

Former JB police chief's new crime thriller set in Jax Beach is also a political thriller

—*No current councilors featured*

Bruce Thomason, retired Jacksonville Beach Police Chief and current city councilor, recently published his third crime thriller, *Perception of Power*. The setting for all three novels is Jacksonville Beach and features fictional characters from the police department.



Thomason

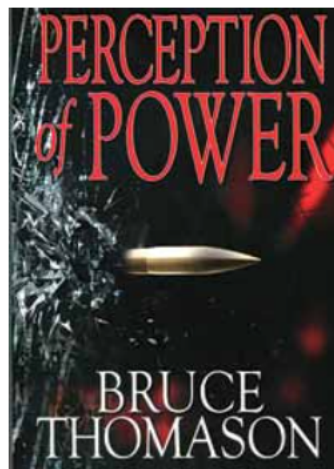
Thomason, a law enforcement veteran of 45 years, first ventured into writing fiction in 2007 when he penned a short story as a Christmas present for his three grandchildren. *Santa's Super Rescue; How Beezle T. Claus Tried To Steal Christmas* starred the children, all of whom had super powers they used to help Santa save Christmas.

That experience, along with encouragement from his wife, Jackie, convinced Thomason to try his hand at a novel involving the gritty world of crime and police work. *Body Toll*, published in 2008, is the tale of a serial killer stalking his victims in Jacksonville Beach and is the first of three novels in the ongoing Detective Clay Randall Thriller Series. *The Six O'clock Rule* followed in 2010, featuring Randall's investigation into a high-level drug ring that leads to multiple murders and eventually reaches its tentacles into the police department.

Then came a five-year gap before the *Perception of Power* was published. Retiring in 2012, Thomason felt the need to decompress for a while.

"At least, that's the excuse I give for taking another three years to finish the story," Thomason laughs.

In the new book, the action starts early as Clay Randall draws the wrath of a powerful



United States Senator, who becomes obsessed with destroying him.

"This story is as much a political thriller as a crime thriller," Thomason said.

In addition to the U.S. senator, characters include members of the Jacksonville Beach City Council, which Thomason is quick to point out are not patterned after current or former council members.

"While there are a few characters based on real people, the politicians are total fabrications," he insisted.

Thomason said there are more adventures to come for Clay Randall. In addition, he and his wife, who serves as his editor and primary sounding board for plot and character development, are exploring the possibility of co-authoring a crime novel. "The only thing we haven't decided is how to resolve creative conflicts when both our names are on the book," Thomason said.

The novels, including *Perception of Power*, are available in trade paperback and digital formats at brucethomason.com, Amazon, Barnes and Noble/Nook, and iBooks.