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The Lions Of Lucerne



Synopsis

In a daring and chilling debut, Brad Thor draws us into a sinister labyrinth of political intrigue and international terrorism, serving up an explosive cocktail of unrelenting action as one man is pushed to the edge. On the snow-covered slopes of Utah, the unthinkable has just become a nightmarish reality: 30 Secret Service agents have been viciously executed and the vacationing president of the United States kidnapped by one of the most lethal terrorist organizations in the Middle East - the Fatah Revolutionary Council. But surviving agent and ex-Navy SEAL Scot Harvath doesn't believe the Fatah Revolutionary Council is responsible for the attack. Driven by his professional code of duty and honor, Harvath creates his own rules to get some answers. But his search for the truth raises the blood pressure of his superiors...and casts his own life in mortal jeopardy. The deadly machinations have been set in motion by a shadowy coalition, comprising some of the highest-ranking officials in government and business - men who operate above the law, men who realize the threat Harvath poses to their hidden agenda...men who will do anything to stop him. Framed for murder and on the run, Harvath takes his own brand of justice to the towering mountains of Switzerland where he finds an improbable ally in the beautiful Claudia Mueller of the Swiss Federal Attorney's Office. Together they must brave the subzero temperatures and sheer heights of treacherous Mount Pilatus - and enter the den of the most notorious team of professional killers the world has ever known.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A kidnapped president, a disgraced Secret Service agent and a intense search for justice and revenge. A fast paced plot that keeps the reader engaged as the story moves to beautifully described locations from Utah to Switzerland. Scot Harvath is a Mitch Rapp-like character who is undeterred in seeking justice for his slain comrades. Just the right amount of humor makes Harvath a relatable character.

This is actually the first Brad Thor book I read. Years after it was first published of course. I was basically a Clancy reader at that point. This starts with the big daddy of all hostage taking: POTUS. The villains aren't the normal sort. Horvath has to go off on his own to investigate. With a Swiss counter part of all things, who is of course female. I didn't know each Swiss household gets a govt issued rifle and ammo. Cold weather ops are the order of the day here so thankfully Horvath says he was a Polar SEAL and can climb in the winter. And ski.Olympic caliber even. Really enjoyed it. The book got me started on all the other CT authors in the genre.

I finally decided to go back and start the Scot Harvath series from the beginning, now that Lions of Lucerne has been announced as an upcoming movie (2015/16?). I have only read the past four Harvath books and have really liked them. This was a good description of the character and how he go to be what and where he is in the later books. While I recognized Mr. Thor's writing style was not quite as honed as it is now, it was actually very good and I never got bored. He just a little longer to describe settings and events than I think he does now, over ten years later. The action is non-stop, the current intelligence and black ops methods and equipment are top notch and as always, Mr. Thor's Travel Lite experience shows in his great description of foreign locations, especially Switzerland in this book. I always learn more about history, geography, etc. from authors like Brad Thor, James Rollins and Steve Berry, in addition to being entertained. I can't wait to see the movie.BTW, if you're playing "catch up" on the older books like I am, I noticed there are Kindle version "collections" of three Harvath books at a time for like \$30 each. I looked at the individual books and it's cheaper to buy them one by one, at least from US. It's funny that publishers think special edition collections, with nice custom cases, will sell as electronic bits for a premium, just like the physical collections do. Hello, we're not stupid, publishers. To paraphrase Nick Negraponte, bits are bits and established marketing techniques for atoms don't apply.

This was my first Brad Thor book. I've read other books where the main character(s) is a SEAL. They're usually bad asses and destroy everything in their way. But the thing I liked about this book

is that even though Scot Harvath is a SEAL, he struggles to keep up with all of the problems that just keep coming his way. Also, unlike some of the other SEAL character books, Scot Harvath has a sense of humor. I'm looking forward to the next adventure.

This is a less than mediocre action novel. The hero is a caricature. The plot is predictable and silly. The author needs to do more research to make the book believable. Winter mountaineering and climbing play a major role in the story. It's clear the author knows nothing about how this is actually done, as his description of the techniques used is laughably incorrect. This is a problem throughout the book. He clearly knows nothing about ski mountaineering, firearms, Mormons, or the geography of the places he describes. So much of the book is just silly. The villains make their presence known by shooting and missing. Generally, the hero figures out that assassins are after him because stuff around him gets hit by bullets. They hit everything but their target. It's as if they attended Star Wars Stormtrooper marksman school instead of whatever special forces training they supposedly have. The whole book borders on the ridiculous. It's like a really low budget action movie that deservedly went straight to dvd.

I gave this book four stars but considered it to be between three and four. Very readable with a complex plot and great characterization. However, lack of research can pull a reader out of an engrossing storyline. The introduction of Mormons would have been fine since Thor wasn't disrespectful but he neglected to verify both dialog and beliefs. Totally wrong. If you wish to use a group or church in the story, please have someone who is a member verify that part of the writing. We expect Jon Kraukaer to get it wrong as he has a definite bias but I don't detect that here. It is an insult to readers as well as your craft to not check with someone in the know.

The characters were very well developed. The story line flowed and the book is a page turner. As is common in many of this genre, too much happens too fast and too often in a matter of hours to be believable. But I liked the book and I'll read more of his books.

I think this was Brad Thor's first book. I have read all of his books and this one still stands out as wonderful. I love his women characters and how the main character, Scott, admires them so much. They are capable and noble women, but also feminine.

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