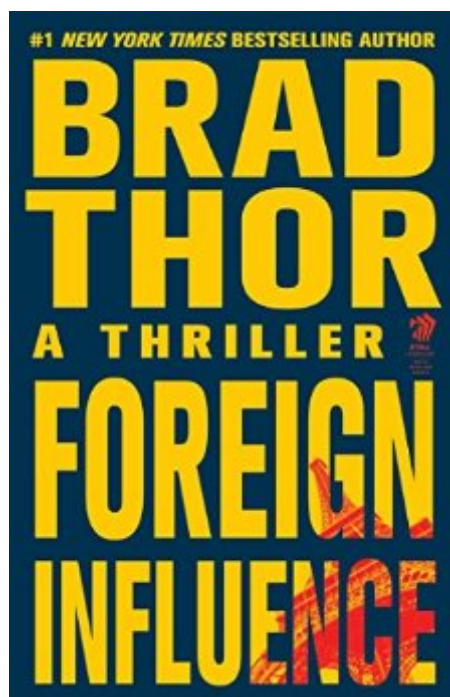


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Foreign Influence: A Thriller (Scot Harvath Book 9)



Synopsis

Named one of Suspense Magazine's Best Political Thrillers of the Year Navy SEAL turned covert operative Scot Harvath is called to action in Brad Thor's red-hot thriller "a must read for our times" (James Rollins). Buried within the black ops budgets of the Department of Defense, a newly created spy agency reports only to a secret panel of military insiders. Its job is to target America's enemies "both foreign and domestic" under a charter of three simple words: Find, Fix, and Finish. When a bombing in Rome kills a group of American college students, the evidence points to a dangerous colleague from Harvath's past. Tasked with leveraging this relationship to lure the man out of hiding, Harvath must destroy him. But what if it is the wrong man? In Chicago, a young woman is struck by a taxi in a hit-and-run, and the family's attorney uncovers a shocking connection to the Rome bombing. Harvath must link together the disparate violence and race to prevent one of the most audacious and unthinkable acts of war in the history of mankind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

FOREIGN INFLUENCE is a fast paced, thrill ride into the world of covert ops. Former Navy SEAL Scot Harvath is back, and in fine form. After a bus loaded with American college students is bombed

in Rome, Harvath shifts into high gear. It's a horrific crime that can't go unanswered and Harvath is the man for the job. Clear across the world in Chicago, a second, less spectacular crime is committed--a seemingly random hit and run. Harvath is no stranger to violent terrorism or the fanatical minds behind it, but Harvath can't know the depth of the evil in play. In a brutal pursuit that will test his knowledge of justice and mercy, Harvath must also confront his own inner demons, and they're as dangerous as the people he's pursuing. FOREIGN INFLUENCE rocks the house with Thor's best effort yet! We would expect nothing less from the New York Times #1 bestselling author of THE LAST PATRIOT. Cheers for Brad Thor!

Was it me or was Scot Harvath incredibly brutal in this one? While Thor's books do strike an emotional chord, it struck a very different one in the beginning of this book. We all know what cowards and hypocrites terrorists are, but when Scot happens upon a terrorist camp that holds and tortures children... chilling. I was ready to grab a rifle and march over there myself. Vindication is had in an incredibly poignant and heartbreaking scene. And that scene sets the tone for this book. Scot doesn't usually hold back but there was something... different... about the type of needed brutality and the method in which it was dispensed. The chickenhearted "my religion is about peace" terrorists are tossing bombs around like candy and innocent people are, of course, the unwitting targets. The horrors described are brutal and graphic. There are a number of storylines that swirl around in this book but Brad being Brad brings them together in one explosive "ending". I read this one with the same fervor that I read ALL of Thor's books. I find that I have "reader's remorse" when I read his work. I get it, I devour it, and then I hate myself because now I have to wait even longer for his next work. Whoever said "patience is a virtue" has never read a good... GREAT book. Luckily Brad will put out another one at the end of this year. The surprise is how he works that one in this one. Brad Thor is an author whose work I love reading, love talking about, and love spending my time reading.

Lots of people making political statements as reviews around here. These novels are escapist fantasy stuff. Think "24" in novel format. And there is nothing wrong with that. Is torture employed? You bet. But almost always it's the "bomb is about to go off" variety rather than an on-going policy thing. Is the protagonist turning into a sadist? Well, now, that's an interesting question. As a matter of fact, I kind of wish the author would go there. Because lately these books have been very cookie cutter with absolutely no character development. Hey, Scot is getting older. When he gets kicked in the groin it still bothers him in the next chapter. That's the character development. Oh, the book

didn't start with a couple of throw away lines about Scot and the girl from the last book went there separate ways. That is a change of pace. Although she's not in it, so not much difference, really. The protagonist going down a dark path with some redemption towards the end (or not) would be a nice change. That being said, the novel does what it sets out to do. Keep you on edge of your seat. Earlier novels did it better but that may be more because they were fresher. It's a decent summer read. It's not great literature and it is not horrid right-wing propaganda, either.

To set the record straight, I abhor professional book reviewers! Amateurs to me, present a far more balanced (and dare I say, intelligent, viewpoint. I always feel that the reviewers for the big media organisations have either an axe to grind with the author (hence they give the book a poor rating), or are getting a generous back hander to write something favourable (hence the book gets a good, or great review). Or maybe I'm just plain cynical! Who knows? However, when I read comments like "The Master of Thrillers", or "Quite Possibly the next coming of Robert Ludlum", I cringe! Comments like these are Bull****! They say and mean nothing. And they are about as useful in a review, as tits are on a bull! Yet both of these ridiculous statements appear on the back cover of Brad Thor's new book, "Foreign Influence", sadly detracting the reader from what is quite genuinely, a well-plotted, pacy thriller. I must confess, Thor's first 4-5 titles did little to impress me. I had grown up with the likes of LeCarre, McCarry, Forsyth, Littell, Ludlum, etc., and frankly, Thor's first outings simply did not make the grade of these exceptional writers, despite what the media critics said! BUT, from Takedown onwards, I have noticed a great maturing in this young author, exhibited by stronger story lines, more in-depth characters, tighter plotting, and more importantly, that rare ability to produce a story that grabs the reader & doesn't let go, but instead impels him/her forward, chapter after chapter, until the final denouncement, when all is explained & the loose ends are tied up. This is, in my humble opinion, what makes a superior thriller writer. "Foreign Influence" is such a story, and Thor carries it well, right through to its most satisfactory conclusion. Thor is not the "master of Thrillers", but he is getting better all the time, & if he continues with books such as this, he will certainly make the cut very soon. Highly recommended escapism!

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