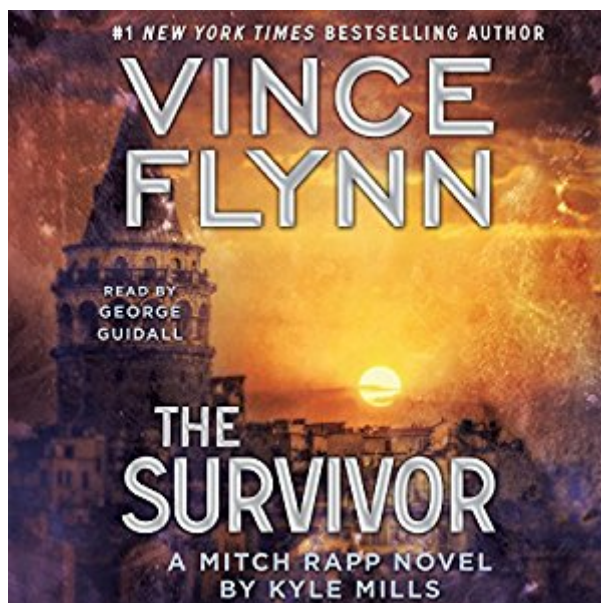


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The Survivor



Synopsis

Top-secret data has been stolen from the CIA, and the only man who knows its hiding place is dead. CIA operative Mitch Rapp must race to find the classified information in this blistering novel that picks up where *The Last Man* left off in Vince Flynn's New York Times best-selling series. Joseph "Rick" Rickman, former boy wonder at the CIA, stole a massive amount of top-secret and hugely compromising intel concerning classified operations all over the world, offering it (and himself) to the Pakistani secret forces. Only his plans went awry when CIA director Irene Kennedy sent Mitch Rapp to hunt him down. It turns out that killing Rickman didn't solve anything - in fact the nightmare is only intensifying. Rickman stored the potentially devastating data (CIA assets, operatives, agents) somewhere only he knew, and somehow, from beyond the grave, he still poses a mortal threat to America. Now it's a deadly race as both the Pakistanis and the Americans search for Rickman's accomplices and the information they are slowly leaking to the world. Will Rapp outrun and outthink his enemies, or will the Pakistanis find it first and hold America hostage to their dream of becoming the world's new nuclear superpower?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rapp is back and he is as strong as ever in *The Survivor*, the return of Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp series. Of course for fans of Rapp and Flynn, *The Survivor* is more than just your typical novel. With the tragic passing of Vince Flynn in 2013 many were left to wonder if Flynn's final novel *The Last Man* would be the last time we saw Rapp.

Thankfully for fans of the counter-terrorism operative, Rapp has returned to the outstanding work of novelist Kyle Mills. Up front I have to say that I am a huge Flynn fan. I started reading Flynn in the summer of 2000 and found him to be one of the best novelists of the past two decades. To me he helped define what a thriller should be in the post 9-11 world. As a result while I was thrilled to hear Rapp would return, I was also very wary if anyone could produce a Rapp novel anywhere near the quality of what Flynn wrote. Well I'm thrilled to say Kyle Mills has delivered a Rapp novel that exceeded everyone of my expectations. To me *The Survivor* is a top 5 Rapp novel. Mills did something I didn't think was possible, he made me forget that *The Survivor* wasn't written by Vince Flynn. The tone, style, pace and voice of the novel is Flynn. I'm not sure how Kyle Mills pulled this off but I can't compliment him enough for this. The task of carrying on for Flynn must have been beyond stressful. The fact that he produces such a home run of a novel in his first attempt with Rapp makes me beyond thrilled to see what happens in the next novel. *The Survivor* checks off all the must haves of a Mitch Rapp novel. The pace and thrills are non-stop. The action as always is top shelf and among the strongest in the genre. In particular I have to give Mills an amazing amount of credit for what I believe to be one of the best action set pieces in Rapp history. The sequence takes place in Germany and the pacing and writing is world class. I won't give anything away about it, but I had to highlight it because as a fan of the genre I find myself constantly re-reading this entire portion of the novel. Mills is the real deal and anyone questioning if he could pull off a Rapp novel should stop worrying about that after you read this portion of the novel. *The Survivor* gives you all the action you've come to know and love from Rapp. Perhaps the most surprising element of *The Survivor* however has nothing to do with the twists and turns you see in every Rapp adventure. What surprised me the most was the way in which Kyle Mills decides to explore the soul of Mitch Rapp. For fans of the Rapp series, we know in many ways Rapp has been a tortured soul since the events in *Consent to Kill*. In many ways he became detached from his emotions throughout the novels that followed. In *The Survivor*, Mills begins to explore the evolution of Rapp and where he might go with himself in the future. It's a testament to Mills that he takes the series in this direction. This brings an added layer to the character of Rapp and I'm really intrigued to see how Mills explores this area in future novels. From beginning to end *The Survivor* is a true hit. I can not recommend this book enough. Mitch Rapp is in great hands with Kyle Mills. The book is a fitting tribute to Vince Flynn and his legacy. While Vince is no longer with us, the universe he created is still going strong. Vince created a character in Rapp that will always be the gold standard for the thriller genre. The great news is that in Kyle Mills we now have an author that will

give us all something we have been in desperate need of. MORE RAPP! Buy The Survivor now!

Length: 400 pages. Before proceeding, I want to note that recent years have witnessed the death of several of my favorite singers, actors, and writers: Pete Seeger; Johnny Cash; Tom Laughlin; James Garner; Michael Crichton; Vince Flynn. With the passing of Flynn, it appeared one of the all-time great characters, Mitch Rapp, would become a relic lost to the dustbin of history. I will let you read this latest installment and decide just how closely the characters continue to replicate that bigger-than-life hero. For this review, however, I will jot down my perspective insofar as this book, commenced by Vince Flynn but completed by Kyle Mills. Questions I had when I opened the book were: Is this a stand alone novel, or must readers read one or more of the previous books? Yes, it is stand alone, although I recommend reading the entire series first, simply because it is a great story. Second, is there a cliffhanger ending? No. Despite the new writer having been commissioned to write three books, this is, thankfully, free of a cliffhanger. Third, does it feel, smell and taste like Mitch Rapp? Yes, but the basic storyline, other than Rapp, himself, does have a somewhat different feel. I'm grateful for this, for the writer is not merely counterfeiting Flynn. Mills is allowing himself latitude sufficient to stamp his own imprint upon the franchise. I was concerned that Mills would so tightly parrot Flynn that the story would lose the soul, if you will, and be merely a means for the publisher to keep cashing in on the efforts of a great writer. I needn't have worried, for Mills is a seasoned writer of merit and has, for me, co-authored an incredible story worth my time and the money I spent. Can't wait for the movie!

Kyle Mills had his work cut out taking over the Mitch Rapp franchise. If you didn't know better, from the book's jacket, you would assume that Vince Flynn wrote it with minor assistance from Mills. Not the case, as this book was most likely just an idea, maybe an outline, when Flynn became severely ill. Mills most likely had a thousand editors looking over his shoulder and making tweaks and changes. The Rapp series has always been about the individual. The plots were good, but it was Rapp, Coleman, Irene Kennedy, Stan Hurley and the interplay among them that made it special. The Survivor is more plot driven, with less attention paid to Mitch's character. I missed the fondness between Kennedy and Rapp and the grudging respect between Hurley and Rapp. This interplay was completely missing from the book's first half. Having said that, there was humor in this book that was noticeably absent from prior books. This was a welcome addition. The plot really gets rolling in the second half, and the characters begin to appear (finally!), as in the first half all of the characters were dry and colorless. Perhaps this was by design to enable Mills to get the feel of the

personalities, especially Rapp. It will take a couple more books in the series for Mills to get comfortable in Rapp's world. One major mistake, and this is not a spoiler, in spite of Louis Gould getting back in the assassination business, Rapp decides to let him live, and in fact, be a part of the team for one of their adventures. Never would have happened after what happened in previous books. In spite of these shortcomings, it is difficult to imagine anybody doing a better job than Mills, and I look forward to the next book in the series.

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