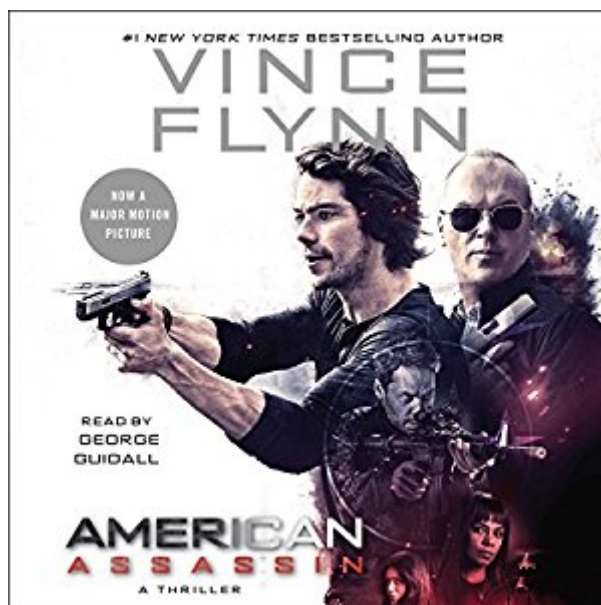


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# American Assassin



## Synopsis

Before he was considered a CIA superagent, before he was thought of as a terrorist's worst nightmare, and before he was both loathed and admired by the politicians on Capitol Hill, Mitch Rapp was a gifted college athlete without a care in the world...and then tragedy struck. Two decades of cutthroat partisan politics has left the CIA and the country in an increasingly vulnerable position. Cold War veteran and CIA operations director Thomas Stansfield knows he must prepare his people for the next war. The rise of Islamic terrorism is coming, and it needs to be met abroad before it reaches America's shores. 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? Kennedy finds him in the wake of the Pan Am Lockerbie terrorist attack. Two-hundred and seventy souls perished 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. He wanted retribution. Six months of intense training has prepared him to bring 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 Pan Am 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. Includes the first chapter from Vince Flynn and Kyle Mills' latest thriller, *Enemy of the State!*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Flynn takes readers of this successful series back to Mitch Rapp's roots - 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 it 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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