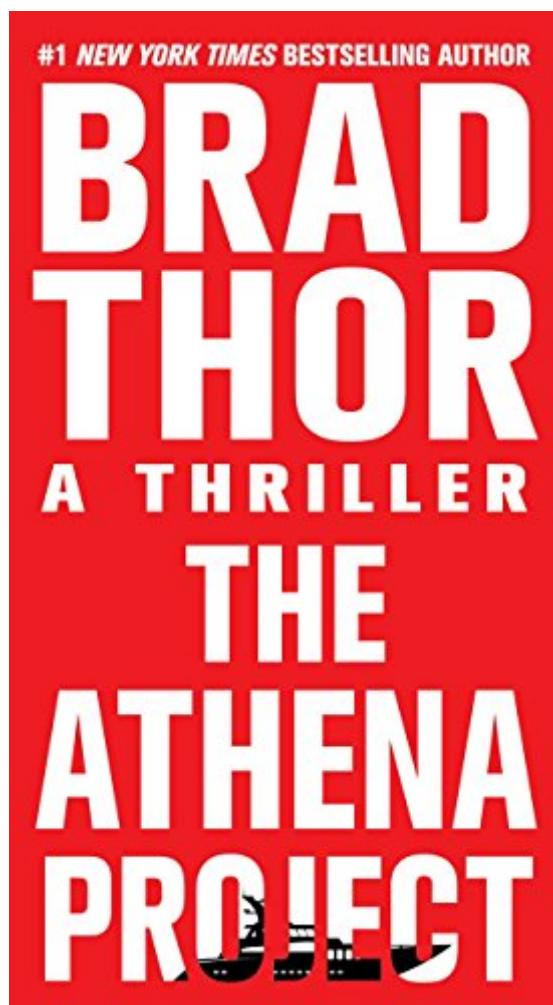


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The Athena Project: A Thriller (The Scot Harvath Series Book 10)



Synopsis

The world's most elite counterterrorism unit has just taken its game to an entirely new level. And not a moment too soon . . . From behind the rows of razor wire, a new breed of counterterrorism operator has emerged. Just as skilled, just as fearsome, and just as deadly as their colleagues, Delta Force's newest members have only one thing setting them apart—their gender. Part of a top-secret, all-female program codenamed The Athena Project, four of Delta's best and brightest women are about to undertake one of the nation's deadliest assignments. When a terrorist attack in Rome kills more than twenty Americans, Athena Team members Gretchen Casey, Julie Ericsson, Megan Rhodes, and Alex Cooper are tasked with hunting down the Venetian arms dealer responsible for providing the explosives. But there is more to the story than anyone knows. In the jungles of South America, a young U.S. intelligence officer has made a grisly discovery. Surrounded by monoliths covered with Runic symbols, one of America's greatest fears appears to have come true. Simultaneously in Colorado, a foreign spy is close to penetrating the mysterious secret the U.S. government has hidden beneath Denver International Airport. As Casey, Ericsson, Rhodes, and Cooper close in on their target, they will soon learn that another attack—one of unimaginable proportions—has already been set in motion, and the greatest threat they face may be the secrets kept by their own government.

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Customer Reviews

5.0 out of 5 stars
The Athena Project
5.0 out of 5 stars
Review by Top Dog
5.0 out of 5 stars
I enjoy the thriller genre from time to time, especially when life is complicated and I need some hero or another to take care of the problems of the world. I think I've read and enjoyed every word that Vince Flynn has published and the Jet series by Russell Blake puts a nice twist on the genre by having the main character be a woman. The Athena Project was recommended to me by a friend and the best thing I can say about it was that after 100 pages or so I had to put it down as godawful. It's as if Charlie Angels is in print. The underlying theory is that a Special Ops force comprised of women would be a great asset to have for special situations. However, the way Brad Thor presents it is just too saccharin. Too many wisecracks under circumstances requiring hyper-attention to detail; too many crossed love interests; too many characters creating a story more like a bowl of spaghetti than a tangled web. I think this book is the first in a series. If someone can tell me that a later work is better executed, I'll give it a try but I think the tenner I spent on this one just went down the rat hole.

This is a really good read. Current events thrillers are not my usual choice, but I'm glad I tried this one out. Sort of a mash up of Stargate, Indiana Jones, and military ops with a dash of James Bond & Modesty Blaze. The uniqueness of an all women military team did not disappoint. The writing believable and intriguing. Clear enough for non-scientific and non-military without sacrificing important details or flow of events. Obviously from how the title shows this is part of a series, but completely stand-alone without feeling you've missed critical connections.

Stretched. I am an avid Scot Harvath fan. So this book was well written and also exciting to read. Not sure if I felt that the cameo appearances of Scot Harvath in the book enhanced or detracted from the true heroes of the book, the Athena Project principles (or principals as the case may be). Anyway, fun book to read, and would read others on the Athena Project.

A thriller *is* beautiful girls with guns. What could be more fun! For that reason alone, I'm starting my rating at two stars instead of one. We have a best-in-class super-weapon, expert detail on ordnance (Glock Slimline 36 with single-stack magazine as opposed to "a gun"), and the settings Venetian palazzo, castle, an abandoned Nazi cave-base are worthy of Fleming. All told, a fine vehicle *is* up it to three stars. Now we want Mr Thor to fill this vehicle with characters and have them do something. That's where problems start. Picasso said learn the rules to break the rules, but Mr Thor disregards Storytelling 101 in ways opposite of provocative. The genius of an ensemble shines from its complementarity: eclectic characters with distinct abilities and world views together advance the plot by their combination. (Think of Star Trek or Mission Impossible.) Our four heroines, however special ops commandos *is* are all the same: beautiful, sports-minded, and bland. They have different heights and hair color, but so what. We're told early that one is mixed-race, but that factlet never surfaces again and is totally irrelevant to the plot. They could have come off the same volleyball team. Their external and internal dialogues are so vapid you wish they would just shut up and do TM. (I am SO sick of hearing "professional" as an accolade. It's like being at a convention of mortgage brokers. REAL professionals, the kind who sacrifice their 20s getting letters after their name that mean something, like M.D., don't go around calling each other "professional.") The villains are cookie-cutter, too: powerful, rich, ruthless; dwelling secretively in a fortress behind massive security; Eastern, from the arc that includes the old Austrian and Ottoman empires; disciplined, but with a weakness for beautiful women. One mad scientist from Australia is an exception among the baddies, but we barely see him. A shame. Then there's the action problem. Our girls get into firefight after firefight. They always win. None is ever wounded or taken prisoner. Every infiltration is successful, as is every exit. So is every ruse, every seduction. They always get their man. Isn't a thriller supposed to have some thrills? Even when one kills a guy hand to hand, it's perfunctory, as though the author is embarrassed to say it; beginning, middle, and end of fight sequence: "She delivered a series of punches, culminating with a jab that dropped the man right where he stood." So I can't go above three stars. Mr Thor has it in him to write female action characters *is* the up-close-and-personal fight in the prologue between a WWII heroine and a plane full of Nazis is

terrific, and a near-rape-turned-consensual with a minor character starts to sizzle. But he kept this talent to himself for the Athena Project.

Very disappointed in Brad Thor with this novel. First off ... Scott Harvath isn't even mentioned in it. Secondly, I don't want to read a fictitious fair tale about a female black ops team. This would be like Lee Child releasing a book in the Reacher Series where Jack Reacher is now Sally Sundance. I've seen these tactics with Clive Cusler as well. Not content with keeping with a successful character (as well as introducing "ghost writers"). I know at some point authors need to change course, but at least give us warning BEFORE we waste our money. I will definitely be more careful about ordering books from these authors in the future.

Though the plot and multiple sub plots are related it's difficult to keep all the facts together. And then there are the multitude of players involved including a highly trained special ops quartet of beautiful females who are tasked with the most difficult assignments in the operation. Not taking anything away from our real life women in uniform serving in our military, this foursome seems to be super human. They're a tight, skilled group but their abilities seem more fantasy than realistic. Scott Harvath, our usual hero makes only occasional appearances while the ladies perform their daring escapades. Between the multiple locations and numerous players, it's difficult to follow without a score card. Brad Thor usually constructs a tightly scripted plot with believable characters and predicaments. The Athena Project was a bit of a stretch on reality. Still, I'm looking forward to the next Scott Harvath adventure.

An absolute must read with twists and turns at every page. The new characters are amazing each with their own unique skills and fantastic teamwork. The plot is amazing and makes you think of what will be in the near future.

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