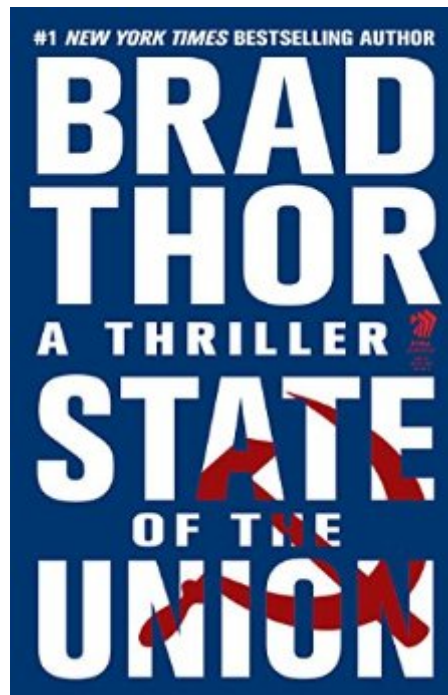


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State Of The Union: A Thriller (Scot Harvath Book 3)



Synopsis

From the national bestselling author of *The Lions of Lucerne* and *Path of the Assassin* comes another electrifying international thriller featuring all-American hero Scot Harvath, as he plunges into the frigid heart of the Russian tundra to save the fragile state of the union. On a cold January morning, the United States awakes to discover that an old enemy, one long believed dead and buried, has crawled out of its grave to lay siege to the world's only superpower. With the stunning discovery that enhanced Soviet-made suitcase nukes have been secreted in America's major cities, President Jack Rutledge gathers his National Security Council to weigh the feasibility of a first strike against the Russian Federation. There's only one problem. For over two decades, the Russians have been funneling international aid money into a top secret air defense system, which has just been brought on-line and which will render any conventional attack upon their country utterly ineffective. After exhausting all of his other options, and with Soviet sleeper agents preparing to detonate their deadly payloads across the United States, the president turns to the nation's final hope, ex-Navy SEAL and Secret Service Agent Scot Harvath. Assigned to a covert section of the Department of Homeland Security and charged with defending the nation against all foreign aggressors by any means necessary, Harvath finds himself hand-picked by the president to unravel a brilliantly orchestrated, fiendishly timed conspiracy that has already shattered the fragile peace between the world's nations and which, if successful, will leave the United States in smoldering ruins. With family friend and former Deputy FBI Director Gary Lawlor nowhere to be found and suspected of betraying his country, Harvath embarks on an adventure that will test the bonds of loyalty and reveal a nation's deepest secrets. As high-voltage and timely as they come, *State of the Union* is a frighteningly real, headline-ripping tale of espionage and intrigue that will keep readers guessing until the last tantalizing piece of the puzzle locks into place. With exotic international locales, hair-raising suspense, and scenes of pulse-pounding action, Brad Thor has once again reaffirmed his position as the thriller writer readers and critics alike have hailed as Clancy, Cussler, and Ludlum all rolled into one.

Book Information

File Size: 3076 KB

Print Length: 560 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 145160792X

Publisher: Atria Books; Reissue edition (January 27, 2004)

Publication Date: January 27, 2004

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC0YW2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,602 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #20 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #49 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Suspense > Political

Customer Reviews

This third thriller novel from author Brad Thor picks up shortly after events depicted in "Path Of The Assassin" and once again Scot Harvath is quickly involved in the danger. At President Jack Rutledge's personal request, Agent Harvath moved from the Secret Service to a new position within the newly created "Office of International Investigative Assistance" which is part of the ever increasing Department of Homeland Security. The innocuous title hides the mission of the unit, which is to stop terrorists anywhere in the world by any means necessary. Harvath's old friend, mentor, and father figure Gary Lawlor, who was once the former Deputy Director of the FBI, is in charge of the Office. Now Lawlor has gone missing and Harvath is summoned back to Washington. There is concern at the highest levels that Gary Lawlor has been a double agent, quite possibly for decades. The notion is unthinkable to Harvath because of the close bond they have shared in the wake of the death of Harvath's father years ago. However, as he is briefed, it becomes clear that everything he believed about Lawlor in the past has been a lie pushed forward by a cover image he needed on behalf of the United States Government. Now thanks to string of murders of other members of his intelligence team, several of which called Lawlor just before their deaths, those in charge believe he turned traitor years ago and has now fled. After telling Harvath the background on a "need to know" basis, they warn him off and instead he is supposed to sit back and wait for contact from Lawlor if and when it happens. After everything he did in the first two novels, it should have been obvious to bosses, just like it is to the casual reader, that the last thing Harvath is going to do is sit back and wait.

After reading *PATH OF THE ASSASSIN*, and being thoroughly entertained, *STATE OF THE UNION* was a natural choice as it picks up the storyline of *ASSASSIN*. Once again, I must quickly admonish, this is a work of fiction, one where the "secret agents" are not real and actually to live to fight another day regardless the overwhelming odds of death they face. It's a bit like all the James Bond movies...Bond always wins. With that established...The book opens with U.S. President Rutledge requesting that our hero and uberagent, Scot Harvath, leave the Secret Service to fill a new position within the new, ultraclandestine Office of International Investigative Assistance. Net, net, this is the often bandied "black ops" organization that reports only to the President, and can use any means necessary to accomplish their tasks and missions. While Harvath is leery, Rutledge makes it easy by installing Harvath's friend and, as we learn, surrogate father, Gary Lawlor as the head of OIIA. In previous installments, Lawlor was the Deputy Director of the FBI. Early on, Lawlor cannot be located or contacted, and there is great concern, on many fronts, about Lawlor's mysterious absence. Lawlor spent a great deal of time overseas in his early career, and there are mumblings that Lawlor could possibly be a double agent. Harvath, ever the vigilant friend, is incensed by these accusations, but is more concerned about finding Lawlor than defending him. However, as Harvath learns more about Lawlor's disappearance, and his past, it becomes a plausible possibility that the double agent theory has credence. Harvath still doesn't buy it, but a case is there to be made.

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