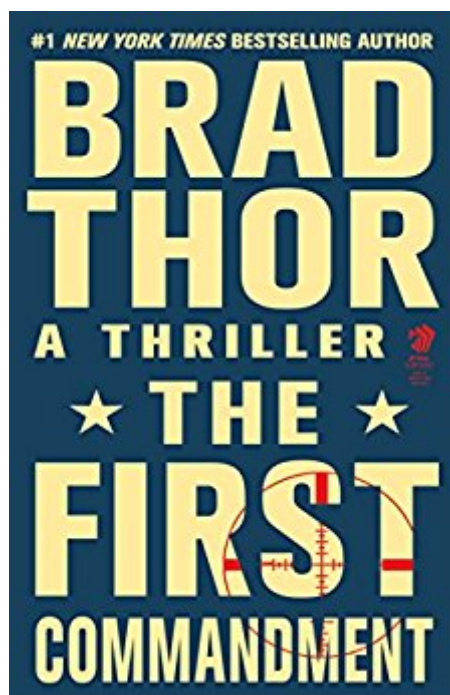


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The First Commandment: A Thriller (Scot Harvath Book 6)



Synopsis

A master assassin. A vendetta years in the making. And a counterterrorism operative who will risk everything -- even treason -- to keep the people he loves alive. Brad Thor, the New York Times bestselling author of *Takedown*, delivers an explosive international thriller featuring Navy SEAL turned Homeland Security operative Scot Harvath, who somewhere, somehow, has left the wrong person alive. "Thou shalt not negotiate with terrorists..." Six months ago: In the dead of the night, five of the most dangerous detainees in the war on terror are pulled from their isolation cells in Guantanamo Bay, held at gunpoint, and told to strip off their orange jumpsuits. Issued civilian clothes and driven to the base airfield, they are loaded aboard a Boeing 727 and set free. Present day: Covert counterterrorism agent Scot Harvath awakens to discover that his world has changed violently -- and forever. A sadistic assassin with a personal vendetta is wreaking havoc of biblical proportions. Unleashing nightmarish horrors on those closest to Harvath, the attacker thrusts everything Harvath holds dear -- including his life -- into absolute peril. Ordered by the president to stay out of the investigation, Harvath is forced to mount his own operation to uncover the conspiracy and to exact revenge. When he discovers a connection between the attacks and a group of prisoners secretly released from Guantanamo, Harvath must ask himself previously unthinkable questions about the organizations and the nation he has spent his life serving. A renegade from his own government, Harvath will place his life on the line as his search for the truth draws him into a showdown with one of the most dangerous men on the face of the earth. Brad Thor roars through this nonstop adventure full of international intrigue, twisted betrayals, and ultimate revenge.

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Customer Reviews

President Jack Rutledge authorizes a deal with terrorists. Although the American government leaders always insist they will never negotiate with terrorists even for the release of hostages, he secretly releases five hardcore known terrorists locked away at Guantomino as part of a deal to protect at risk children. In fairness his advisors told them they can keep this quintet under control with monitoring of the isotope they put in the blood of these killers. The President's advisors missed another slammed dunk when they lose sight of the fearsome five. Just under six months later, an assassin shoots Homeland Security agent Scot Harvath's girlfriend Tracy Hastings (see TAKEDOWN), leaving her comatose and he furious as isotopic blood is found at the crime scene. Soon afterward, his mother is attacked by locusts and some friends of Harvath murdered. He knows someone is coming for him, through his loved ones. Harvath begins to make inquiries, but is told to stay out of it. Even before these incidents he knew the leadership saw him as an expendable renegade so he ignores the order to take no action against the person methodically destroying his loved ones. TAKEDOWN is an exciting action-packed frightening thriller; THE FIRST COMMANDMENT is as exhilarating and action-packed, but even more frightening as the plausibility of the plot will not be questioned. Harvath is at his anguished best in this often violent tale as he is ordered to do nothing although his counter terrorist instincts are screaming to go on the offense. The return of several characters from previous books enhances the feel of the long term concept of the war against terrorism as Brad Thor raises the adrenalin with this terrific thriller. Harriet Klausner

Brad Thor is one of the best. Right up there with Vince Flynn for writing topical thrillers that entertain and educate, this may be the most tightly written of his six novels that it has been my pleasure to read. The protagonist of these books is Scot Harvath a former Navy SEAL and Homeland Security operative. This book picks up where the last one, "Takedown" leaves off. At the end of that book, Scot Harvath's girlfriend Tracy steps out on the porch of his home and is felled by an assassin's bullet which is just enough off target to spare her life, but serious enough to put her in a coma and on a ventilator. Harvath does not realize it at the time, but that attack on Tracy is the first of several

that are planned for people close to Harvath. Who is carrying out the attacks, who is planning them and why consumes not only Harvath, but the reader as events unfold. Someone appears bent on revenge, but for what? It is a large onion that Harvath must peel his way through to get to the answers and telling you more than that could spoil the masterful writing effort that Thor has offered for our reading enjoyment. Do not pass this one by.

Thor's a good writer - and I agree with professional reviewers that he's "rather Ludlum" but as with Ludlum I have to take a piece of paper and note extraneous characters and how they "fit" - it's a bit of trouble to keep up with everything but I still enjoy it.. One is required to read without stopping and who has the time for this --- I do have a real life . If you go back later, you're lost again. Ludlum lost me at times - and I found it too much trouble to re-read to relocate and remember! I read a lot and I think sometimes authors get too carried away with their plots= perhaps 2 books is better than one. Or better yet, an intermission with an update when you're ready to return. I'm still working on this one.

Although an riveting story, definitely relevant to today's world, I found the book descriptively violent. The narrative begins with Harvath in the hospital room with his fiancée, who was shot by an assassin and is in a coma. As the story progresses, Harvath realizes that all of the violence, attacks and/or murders of family and friends are the result of someone's sick desire for vengeance. As part of a secretive Homeland Security Team, the President of the United States orders him to stand down and not get involved in seeking the perpetrator(s) of these ghastly deeds. Of course, Harvath can't do that; he is a man of honor and deeply committed to his country, family and friends. Reader Beware: There are some gruesome, graphic details that you may not want to read.

This Scot Harvath thriller keeps you on the edge of your seat, flipping pages until you reach the end. There is a terrorist loose who is attacking people close to Harvath - a biblical curse in the reverse order. Will Harvath be able to find and stop him - especially after the President orders Harvath to step down and then, when he doesn't, orders the CIA to stop him - even if it means killing him??

Impossible as it sounds, Brad Thor's books just keep getting better!!! Scot Harvath's world has turned upside down. Everyone he cares about or loves is dead or severely hurt. A terrorist is on the loose, focused on revenge against Scot. New York is in shambles after a terrorist attack. Scot is two

steps behind and now the President has ordered him to Sandown!! Non stop action, betrayal, deceit,,,,,,a stupendous read!!!!

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