing period piece with his alma mater as the backdrop. Narrator Victor Blazek is a sports reporter for a pub called The West Tech Tatler, and he isn't interested in interviewing a WT chemistry teacher (who's working with the War Department) when a faculty advisor asks him to. All that changes with the shock-and-awe bombing of Pearl Harbor; suddenly Blazek becomes obsessed with the secrets that teacher Mr. Fleming might be harboring. From there, the junior journalist adds the job private detective to his dancer, press card. Cleveland references abound in this fondly staged representation of Jedick's school--combined with a Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew-style mystery and smartly crafted historical allegory. Even Eliot Ness works his way into the novel. In all, *The West Tech Terrorist* is as much a love letter to the region and its history, as it is a compelling period-piece read. Well worth checking out--a great, locally focused read for those ravenous book fiends on your holiday gift list. --Peter Chakerian, Managing Editor, CoolCleveland.com, December 12, 2007 "The West Tech Terrorist is a thrilling mystery akin to the classic tales of The Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew. But because of the timeliness of its themes of terrorism, school safety and espionage, it has been eliciting positive acclaim from readers ages 10-80." The WRHS Newsletter, January, 2008 One such special item in the Gift Shop is a book penned by Cleveland author Peter Jedick. Like our exhibit, WWII Up Front and Personal, it tells the story of Clevelanders during The War, but with a fictionalized twist. *The West Tech Terrorist* tells the story of a student at West Tech High School in the early 1940s who suspects a plot to blow up a Cleveland defense plant by a group of Nazi sympathizers who happen to be his fellow students. Our intrepid hero teams up with his girlfriend and recruits infamous Clevelander crime fighter Eliot Ness to help uncover the plot, and ultimately, save the city. *The West Tech Terrorist* is a thrilling mystery akin to the classic tales of The Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew. But because of the timeliness with its themes of terrorism, school safety and espionage, it has been eliciting positive acclaim from readers ages 10-80. Step back into the 1940s in Cleveland when West Tech High was one of the finest schools in the country, when Eliot Ness ruled the streets as Safety Director, and when under everyone's noses, German Bund clubs infiltrated schools to try to convert idealistic American youth to Nazi fascism. Peter Jedick is a local author of national renown. He has been receiving praise for his new book such as this from a West Tech alumnus, "The West Tech Terrorist was a fun read, especially growing up in the area and knowing all the locations. You could actually visualize every move of the story." --Melissa Murray, The Western Reserve Historical Society Newsletter (An Affiliate of The Smithsonian Institution) January, 2008 "World War II Intrigue Fills Cleveland Novel," by Barbara McIntyre, Akron Beacon Journal. Before and during World War II, Nazi sympathizers in the United States tried to line up support by infiltrating organizations, including those in high

schools. Rocky River author Peter Jedick tells of one such effort in his novel, *The West Tech Terrorist*. Jedick, himself an alumnus of West Tech High School, begins his story at the 1941 National Air Races at Cleveland's Edgewater Beach, where three teen boys see a boat approach them on the beach. Some men say something in a foreign language; then the boat disappears. On their way home, they find two men taking pictures of the bomber plant, next to the airport. The narrator, Victor Blazek, is a sports reporter for *The West Tech Tatler*, and isn't too interested when his faculty advisor tells him to interview a school chemistry teacher who's going to do some work for the War Department. The teacher is tight-lipped and, after the school is shocked by the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Victor becomes obsessed with discovering what Mr. Fleming is hiding. While writing for *The Tatler*, working at the grocery store and dating Doris the clarinet player, Victor has to make time to sleuth. But Doris is a good sport, and she helps with surveillance on the suspects. Soon Eliot Ness himself appears to close the case. Jedick makes no secret of his affection for his alma mater, from its delicious lunches to its larger-than-life principal, C.C. Tuck. *The West Tech Terrorist* (240 pages, soft cover) costs \$14.95. --Barbara McIntyre, Akron Beacon Journal, November 18, 2007

Peter Jedick has been an award-winning freelance writer for over 30 years. When he graduated from West Tech high school in 1967 he won the prestigious Ed Bang Journalism scholarship. He graduated from Kent State University with honors. He is also an award-winning radio commentator and has taught freelance writing at Kent State University. He previously wrote two non-fiction books, *LEAGUE PARK* and *CLEVELAND: Where the East Coast Meets the Midwest*. *The West Tech Terrorist* is his second novel. His first was *HIPPIES*.

Having attended West Tech I appreciated the memories it generated. The story which originally I thought was a little far fetched turned out to be rather entertaining and a enjoyable read. The author did a great job.

I enjoyed reading the book. I graduated from West Tech/1974. Brings back memories of the school and the classrooms which I remember were they were. Now the school lives on as apartments and West Technical High School will always be remembered. It is now a historical landmark.

This was an extremely fascinating read. If you attended West Tech in Cleveland at any time you will enjoy this book, especially when CC Tuck was principal. It takes place during the World War Two years. It describes places in and around Cleveland and the main story takes place inside the school.

It brought back many, many memories of the school. It's a quick read of 240 pages.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading The West Tech Terrorist. It was an easy read, interesting from the start with believable characters. I was especially impressed with all the factual information about West Tech High since I was born and raised in Cleveland. Hope there will be more to come!

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