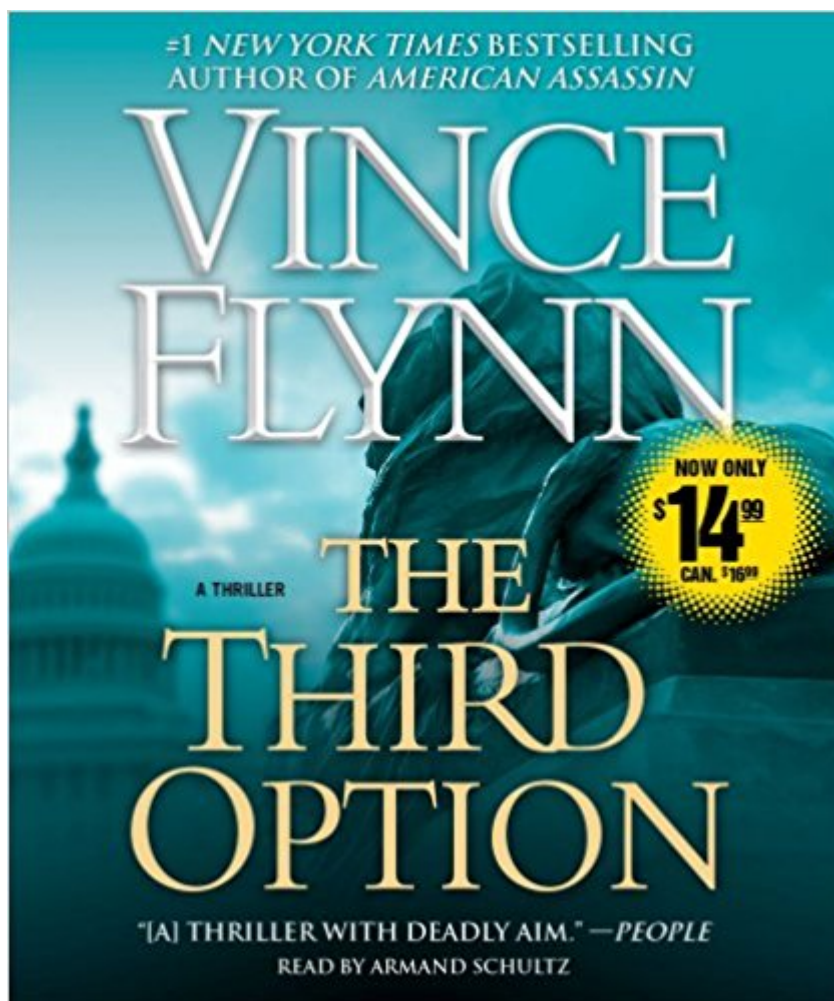


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# The Third Option



## Synopsis

Vince Flynn's Blockbuster Bestseller At a New Low Price! *The Third Option* Read by Armand Schultz CIA counter-terrorism operative Mitch Rapp falls prey to government forces with an agenda of their own. When Dr. Irene Kennedy is named the successor to dying CIA Director Thomas Stansfield -- many inside the world's most powerful intelligence agency are enraged. Her detractors resort to extreme measures to prevent her from taking the reins -- which makes Rapp an expendable asset. But Mitch Rapp is no one's pawn, and he will stop at nothing to find out who has set him up.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rancorous political infighting surrounds the selection of a successor to the dying head of the CIA just as Mitch Rapp, the agency's top operative, embarks on a dangerous mission to take out a well-known German industrialist believed to be supplying Middle East terrorists with highly sensitive equipment critical to constructing a nuclear bomb. When Rapp's ultimately successful mission is compromised from within, ailing CIA director Thomas Stansfield puts his imprimatur on the efforts of his chosen successor, Irene Kennedy, director of the agency's Counterterrorism Center, to identify the powerful interests both inside and outside the agency that wanted Rapp to fail. The motive soon becomes clear; there are people who'll stop at nothing to remove Kennedy from the helm of the agency after Stansfield dies. One thing they didn't count on was Rapp's survival, and now he's a lethal weapon whose sights are fixed directly on the most powerful among them. This is a strong, swift thriller, a bit predictable (the senator in the black hat has dogs named Caesar and Brutus) but

nonetheless involving. Author Vince Flynn sustains the dramatic tension from the opening paragraph to the last; in Mitch Rapp, he's got the makings of a promising series hero. --Jane Adams  
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A CIA counterterrorist gets caught in the middle of a deadly Beltway power play in Flynn's (Balance of Power) latest political thriller. Long on one-dimensional characters, action scenes and espionage details, it falls short on comprehensible plotting. Battle-scarred protagonist Mitch Rapp returns to take on a sensitive new assignment in Europe, only to have things go awry when his two CIA colleagues turn on him following the assassination of a wealthy German count who has been selling arms to Saddam Hussein. Rapp survives their double-dealing, but he is forced to go underground to decipher the labyrinthine chain of political connections and to learn who was trying to have him killed. Back in Washington, a similar game of spy-versus-spy is being conducted by the elderly, dying director of the CIA and his chosen successor. Rapp eventually surfaces to help his bosses, but things get personal for the ace counterterrorist when Rapp's bride-to-be is kidnapped as part of the ongoing political maneuvers. Flynn sweats the small stuff to bring his conspiracy to life, but he also introduces enough secondary characters to populate two novels, and he frequently stalls the narrative momentum by providing an overwhelming level of detail regarding various high-tech gadgets and espionage operations. The biggest disappointment, though, comes at the end, when the book is exposed as a shameless setup for a sequel. Flynn is a popular writer, but his third thriller won't do much to enhance his critical reputation or his sales. 9-city author tour. (Nov.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Another superb addition to the Mitch Rapp series by the late Vince Flynn. After ignominiously discovering the seduction of Vince Flynn's catalogue only last year (three years after his passing), I've since determined to read each installment and look forward to becoming enthralled with each. This, "The Third Option," is the third in the Flynn catalogue and the second in the Mitch Rapp series and it continues Flynn's extraordinary talents and painstaking attention to detail. In this episode, we find our hero looking anxiously toward retirement with this, his self-imposed final mission. He's met and fallen in love with national network news reporter Anna Reilly and he's determined to put this period of subversive violence, loneliness and subterfuge behind him to start anew. Honoring a commitment for one last mission however, Rapp finds himself in Germany, surveilling and ultimately removing a rogue German Chancellor. Teamed

with two other seemingly benign operatives, something still grates at his instinct: there is something not at all right about this assignment and as his surveillance turns into execution, Mitch is proven correct. During the violent shootout, he barely escapes with his life and must use all his skills to make a clean getaway. Suspecting immediately that there is a leak in his CIA sponsored command, he returns to the U.S. to angrily confront his leaders CIA Director Thomas Stansfield and Terrorism Chief Irene Kennedy. Once mollified, he sets out to find the leak. Also adding to his unbridled anger is the kidnap of his love Reilly; Rapp literally transforms into a kill or be killed personae and Flynn excels with a demonstrative conclusion that of course gives great satisfaction to the reader. One unturned stone though is the clear misanthropic ending that allows the ultimate villain to live another day. Indeed this novel makes no attempt whatsoever to disguise the fact that there will be a sequel and for those hardcore Rapp fans, this is pure enticement. And so to conclude, the late Vince Flynn succeeded magnificently once more with "The Third Option." Carrying forward his amazing storytelling talents along with his usual tenacious research and obvious passion for these details, we the reader are again treated with an amazingly thorough and provocative tome. And as I keep telling myself, thank god there are many more like this in the Flynn catalogue.

I discovered this series because I read that this series is being turned into a movie. I love the Jason Bourne series and I am a huge fan of the Die Hard movies just to give you an idea of my preferences. I have always been intrigued by the mystery behind the CIA and how they are the proactive branch of national security where the FBI is more reactive. Good book, good story, easy read and a good page turner, especially once the background is established. If you are new to the series, I highly recommend reading the prequel novels that actually introduce Mitch Rapp and the main characters 10 years earlier. As I understand these books (2 books) were written later and understanding the main character, Mitch Rapp, and what his value to the CIA makes more sense as you continue the series. This is listed as book #2 but if you read the prequels first it is book #4. Just be glad you do not have to meet The Third Option... because it will be the first, last and only time you will meet him.

I heard about Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp character several years ago, before the author's untimely death. I had it on my To Read List, but I finally actually read the first novel a couple of weeks ago... in one weekend. As other reviewers have indicated, I did not want to put it down once I got into the character and evolving storylines. I am on the second novel and have not had such focused reading

time this round, but I can read Rapp's tales for hours without a break. If you like modern political thrillers and characters like Jack Bauer (or post-Vietnam era Mack Bolan, perhaps my favorite of all), this is a must! Flynn's Rapp will not disappoint! Flynn does a great job of developing characters at a rate that keeps the reader wanting more. The myriad of key players keeps growing, as does my view and understanding of what makes each tick. This is my escape from the hours of professional literature I read each day. Great read!!!

Darn it!!! Had to buy Separation of Power (not that I wouldn't have anyways!!!) because The Third Option (Book 4) leaves the main bad guy still on the run! Call it marketing or whatever, I immediately bought Book 5 because Flynn leaves the reader so intrigued as to what happens next. Without giving everything away, Mitch Rapp is now changing positions - his boss is passing, his immediate supervisor is in line for the CIA head, and Mitch is finished with killing...or so we think??? If I know one thing about Mitch Rapp, it ain't over 'till it's over! Mitch is on a mission to discover who set him up. After a mission goes awry, Mitch is on the run, not knowing who to trust. This time, there is more on the line than just his life and he must discover the truth of what happened and why. In "The Third Option", Flynn is able to involve the reader as to what it must be like to be a "Mitch Rapp". Although fiction I could only imagine what a job like this would entail from the stress to the paranoia of knowing that, at any given time, the hunter can become the hunted. I have thoroughly enjoyed the Mitch Rapp series and will continue to read until the end. In "The Third Option" Flynn is able to detail the events of the story from all sides. There is mystery, intrigue and suspense and Flynn's style is like no other.

Flynn knows how to write a great story and has certainly improved over the years. This is an early work so it's kinda funny as the characters wait for the computer to warm up so they can log in to their AOL account. Or how Dumond has to explain to Mitch how cell phone towers work. Some International Man of Mystery™. But a good read nonetheless.

Do yourself a favor, and get these books, and enjoy a very entertaining, and illuminating look at the schemes elected folks employ to usurp power from the people, ostensibly to enrich themselves at the expense of the Nation and her citizens.

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