



Hidden Order

Brad Thor

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#1 <I>New York Times</I> bestselling author Brad Thor returns with his hottest and most action-packed thriller yet! And don't miss FREE FALL: A Prelude to Hidden Order, available for free download now!

The most secretive organization in America operates without any accountability to the American people. Hiding in the shadows, pretending to be part of the United States government, its power is beyond measure.

Control of this organization has just been lost and the future of the nation thrust into peril.

When the five candidates being considered to head this mysterious agency suddenly go missing, covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath is summoned to Washington and set loose on the most dangerous chase ever to play out on American soil.

But as the candidates begin turning up murdered, the chase becomes an all-too-public spectacle, with every indicator suggesting that the plot has its roots in a shadowy American cabal founded in the 1700s.

With the United States on the verge of collapse, Harvath must untangle a web of conspiracy centuries in the making and head off the greatest threat America has ever seen.

This is thriller writing at its absolute best, where the stakes have never been higher, nor the line between good and evil so hard to discern.

Hidden Order Details

Date : Published July 9th 2013 by Atria/Emily Bestler Books

ISBN :

Author : Brad Thor

Format : Kindle Edition 374 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review Hidden Order for online ebook

Bonnie-ann says

I read a lot of thriller/espionage fiction. When asked who my favorite author is, my response is always "Brad Thor." I then recommend that friends read the Scot Harvath series in order so as to not miss a moment. It was therefore very exciting to wake up to my email on Tuesday morning and see that my Audible pre-order of "Hidden Order" was ready for download. I had spent the weekend re-reading "Black List" to refresh the chronology of characters in my mind.

Turns out that I didn't need to refresh because "Hidden Order" is a true stand-alone novel (not that I minded re-reading "Black List" which is one of my favorite books of this genre). The story travels from Somalia to Washington D.C. To Boston to South America. It travels fast, it travels with beautiful imagery and it is scarily on point. Mr. Thor's books are always scarily on point. The topic is the history of the Federal Reserve and Colonial American History is a sub-theme that truly makes the novel flow. I majored in history and am a lifelong student of the subject. I learned new things about the events that preceded the American Revolution. Any author who can teach me new historical facts is worth reading,

My sole disappointment (and I'd give the book ten stars if I could) is that Nicholas a/k/a "The Troll" was not included. I enjoy his character and would have liked to read further adventures. That is my only critique though. The characters, story, writing and plot twists were beyond comparison to any contemporary author.

I expected nothing less. Brad Thor delivers every time.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Not your typical Brad Thor/Scot Harvath book. We follow Scot's story. Having entered the "private sector" he's now involved in a (another) plot against the American people.

While there is plenty of action here it's not as central to the story as action is in some of the books. This is more of an investigative read up until the last quarter or so when the climax brings about a series of violent confrontations.

I liked the book, I found some of the historical conversations involving. If your not aware of some of the things discussed it might also be informative. I knew most of what came across here already but it's still an interesting story.

So, well done, well written very interesting. It's a little different but that only gives the series a little variety.

5 stars, recommended.

Tim says

Scot Harvath is one of my favorite characters, except when he does not get to do what he does best, which is

put down bad guys. He left the Secret Service because he didn't want to play defense. This story is about chasing vicious murders after they occur instead of preventing them. There is little redeeming value here unlike most of Brad Thor's novels. Easily my least favorite Horvath read to date. 2 of 10 stars

Jim says

Not his best. Way too much historical detail about the federal reserve, blah, blah, blah.

Shelley says

Genre Mystery, Thriller

Rating 3-3.5

My Thoughts

Scot Harvath is back in action and this time the main focus is on the Federal Reserve, which I have to tell you, was very, very interesting to read about and makes me wonder why other people don't chirp in for more awareness of what this non branch of government actually does with OUR money. You could say that Thor once again rips his story from the headlines and tosses his character into the middle of it.

Whenever I read one of these books, I am immediately called a right wing nut job. That is a false statement to say the least, but, you sometimes have to be a duck and let the shit roll off your back. I enjoy reading these books because they are escapism. They allow you to cheer for a character who has gone from being a Navy SEAL, to a member of the Secret Service, to a part of a highly secretive group of operators who are tasked to bring the war to terrorists and those who threaten the US, and is the best at what he does. End finis.

The main part of the story focuses on the aspect that FIVE would be successors to the Chairmanship of the Federal Reserve, who apparently died of a heart attack, are kidnapped and there are no ransom demands. When the body of a woman candidate is found in Georgia, Harvath and boss Reed Carlton are tasked by the Federal Reserve to find out who is responsible for taking them. Hidden Order takes Harvath from Somalia, to DC, to Boston where most of the action for Scot takes place.

I loved how Thor mixes history about the revolutionary war era along with the history of the Federal Reserve to tell this story and to explain about the Sons of Liberty and important historical spots around Boston. I think Hidden Order, while interesting enough, wasn't what I expected. I didn't expect to see Scot become a detective running around a step behind the would be kidnappers and killers in an effort to stop them. I am so used to Scot kicking in doors, and beating the crap out of the enemies, that this was more tame in comparison.

I also didn't expect to like the secondary characters in Sloane Ashby, Lydia Ryan, William Wise, & Bob McGee. Thor has a tendency to have separate stories told at the same time as Harvath's. In this case, Lydia is at the center of the parallel story when a Jordanian Intelligence officer gives her some bits and pieces about the Arab Spring and Jordan's own future. She also learns more about so called wet teams that are apparently still together even though they were "broken" up.

In the end, they all tie up nicely together. I also liked where Thor took the new President and his views about not too big to fail, and allow the Federal Reserve to collapse. I liked that he apparently has some new rules and guidelines and Scot is one of the center pieces. I guess we will have to be patient and allow Thor to flex his creative muscle.

Published July 9th 2013 by Atria/Emily Bestler (first published July 1st 2013)

Shelley Lee Riley says

“It is said that power corrupts, but actually it’s more true that power attracts the corruptible.” – David Brin

Power beyond measure? That is without a doubt the most terrifying of thoughts. Why is it that so often the intentions of a few, which start out cloaked in good, and espoused to benefit the many, turn out when the layers are peeled back, to reveal exactly the opposite?

With all the scandals currently fouling the already poisonous atmosphere of our Nation’s Capital, I get where Mr. Thor was going. If you’re going to write this kind of book, you are going to have to tip toe around in the politics.

Very interesting insight into the workings of the Federal Reserve, and at times I almost felt this was an entertaining text book, one that went off to visit murder and intrigue.

It’s always hard to fill in the back story without the narration beginning to sound like a history lesson. When I become aware this is happening, I start mentally urging the author to hurry it up, tell it faster, get back to the action, in other words I get bogged down, it frustrates me and detracts from my pleasure.

There were so many characters; I found I wasn’t invested with any of them. This could probably be cured by reading the other books in the series. With the recurring protagonist theme of a series, it would give me the insight about the lead characters that I didn’t get in the quick overview the author accorded each in this book.

With my few criticisms aligned all in a row, it sounds as though I didn’t enjoy the book, but I did, and I fully intend to start the series from the beginning when I get a chance.

Review by Shelley Riley author of Casual Lies-A Triple Crown Adventure

Angela Austin says

I enjoy Brad Thor's books on Scott Harvath. Are they way out there with some of the plots and missions. I believe so, but I enjoy the black op missions and seeing where the main characters go on wither lives. I'm sure this is not for everyone....but I enjoy them and will continue reading them.

Absynthe says

Woah... what just happened? Brad Thor is pretty good about plot holes. He usually doesn't have any big

ones. This book has a gaping one.

Ummm... so all these people on this super secret list are kidnapped and start showing up dead. I'm not really spilling the beans, it happens in the first 20 pages or so. And Scot gets hired to find these kidnapped people. And he never, ever asks who had access to the list? He runs this entire investigation without once trying to figure out who could have seen the list that could have done this? Whaaaaat???

I've liked the Scot Harvath books so far, but this one has such gaping plot holes that its almost like its written by a different person.

Liz says

To start off, I must issue the disclaimer that halfway through this book I saw Brad Thor in an interview in Chicago where he offered to buy George Zimmerman a gun. I have read all of Brad Thor's books and consider myself a fan. However, I was greatly disturbed by his comments. While I don't think he is a racist, his propensity and endorsement of firearms was disturbing. I guess considering the genre that he writes I shouldn't be surprised although it is fiction. As a Canadian who lives in a country without stand your ground laws, and who watched the footage as parents buried 20 innocent children in December, I find it frightening that when an unarmed boy is killed (regardless of color) we revert back to the 2nd amendment. Seems like more innocents are being killed with these guns than criminals. So while I hope my review was not tainted by this interview, I wanted to be honest.

This was by far the worst Brad Thor I've ever read. When I pick up a Scot Harvath novel I want shootouts chase's and non stop action. I actually noted that as I was on page 350 Scott was still playing gum shoe and cracking wise with his new lady friend. While I appreciated the insight into the federal Reserve, overall this book was boring. I enjoyed McGee Ryan and Wise and wanted to light a fire under Scot. The end felt like he was headed for retirement and was setting up Chase Sanchez et al to take his place. I truly wanted to sob when I finished this book. RIP Vince Flynn I will miss Mitch Rapp even more after reading this book.

Krycek says

I was in the mood recently for something sort of Jack Bauer-ish/Jason Bourne-esque (or is it "Jack Bauer-esque/Jason Bourne-ish?"), some kind of military/espionage/thriller deal, along that vein. I was vaguely aware of Brad Thor and his Scot Harvath series, but never had a real interest to check it out, mainly because I generally think that Brad Thor is full of shit. Nevertheless, *Hidden Order*, latest in the series, was at eye-level at my local library, so I picked it up on a whim. And who knows? Maybe the guy can write a good thriller. Well, maybe he can, but *Hidden Order* ain't it.

Bear in mind, to me there are two kinds of 1-star books. Some are so bad and so goofy, but are still sort of fun. The other kind of 1-star book is the kind that's just plain dumb. This one's the latter. I just had to add that clarification to be fair to other 1-star books that I enjoy in a B-movie sort of way. *Hidden Order* is the answer for those who have ever had the burning question, "What do middle-aged extreme conservative males daydream about when they're not attending Tea Party rallies?"

From the dust jacket copy:

The most secretive organization in America operates without any accountability to the American people. Hiding in the shadows, pretending to be a part of the United States government, its power is beyond measure.

That organization is none other than the Federal Reserve Bank! When the five candidates being considered to head the Fed are kidnapped, Scott Harvath, a former Navy SEAL and Secret Service guy now working for a shadowy private organization, gets the assignment to investigate these kidnappings before they each are murdered by a madman.

Scot Harvath, despite his credentials, has to be one of the least effective and square "action heroes" I've ever seen. Most of the novel he spends looking up stuff in books or on the internet and questions hookers in Boston while the killer is always one step ahead of him. At one point the smokin' hot female Boston detective named Cordero (who, of course, has the hots for Harvath) and Harvath have a telling exchange:

"What can I do?" asked Harvath.

"Do you have any forensics experience?"

He shook his head. "Not much."

"Then I have the perfect job for you," she replied. "Go out to the car and bring those two Rubbermaid bins in."

"Then what?"

"Then you're really going to prove your worth to this investigation."

"How?" he asked.

"You're going to find us coffee somewhere in this neighborhood."

When we want you to shoot someone, Harvath, we'll wake you up.

And Harvath is such a square that he is amazed when he hears the "F-word" peppering an interviewee's statement. "Not even in the military had Harvath heard someone's speech so peppered with it." I call bullshit. As a seventeen year-old private E-nothing I distinctly remember the drill sergeant using some variation of the F-bomb literally every other word. And he was just instructing us how to make our bunks. I remember being amazed at the versatility of the word. I find it hard to believe that this veteran Navy SEAL is so impressed by a little cursing. Isn't that what sailors do?

Speaking of Harvath's naivety, this segues well into the second major fail of *Hidden Order*. After learning that his client is the Federal Reserve Bank, Harvath goes to some veteran CIA dude, Bill Wise, to get educated on the subject and Wise is all like, "Dude, the Fed, they wanna turn your children into Miley Cyrus twerking zombies and then eat them while they take all your cash to spend on drugs and whores while America collapses!," and Harvath is shaking his head and like all, "No way, dude, that totally blows. Why don't the American people do something about it?" and Wise is like, "Dude, they *don't even know!*"

Of course, I'm paraphrasing. But the point is, a major portion of the setup is Thor clobbering you over the head with his own political views. I'm not one to rag on a book just because I disagree with its politics, but I don't like being clobbered over the head with an author's personal agenda, especially in such an artless and clumsy manner. For what it's worth, the Federal Reserve bank is the least of my worries. But it could have been an interesting premise maybe. Dan Brown does a much better job of this tin-foil-hat conspiracy stuff, and if you know my opinion of Brown that's saying something. Take a note, Thor.

Thirdly, *Hidden Order* is just so ridiculously ethnocentric that it could be a spoof-- *but it isn't!* In the only parallel story thread that's vaguely interesting, CIA officer Lydia Myers is on the run from persons unknown (this eventually ties in with the main thread). When she first catches on that enemy agents are out to get her, she considers the enemy's tactics:

She ran through her mind the long list of people around the world she had pissed off badly enough to want to come get her. The fact that the attack had been carried out by two young Caucasians worried the hell out of her, as it could very well be an Islamic operation. As box-of-rocks stupid as so many Muslim foot soldiers were, the men in the organizational structures of the more aggressive terror organizations tended to be rather intelligent. If one of those groups had the wherewithal to track her down like this, they'd never be dumb enough to send a Muslim man, or even a Muslim woman to lure her out of her apartment. The minute she saw either on her doorstep, her antennae would be up. The tipsy blonde with the fender-bender story was the perfect ploy.

This, of course, begs the question: *what does a Muslim look like?*

Then ask yourself, what does a Christian look like? Or a Jew? Or a Buddhist? What does an atheist look like? A vegetarian? A conservative? A liberal? A college professor? A librarian? A writer or artist? What does a father, mother, sister or brother look like? You get my point (I hope).

In conclusion, *Hidden Order* was stupid, pedantic and ignorant. My feeling that Brad Thor is generally full of shit ("shadowed a black ops team in Afghanistan." Please. Get real.) did not factor at all into this review. The book just plain sucked. There are twelve other Scot Harvath books, but life's too short for me to give them a chance.

Joe says

Right up front I want to admit, I am a big fan of Brad Thor, so I enjoy most everything he writes. This time out, it was a pleasant change to not read about "terrorists", at least from the Middle East because "HIDDEN ORDER" was all about "Terrorists" of another kind, a shadow group of Americans, working within the US Government to bring down the financial world as we know it. Conspiracy theorists will love this read, because it will drive you to the research books, trying to find out, if what the story line lays out, is real? or fiction? I know it did that to me! Federal Reserve! Think about this, and I am NOT giving away anything when I ask you this, IS the Federal Reserve a "Federal" agency? you will be surprised and maybe even shocked when you find out. Here is one of the many sites <http://www.monetary.org/is-the-federa...> I ended up reading to find out just how much "fact" was in "Hidden Order".

Get ready for a WILD ride and if you are anything like me, you will find yourself SLAMMING the book shut every so often when you get so angry and disgusted at some of the treachery and greed going on by our so called BANKS and Bankers, only to remind yourself..."It's FICTION Joe" ...or is it? ENJOY!

Tara says

Ugh. Do men really think women talk like this? Does the middle finger equal clever repartee? This book featured two storylines that you know are going to merge, but you wait and wait and finally they collide and it's like a car accident...you can't help but look at the horrible mess as you drive by but you think "I'm so glad

I'm not responsible for THAT." The way it wraps up is beyond ridiculous. I did learn some interesting stuff about the Federal Reserve, so that's why it gets 1 star.

Jordan says

Fast paced read! Feels like I'm breezing through this book; Love it! I really enjoyed this book. It was my first read of Brad Thor's. The story moved along at a brisk pace, irrespective of the extra historic detail about the Fed 9(which I enjoyed). The only thing I didn't enjoy was what I perceived to be a gap in detail near the end of the book. I felt a bit more detail was needed to really tie things together. Nonetheless, this was a great book to read. I will definitely be read the other Scot Harvath books for sure!

Douglas says

I don't believe i reveal any "spoilers", anyway. Reading it was the equivalent of watching "National Treasure" with Nicholas Cage, except without the poor acting skills of Cage and disappointment of "studio cost cutting". It had the attention grabbing of any action film with the good/bad "Dexter" character cop hidden within but not clarified as such. Over all the book made you wonder if you even remotely received a poorly saturated history class as compared to the main characters interest and college background about American History. Also, a brief lesson in; Economics, The Federal Reserve, Contract companies for DoD, CIA (among other agencies), historical and current threats foreign and domestic. It also demonstrated that a person with such knowledge and military skills sill didn't know that the American debt is climbing at an astonishing rate, further to demonstrate a current parallel few American news media covered the misprint of \$100 bills but Russian television covered it (<http://rt.com/usa/100-dollar-bills-mi...>). AND some think CNN might mean Communist News Network. Would love to read a followup on how the United States of America reacts/deals with and pursues the Presidents new directive (given in the book), i think it would be a real eye opener and prep book if such a directive where to happen.

Eric says

I bumped this up my reading list after reading the prequel short story, Free Fall, which was action-packed and left off on a cliffhanger, and was then a bit disappointed reading this, as that story was more exhilarating than this novel.

This novel -- after wrapping up the cliffhanger of the prelude short story, which had nothing to do with novel's the main plot -- centered on Fed conspiracies, CIA black projects, a Dan Brown-like historical tour of Boston, and a killer eerily reminiscent of Dexter. Also, as far as the Fed bit goes, there were a few infodumps on its history, as well as a fair amount of soapboxing about how evil they are. Note that I am not saying the Fed is or isn't evil, just that these portions were not very deftly inserted into the text.

This story left very little for super-spy Scot Harvath to do except follow around a Boston police detective (who was super sexy and exotic looking, of course), which is fine, except for the fact that was allegedly a Scot Harvath thriller. The other plot thread that ran concurrently was much more interesting, and did eventually converge into an engaging third act, although after that it wrapped up just a bit too neatly in a meeting with the president and an epilogue on the beach.

Update: Brad Thor just released a second epilogue to the book as a bonus chapter, and it's really good. It can be found [here](#).
