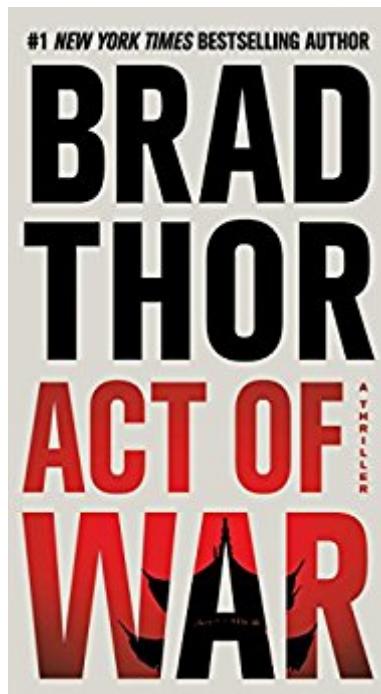


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Act Of War: A Thriller (Scot Harvath Book 13)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Brad Thor delivers his most frightening and pulse-pounding thriller ever! After a CIA agent mysteriously dies overseas, his top asset surfaces with a startling and terrifying claim. There's just one problem: "no one knows if she can be trusted. But when six exchange students go missing, two airplane passengers trade places, and one political-asylum seeker is arrested, a deadly chain of events is set in motion. With the United States facing an imminent and devastating attack, America's new president must turn to covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath to help carry out two of the most dangerous operations in the country's history. Code-named "Gold Dust" and "Blackbird," they are shrouded in absolute secrecy as either of them, if discovered, will constitute an act of war.

Book Information

File Size: 3253 KB

Print Length: 369 pages

Publisher: Atria/EEmily Bestler Books; Reprint edition (July 8, 2014)

Publication Date: July 8, 2014

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B00GEEB8FM

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #6,350 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #46 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #53 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Military

Customer Reviews

With a mixture of murder overseas, missing students and an imminent attack on the United States, Scot and his team are called into action. They start out in Karachi, Pakistan, looking for an Al Qaeda member Ahmad Yaqub. The action intensifies from this point on and does not cease until the last page is turned. There is action in North Korea involving a SEAL team and a CIA Op. Switching to

China, there is a lot of background concerning the desires of the country. In the United States, Scot's team works with the FBI, CIA and the President - all working on the same page to prevent an imminent attack on the US. The interrogation methods in several of the scenes prove to be resourceful, to say the least. Sometimes the rules must be bent in order to get the desired results. That creates a Catch 22 scenario - "damned if you do and damned if you don't". Sleeper cells are active, storage units are being utilized and Scot and his team are trying to reach both before the attack on the US. Two covert operations are ongoing - "Gold Dust" and "Blackbird" - both extremely important and critical for the US. Outstanding mixture of characters and an exciting read throughout the book. Plot was intriguing and both the North Korean aspect as well as the Chinese connection was interesting - especially with the current events in our world today. The ending was a complete surprise to me which I always enjoy! Most highly recommended..

A good book. A good plot. But, as I have stated in a previous review of a Brad Thor novel, he could be so much better. He needs an editor that takes him over the hump rather than simply helps him count his money. I like the research, I like the politics, and I'm sure I would like Brad Thor the person, and while the characters are better this time around, he still occasionally uses a cliche or throws in long expositions that simply aren't necessary. I want Brad Thor to get better and so I am possibly too critical of his work, but his protagonist lacks edge, his writing can be pedestrian, and he doesn't seem to stretch himself artistically. So, why still give this effort four stars. It's a good summer read. He says things that only Vince Flynn would have said. You can learn by reading his work because he obviously does his research. But, I badly want to see a five-star effort.

The prospect of a large national disaster rears its ugly head.. This may be what is called high concept. After that is established, the major scenes are wonderfully captivating because the hero Horvath is a very compelling tough guy, clean-cut and willing to do anything to get the job done. His compadres, men and women, are equally tough and smart and totally committed to killing bad guys and stopping evil aggressors against the USA. Brad Thor threads throughout the novel much intelligence lore and special ops lore as well as information about weapons, guns and knives and weapons much more intricate and devious! The best thing about the major scenes is that I cared about all the characters and even the villains were credible and human which I believe made it all much more exciting. I liked the Asian expedition. I liked the foray toward Cuba. The interrogation scenes were believable, compelling and very satisfying. The roman a clef aspect was also interesting where the current president in real life is similar to the just previous president in the book

and the current president in the book is much more just what a Navy SEAL would want his ideal president to be.

If you want to read a book that grabs your attention and keeps you on the edge of your seat this book is for you. I read half of this book on a five hour redeye from LAX to IAD. I finished the book the next day. It's rare for an espionage thriller to be as immersive as this one has been. wanted to know who I would recommend this book to. Realist.

As a foreigner and Americanophile I caught my first glimpse of that great Country many years ago through the books of Robert Ludlum. I progressed over time to the works of Vince Flynn (RIP) and was a great admirer of his hero Mitch Rapp but who has unfortunately gone to ground since the sad passing at far too early an age, of his creator. I understand Mitch is set to re-appear at some stage however, under the pen of Kyle Mills and "Act of War" to me looks very much like an attempt to bridge the gap, if not steal the thunder of any effort Kyle Mills might put out. Scot Harvath Brad Thor's main man and an almost-clone of Mitch Rapp, appears to be a sort of mercenary rather than a government official and has the feel of being a kind of Robocop figure with few personal feelings which I find less than appealing; and more research on some of the factual underpinning of the story might have made it a bit more convincing for me too. For example, dry ice sublimates to carbon dioxide not carbon monoxide and which is different again to fuel gas toxicity all of which manifest in different ways in a corpse. All in all though, a good read and I'm looking forward to reading more of Brad Thor's work in the future.

There are too many Fox News rants in this book. Brad Thor can't seem to decide if he wants to be a writer or a Fox News pundit. The problem is he's not a bad writer. You just get going and the all of a sudden - Bam. "I'm going to take the next 3 pages here to give you the Tea Party world view." We'll return to the story shortly. It sort of screws up what could have been a good book.

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