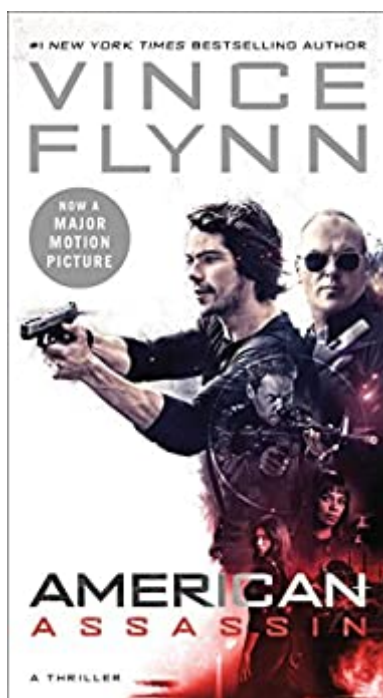


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American Assassin: A Thriller (The Mitch Rapp Prequel Series Book 1)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Vince Flynn introduces the young Mitch Rapp, as he takes on his first covert assignment—soon to be a major motion picture. Mitch Rapp was a gifted college athlete without a care in the world—and then tragedy struck. Terrorists attacked innocent American citizens, and Rapp's girlfriend was among the murdered. Two hundred and seventy souls perished on that cold December night, and thousands of family and friends were left searching for comfort. Mitch Rapp was one of them, but he was not interested in comfort. Now he wants retribution. Two decades of cutthroat partisan politics have left the CIA and the country in an increasingly vulnerable position. Cold War veteran CIA Operations Director Thomas Stansfield knows he must prepare his people for the next war. America must confront Islamic terrorism with full force. Stansfield directs his protégé, Irene Kennedy, and his old Cold War colleague, Stan Hurley, to form a new group of clandestine operatives who will work outside the normal chain of command—men who do not exist. What type of man is willing to kill for his country without putting on a uniform? Six months of intense training have prepared him to take the war to the enemy's doorstep, and he does so with brutal efficiency. Rapp starts in Istanbul, where he assassinates the Turkish arms dealer who sold the explosives used in the terrorist attack. Rapp then moves on to Hamburg with his team and across Europe, leaving a trail of bodies. All roads lead to Beirut, though, and what Rapp doesn't know is that the enemy is aware of his existence and has prepared a trap. The hunter is about to become the hunted, and Rapp will need every ounce of skill and cunning if he is to survive the war-ravaged city and its various terrorist factions. Behind the steely gaze of the nation's ultimate hero is a young man primed to become an American assassin.

Book Information

File Size: 3456 KB

Print Length: 544 pages

Publisher: Atria Books; Media Tie-In edition (October 12, 2010)

Publication Date: October 12, 2010

Sold by: Amazon.com; Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1439100519

ISBN-13: 978-1439100516

ASIN: B003UV8T9A

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #333 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Assassinations #2 in Kindle Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Assassinations #3 in Kindle Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Terrorism

Customer Reviews

Flynn takes readers of this successful series back to Mitch Rapp's roots and how he got started in the intelligence biz. Rapp, a star college athlete, is changed forever when his longtime girlfriend is killed in the midair bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 at Lockerbie, Scotland. And so he is amenable, shortly after college, when carefully approached by CIA recruiter Irene Kennedy to become, not just an agent, but an assassin. In the early 1990s, the CIA is reeling in Beirut, among other places from the bombings and kidnappings that have claimed many of its agents, including station chief Bill Buckley, and from the burdensome Congressional oversight it now faces. CIA director Thomas Stansfield and Kennedy move to establish the proverbial "off-the-shelf" unit — one totally black, preferably self funded, and aimed squarely to putting fear back into the terrorists who lately have shown they haven't got any where Americans are concerned. Leading training is legendary, aging and ornery CIA op Stan Hurley, who takes an instant dislike to the young and green Rapp, who has never even served in the military. He makes Rapp's training a hell, and goes ballistic when on his first mission Rapp deviates from an elaborate and extensive plan to instead take out a target alone. What it's hard for Hurley to realize is how similar to him in his prime Rapp is, a tremendous fighter with a great capacity for pain and an ability to calculate his every move and expression with the mission in mind. The two must go to Beirut to deal with a growing mess wherein an American businessman is being held hostage and a CIA agent sent to negotiate for him is himself kidnapped. Beirut's fragile peace is holding but it's still full of bombed out buildings and dominated by competing warlords beholden to different masters — Iran, Syria, Palestinian terror groups and a corrupt spymaster of the barely post-Soviet

Russia. Rapp's coolness all the way through his training and his first missions, and on into Beirut, makes him compelling. It's also a writing challenge to make an assassin a sympathetic character, but Flynn manages it. Hurley's character is enjoyable not only in his rollicking non-PC attitude - smoking and drinking and whoring, oh my! - but in the way that fuses with him when he's in action. When he gets tortured in a Beirut basement - well, read it yourself, but I guarantee it's unlike any torture scene you have previously read.

My father in law gave me a copy of one of Vince Flynn's books and I started reading it and couldn't put it down. I ended up going back and reading more of this series. It is a great series that goes into the spy novel type books. I have a military background and the author has done his research to keep the book series accurate and realistic with the details. The books keep you coming back for more every time that you pick them up. The author keeps the sexual content to a minimum and not raunchy, and the violence in the series is not bad either. Highly recommended.

I really enjoyed the first half of this book - learning how Mitch Rapp came to be. I thought the plot got a bit confusing about half way through, and I had trouble keeping track of some of the characters. Overall, another fine novel by Flynn, just not my personal favorite.

Made a long vacation drive go by so swiftly. Put off stopping to eat to hear the end.

First book read by Vince Flynn. I like the book but still haven't formed my opinion on the writer. I am now into book #2, Kill Shot so we will see if I like him as well as Clive Cussler and C J Box. Time will tell.

This was one expertly crafted thrill ride, and highly recommend for anyone who likes spy books and movies. I can only hope that the film itself is as good as the book!

as always a good read

American Assassin is a pretty tame "thriller." As has been pointed out in other reviews of this novel, the first half of the book is Mitch Rapp training. This is my first Vince Flynn novel and it's unlikely I will read another. The characters, senior CIA personnel, behave like children throwing tantrums.

And the action, when the author finally gets around to it, is weak in that everything goes right for the good guys. Every operation goes off just like they planned, even the far-fetched plan at the end. Everything in the story just seems too convenient for the characters. The late Vince Flynn is not the worst writer I've read, that honor is a three-way tie between Brad Meltzer, Dan Brown, and Lee Child, but he was overly simplistic and he had a poor understanding how things work in the real world.

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