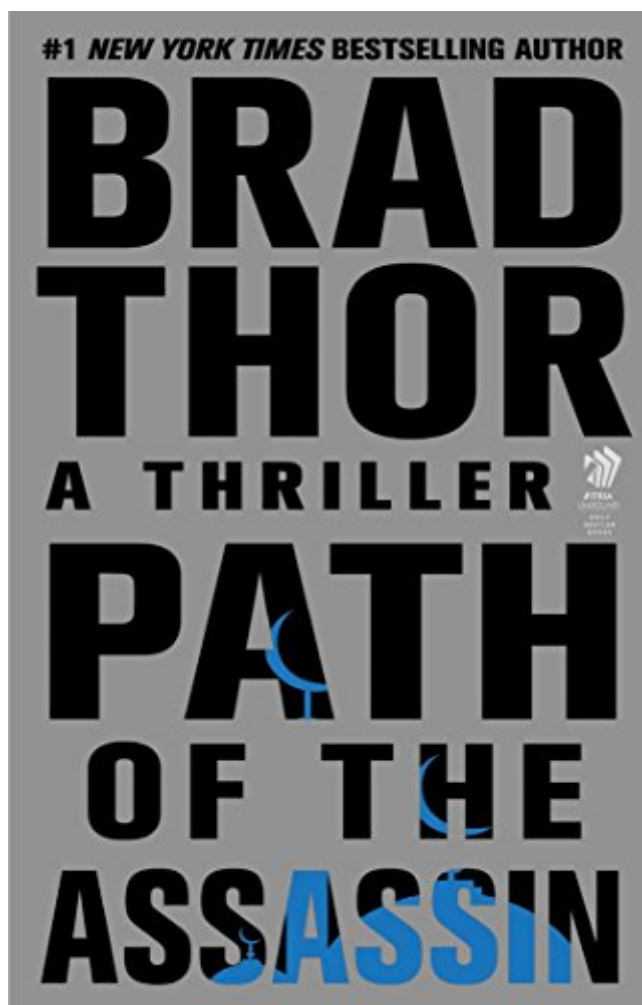


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Path Of The Assassin: A Thriller (The Scot Harvath Series Book 2)



Synopsis

When Brad Thor arrived on the scene with his hard-hitting debut novel, *The Lions of Lucerne*, he was greeted with an enthusiasm rarely seen since John le Carré's heyday. "A roller-coaster of a debut," pronounced Kyle Mills. And Nelson DeMille, the master of the genre himself, welcomed Thor as "a savvy new novelist" with a knack for action scenes that "will give the reader a case of vertigo." Now, Thor and his indomitable hero Scot Harvath are back, raising the stakes and taking on one of the world's most deadly terrorist organizations bent on stoking a global holy war of apocalyptic proportions. After rescuing the President from kidnappers, Navy SEAL turned Secret Service agent Scot Harvath shifts his attentions to rooting out and capturing or killing all those responsible for the plot. As he prepares to close out his list, a bloody and twisted trail of clues points toward one man -- the world's most feared, most ruthless terrorist, Hashim Nidal, who has assembled an international league of Islamic terrorist networks in an ingenious plot to topple both Israel and America. Harvath and his CIA-led team must reach Nidal before it's too late. One problem remains -- they have no idea what the man looks like. Only one person can positively identify Harvath's quarry -- Meg Cassidy, a beautiful hijacking survivor. Together, Scot and Meg must untangle a maddening web of global intrigue stretching across four continents. From Macau, Jerusalem, and Chicago to Libya, Capri, and Rome, Harvath and Cassidy find themselves locked in a desperate race against time to sort the pieces of a deadly puzzle that will test not only their physical and mental limits, but also the growing bond they feel for each other.

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Customer Reviews

I'm Hooked! Brad Thor has a writing style that keeps the pages turning, the events unfolding, all the while the tension builds as his books unfold with the elements of real world issues. Brad's writing style, research and vetting of the protocol of complex government, political and world issues is remarkable. You can be assured that within the first few pages the hunt is on for those who would bring harm to the free world. Every time I read one of Brad's books I wish we really had the kind of people he portrays as the defenders and protectors of our freedoms and our country of America. Brad Thor's books deal with real life consequences and the unthinkable acts that the ever present elusive enemy of not only the United States but the entire world. You don't have to read these books in order. The character's will continue to come alive with each book with a subtle recap of the previous book. You can't read just one!

A book that is similar to an action movie but with a terrific story line that grips and holds the reader. Beyond the action the book shows how the Mideast conflict impacts the personal lives of people on both sides of the conflict. Insight into the personal sacrifices gives the novel insight into the lives beyond the headlines. Scott Harvath is a hero who draws comparisons to the best terror fighting characters.

This book is more than just a satisfying thriller -- it is, similar to Brad Thor's novel "Takedown," a critique of how different government agencies, the CIA, the DHS, the Secret Service, can run at cross-purposes and yet have some men and women who manage to think independently for the better good. The perception of other agency operatives, other characters, and even the terrorist villains, including the silver-eyed one, as seen by the hero Scott Harvath, changes over the course of the novel. In the end I myself had some unexpected sympathy for the assassin, especially when the back story of what led the silver-eyed villain to become a diehard Muslim terrorist was revealed. This book shows how things and people, including cultures, such as the Middle East Muslim culture,

can be different from one imagines and that stereotypical thinking can lead to erroneous conclusions. Believe me, you will be surprised yourself when the identity and background of the principal villain is revealed, but you will simultaneously realize it all makes sense and that it was your own prejudices and stereotypical thinking that led you not to suspect it in the first place, similar to many of the CIA operatives in the book. This novel further demonstrates how even what seems obvious is not so, how innocent governments can be blamed for terror directed in their name at countries that have waged terror against them. At a more personal level, Thor's novel, unlike "Takedown," and "The Patriot," even shows how innocent people can be manipulated or taken advantage of in the war against terror, their personal safety overlooked in trying to achieve prime national security goals. On top of everything, the book is a fast-paced thriller exciting enough you don't want to put it down. What truly distinguishes this novel is that after you're done, you are left with a sense of emotional loss you might experience from a tragedy as well as a competing sense that justice was done, an ambivalence of thought and emotion that makes this a work of literature as well as a great and entertaining thriller.

This is not my first Thor book. I've read and listened to five others and this one had many, many problems with grammar. It also took large leaps in the story to accomplish the plot result and the main character, Harvard, even ignored his character traits for the plot to follow the trajectory that Thor wanted it to go. He forced the outcome, rather than letting it flow. In all, the story line and plot were great, but the immature writing screams for a rewrite. His newer books are much better.

This is the second book in the series. It has enough little quirks within the plot to keep things interesting. In the current counter terrorism genre might be the first book to use "female civilian given spec ops training to help get the bad guy" ploy. Brad Taylor's series takes it to the fullest expression however. Lots of locales in this story. Also gets the Vatican involved. There always seems to be an American team member who is a jerk though. Good read.

This was a good, engaging read, but I think the first Havrath book and some of the later ones were better. Also, I think the whole series is not as good as some of its competitors. The main problem is character development. Havrath comes across more like a comic book superhero than a real hero. He lacks vulnerability and humility. He is only wrong when it's someone else's fault. Everyone around him either idolizes him or is shown to be a fool. His only self doubt is that he might not be "super" enough.

PATH of the ASSASSIN (Scot Harvath, book 2) by Brad Thor. This action packed international thriller starring Scot Harvath in his second appearance as Thor's James Bond type action character is a very worthwhile read. Harvath, as director of Secret Service Special Operations is sent on a mission by the president to solve the mystery of the extreme terrorist group, The Hand of God. The Arab countries and Israel are coming closer by the day to an all out war. The president is determined to find the cause and avert a conflict. Harvath, aided by a beautiful and tough Chicago public relations company owner, Meg Cassidy, who seems to be the only person who can personally identify the silver-eyed assassin, pursue their killer through the Far East, Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. The pursuit takes the form of car chases, gunfights, prison escapes and of course, ubiquitous explosions. My only complaint is that Thor could have done much more with the Meg Cassidy character. He let her fall flat then reintroduced her for a bit role only to drop her again. I hope he uses her up in follow-on novels. [As an aside, Thor's editor needs to learn when and how to use further and farther]. I very much enjoyed the story and recommend the novel. I give it a solid 4+ rating.

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