

Separation of Power Study Guide

Separation of Power by Vince Flynn

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Plot Summary

The Separation of Power is part of a series of espionage novels written by Vince Flynn. It continues the story of the counter terrorist, Mitch Rapp. Mitch is on the verge of retirement, but knows he cannot retire safely until he has found out who tried to kill him on his previous mission to Germany. However, his obsession only creates more problems for him, breaking up his relationship with Anna Rielly, getting him involved with the Israeli secret police and taking him on one last mission to destroy nuclear warheads in Iraq.

The book opens with Hank Clark meeting the billionaire Mark Ellis in the Bahamas. Ellis is angry because Clark has not dealt with the new CIA director Irene Kennedy as he said he would. Ellis says he invested a lot of money in a venture with the CIA and it needs a director who will play ball. Meanwhile, back in Maryland, Anna Rielly and Mitch Rapp enjoy a relaxing morning. They are deeply in love, and Mitch is on the verge of giving up his fieldwork with the CIA to settle down with her. Before he hands in his notice, he has a meeting with Irene Kennedy. Kennedy wants Mitch to stay on as a "desk jockey" and shows him a video tape of a woman leaving a building after killing a man called Peter Cameron, the same man who tried to kill Mitch. Irene says the woman is Donatella Rahn, and Irene wants Mitch to fly over to Milan to ask her who hired her to kill Cameron. At the same time, Mitch proposes to Anna. At the Israeli embassy, Clark meets Mossad director Ben Freidman. He wants Freidman to arrange to have Donatella killed.

The President meets with the Mossad director Ben Freidman. Freidman tells the President Israel has discovered Iraq is working with North Korea to build nuclear weapons. He says in exchange for oil, Saddam Hussein has hired the North Korean physicist Dr. Park Chung Lee to help develop nuclear components under the foundations of a real hospital. Israel needs America's help to take out the bombs. Meanwhile, Hank Clark meets congressman Albert Rudin in a steam room. Rudin wants Irene Kennedy out of the CIA. Clark says he knows someone who can help him find some damning evidence to oust her from her position.

Freidman decides to hire Marc Rosenthal to kill Donatella. Rosenthal asks if it is a solo or team job. Freidman laughs and says it a team job because Donatella is very dangerous. Meanwhile, Mitch and Anna catch a flight to Milan from Washington Airport. Mitch decides not to tell Anna about his business meeting because Donatella is an old flame. At the same time, Marc Rosenthal arrives in Milan with his two buddies Yanta and Jordan Sunberg.

The President meets with General Flood. Flood has an idea for taking out Saddam's weapons. Saddam and his sons drive around in white Mercedes, and to avoid detection, they have many other white Mercedes driving around Baghdad at the same time. Flood thinks they should put a Delta team into a white Mercedes, and then they can drive to the bombs unimpeded. Meanwhile, Mitch meets with Donatella at the Jamaica Cafe in



Milan. Mitch asks Donatella who hired her to kill Cameron, but Donatella is more interested in talking about Mitch's new girlfriend. Donatella says she still loves him.

Mitch and Donatella go for a walk in the park. Mitch is trying to convince Donatella to tell him when she hired her when he spies someone in a car watching them. He tells Donatella to wait where she is and runs off. Donatella decides to go against his advice and go up to her apartment. She makes sure, however, to take the stairs with her gun drawn. In her house, she somersaults into the lounge and hides behind the sofa. She springs to her knees to shoot, but a man shoots her in the head and shoulder. The wounds are only superficial, and Donatella jumps up and kills him. Mitch arrives at the apartment and dresses Donatella's wounds. She wants a shot of morphine, but Mitch says he will not give it to her until she tells him who hired her. Donatella tells Mitch it was Ben Freidman.

Mitch takes Donatella back to his hotel room. Anna is not happy with him and asks where the hell he has been. Before Mitch can answer, the drugged-up Donatella tells her Mitch and she are lovers. Hearing this, Anna storms out of the room. Mitch has no choice but to stay with Donatella. He makes a few phone calls to Kennedy and then takes Donatella back to the relative safety of America. Back in the States, Mitch accepts a mission to destroy Saddam's nuclear warheads.

General Flood introduces Mitch to the other 12 men taking part in the mission. They are dark-haired and dark-eyed to fit in with the Iraqi civilians. Mitch says that they should not scout the area because they are likely to get caught. Instead, he suggests he impersonates Uday Hussein, and they drive into Baghdad as though they own the place. Meanwhile Norb Steviken hands Rudin an envelope with top-secret information that could end Irene Kennedy's career.

Inside the envelope, Rudin finds information about the Orion Team and their illegal operations in the Middle East. Rudin is ecstatic because he knows he now has the information to take Kennedy down. With Hank Clark's encouragement, he appears on Meet the Press and reveals the top-secret information. The President is livid and thinks it could spell the end of his and Irene's careers. Irene is far calmer. She tells the President, Rudin has revealed top-secret information and has thus committed a criminal act.

Irene Kennedy appears before a committee to answer some questions, but refuses to answer them. She says she is keeping quiet in the interests of national security. Meanwhile, Mitch and the Delta team make it to the Baghdad hospital. By pretending he is Uday, Mitch persuades Dr. Park Chung Lee to hand over the nuclear components. In Washington, the President talks to the Israeli Prime minister on the phone. The Prime minister thanks the President for helping Israeli. In reply, the President asks if he can send Freidman over to the Whitehouse to see him.

With the victory over Saddam now made public, the President is popular again, and Rudin's star fades dramatically. Scared he is going to lose his job, Rudin goes to Hank Clark for help. Hank shows sympathy, but knowing Rudin is now a liability throws him

out of his office window. Back in the Whitehouse, Mitch Rapp holds Ben Freidman to gunpoint. He insists that Fredman tell him, the President and Irene Kennedy who asked him to hire Donatella Rahn. Freidman tells them it was Hank Clark.



Chapters 1-5

Chapters 1-5 Summary

Senator Hank Clark puts down a copy of the San Francisco Tribune. The main headline screams "Irene Kennedy to become new CIA director." Clark is on Williams Island in the Bahamas to meet businessman Mark Ellis. Mark Ellis' father worked as a steel worker who installed in Mark the idea that rules are made by people who do not understand the reality of life and therefore are there to be broken. Clark knows this about Mark and combined with Ellis' angry temper understands he is not a man to mess with. Ellis tells Clark that he has not dealt with Kennedy as he said he would. In fact, it seems as if Clark has done the complete opposite. Ellis wants her out because a while ago, he put a lot of money into a business venture involving the CIA, and if Kennedy is in, it will ruin his investment. He tells Clark he wants a director who will play ball. Clark says that is all very well, but if Ellis is not careful, he will find himself killed. The CIA are not people to mess with.

Mitch Rapp is at home with his girlfriend Anna. He wakes up alone in his bedroom and thinks about his past and current state of affairs. Mitch is a counter terrorist, but wants to give it up for the love of a woman. Or rather, Anna wants him to pack it in. He knows she is right. People would go mad if they found out what he had done in his life and how many people he had killed for his country. In some ways, they would be right to be mad; the CIA had sent him on some hare-brained schemes in the past that made little sense to anyone, let alone himself. He had done them out a sense of duty, but no more.

He goes downstairs to find Anna eating breakfast. They kiss and talk about Mitch's upcoming retirement. Both of them want kids. Anna says she has to leave for a meeting, and Mitch follows her to her car in nothing but his white boxer shorts, shouting out that he loves her. Anna says she loves him, too, but he should get back inside the house before the neighbors see him. Mitch yells that he does not care who sees him as she reverses down the driveway.

Mitch thinks back to a few weeks ago when someone tried to kill him in Germany. He had gone to assassinate Count Hagenmiller at his plush residence. He carried out the task easily, but two of his fellow CIA agents turned on him and tried to assassinate him as well. Mitch survived only because he was wearing body armor. He made his way back to the USA, where he joined forces with his friend, Scott Coleman, and they set about trying to find who tried to kill him. The clues lead to ex-CIA agent man Peter Cameron. When they eventually got to him, someone had already killed him. Mitch knows that the baton does not just stop at Cameron. He has to reach much higher than that and cannot retire happily or safely, until he finds the person responsible.

Mitch visits Irene Kennedy, the new director of the CIA. She wants him to stay on with the organization, but working behind a desk rather than in the field. Mitch is not sure whether he can cope with such a routine life. He says he has spent so much time



working on his own, he would just end up beating some "desk jockey" to a pulp. Irene admits this would not be ideal, and if he were to work with the CIA, he would have to curb his temper. However, at the end of the day, the CIA needs Mitch more than he needs them. Mitch appreciates Irene as a person and asks her when she wants him to start. Irene says right this minute. She puts a tape into the VCR and shows a woman walking away from the scene of Cameron's murder. She asks Mitch if he knows who she is. Mitch says no, but Irene knows he is lying. She tells him he is to go to Milan in Italy to propose to Anna but also to see Donatella Rahn, the woman who killed Cameron, and find out who hired her.

Hank Clark visits the Israeli embassy in Washington. Here he meets the Mossad director Ben Freidman. In a sound-proof room, he tells Freidman the woman who assassinated Cameron was caught on camera. Freidman is annoyed. He says he trained the woman himself and he can ensure Hank she is a real pro. Even if they do have her image, the CIA will find nothing on her. Hank is not so sure, and he offers Freidman \$500,000 to arrange to wipe her out. Freidman is a proud man, but the offer is too much to turn down.

Chapters 1-5 Analysis

In the first section, Vince Flynn introduces the plot points. The novel opens with the Republican senator Hank Clark meeting with Mark Ellis to talk about overthrowing the CIA director, Irene Kennedy. For the rest of the novel, Hank Clark conspires against the president, but does so by paying others to do his dirty work. This way, he can continue towards his goal of becoming the next president with his reputation intact.

The next storyline is the love story between Anna and Mitch. Here Flynn foreshadows their temporary split when Mitch wakes up by himself. The third storyline involves dealing with terrorism. This storyline does not begin until the beginning of the next section when the Mossad director Ben Freidman visits the President asking him to arrange the destruction of Saddam's nuclear power. In this section, Flynn gives the reader an insight into America's relationship with Israel, which Flynn does not represent as rock solid. Here, Ben Freidman, a highly important member of the Israeli government, is helping Hank Clark bully his way to the top and for no more reason than personal gain. Along with Irene showing Mitch the videotape of Donatella, it is this scene, which ties together the three plots. Because of the assassination attempt on Donatella, Mitch loses Anna, becomes involved with the Mossad, accepts the mission to destroy Saddam's nuclear components, and ultimately finds the man behind trying to kill him.



Chapters 6-10

Chapters 6-10 Summary

The President is in the Oval office with Irene Kennedy awaiting the arrival of Ben Freidman. It is 8:15 am and in the 45 minutes they have to wait, the President wants Irene to come up with an idea of why Freidman has to come to visit. Because Freidman is Israeli, the President presumes it is something very important. Kennedy tells him she can guarantee it has something to do with Baghdad.

Ben Freidman arrives. Just as Kennedy had stated, he has come with news about Saddam Hussein. He shows the company some photographs of a man called Dr. Park Chong Lee. Park works at a hospital in Baghdad; however, this is just a cover because he is not a medic, but a nuclear physicist. Freidman says North Korea is trading their knowledge of nuclear power for oil, and North Korea has sent Park to develop Iraq's nuclear capabilities. Already Israel has evidence Park has developed three nuclear components. The President wants to know what Israel wants America to do about it. Freidman replies that Israel wants America to go into Baghdad and destroy the weapons. And if America doesn't agree, what will happen, the president asks. Freidman says Israel we go in anyway, but it is probably preferable on all sides if America undertook the task. The President agrees and tells Freidman to leave the office for a moment while he talks to his advisers. They decide they have to go into Baghdad. The only question is how. The President sends General Flood to find him some options.

The congressman Albert Rudin meets Hank Clark in a steam room. Clark thinks it is amusing Rudin has set up the meeting in a steam room and jokingly questions his colleague's sexuality. Rudin is not impressed with his humor and asks Clark why he supported Irene Kennedy's candidacy. Clark points out that Irene is a good choice for CIA director and it is only Rudin who has a problem with her. He continues to say if Rudin thinks she is so corrupt, he should take her before a committee and force her to answer some questions. Rudin admits he has no real evidence to prove Irene's guilt and he needs Clark's help. Clark says he knows someone who is very skilled at digging up the dirt, and he will put Rudin in contact with the person. Before Clark leaves, he reminds Rudin that this has nothing to do with him (Clark), and he does not want his name to crop up if it all goes wrong.

Irene Kennedy meets with the President. He asks her if she thinks Israel can be trusted. Irene takes some photographs from her briefcase and shows him trucks at the hospital in Baghdad. She says the trucks are from North Korea. Lee, the North Korean doctor, runs the hospital, and there is a nuclear bunker beneath the building. The President says if it is a real hospital with real patients, it will be hard to bomb it without killing innocent civilians.



Chapters 6-10 Analysis

In this section, Vince introduces one of the major themes of the novel, the relationship between Israel and America. The relationship seems more conditional than friendly. Freidman asks America to destroy Saddam's nuclear components, but says if America does not take action, then Israel will attack. This is essentially blackmail because war in the Middle East and particularly one started by Israel would cause major problems for America. In this respect, Flynn presents Israel in a negative light. Already the reader can see the head of the Israeli organization, Mossad, is willing to go behind the backs of America and even his own government for financial gain. In comparison, Flynn presents the CIA leader Irene Kennedy as closed to corruption. Here the President distrusts Israel so much that he has to ask Kennedy if she thinks Freidman and Israel are lying.



Chapters 11-15

Chapters 11-15 Summary

The President meets with General Flood, Colonel Anderson, and Irene Kennedy in the Situation Room. He wants to know how they are going to take out the bombs in Baghdad. He is given the options of sending in Tomahawks or F11s, but they cannot guarantee they will fully achieve the mission's aims. The Colonel says the better option is deep throat, a super-penetration bomb that destroys whatever it hits.

Ben Freidman is back in the Mossad office in Israel. He is thinking how he is going to kill Donatella. He thinks back to when he met her and she was nothing but a super model, strung out on heroin. He saw coldness in her and decided to take her under his wing. Putting Donatella under an intense drug rehabilitation program, he cured her of her addiction and then trained her to become one of the best assassin's in the world. She is so good it will take someone equally good if not better to kill her. The only person approaching her talent is Marc Rosenthal. Rosenthal has been with Mossad since a teenager, and though he is still quite young, he has a wealth of experience. Friedman calls Rosenthal and gives him details of the job. Rosenthal asks if this is a solo or a team job and Freidman laughs. He says if he does not take a team, it is likely he will not get out of Milan alive.

Hank Clark meets with CIA man Jonathan Brown. He tells him he has hired a man named Norb Steveken to find information on Irene Kennedy. He will want to speak to Brown about her, but Brown must be coy and give him nothing. Hank smiles and says at least give him nothing at first. He says he wants Brown to set up a meeting with Steveken, where he will give everything he needs to know, particularly information about the Orion Team because those are the details that will really hurt Kennedy. Brown says he is not so sure. He does not think it is worth risking his neck for and also Kennedy is a competent woman and a good choice for CIA director. Clark asks Brown if he still has ambitions to be director and Brown says yes. Clark says it will not happen unless they get rid of Kennedy. He asks Brown if he still walks his dog at the same time each night. Brown says yes. Clark tells him he will arrange for Steveken to meet Brown on one of his walks. However, when they meet, he wants Brown to act surprised and even a little nervous of Steveken's presence. When Steveken begins asking questions Brown should arrange another meeting.

Anna and Mitch wait to board their plane in the airport lounge. Mitch likes to be the last person on board, so they order another drink and watch everyone else queue up. Mitch thinks that when Anna marries him, she will have to get used to his quirks, developed through working with the CIA. For example at a restaurant, he always likes to sit facing the door. Mitch has told Anna he has a business meeting to go to in Milan, but has withheld the fact that it is with his ex-lover Donatella Rahn.



Rosenthal arrives in Milan and drives to his hotel. He has organized a team of three—himself, Yanta, and Jordan Sunberg. Yanta is the surveillance man and has already found out that Donatella is in her office. Rosenthal decides to make his move in the evening when she arrives home.

Chapters 11-15 Analysis

Flynn wants to show that in the rough and tumble world of politics, decisiveness and confidence is essential for success. Some of the characters are so confident, it comes across as arrogance. In this section, Freidman is arranging the assassination of Donatella. He knows she will be hard to kill because he was the one to train her, and he trained her to be the best. With this in mind, he tells Marc Rosenthal not to go alone, but take a team. From this, the reader can see Freidman holds himself in high regard. Yet as the story continues, it is hard to hold that against him because Flynn constantly proves that in such a high pressure life, there is no room for self-doubt.

The best example is Hank Clark. Clark never once stops to think that what he is doing is wrong, but continues on the same path arranging people's deaths as if he is organizing a party. Clark is always on top of a situation and always thinking ahead. The best example is in the previous section when Clark orders the death of Donatella before she has a chance to talk. Flynn suggests that for these reasons, he is a successful politician. In comparison, the people such as Rudin fail because they need other people to tell them what to do. It can get them only so far; in Rudin's case, he is a successful congressman, but he does not have the self-control and confidence for the heated battle. Flynn foreshadows Rudin's eventual demise here by showing him argue with Clark before he has summed up the situation. Clark, however, does sum up the situation, putting him in the position to manipulate Rudin to go against his own president.



Chapters 16-20

Chapters 16-20 Summary

Donatella is in her office arranging a modeling shoot. She thinks back to her time as a drug addict. She thinks that considering what she has put her body through, she is in surprisingly good shape. She was fortunate Ben Freidman took her in when he did; otherwise, God knows where she would be. She knows she owes Ben a lot, but at the same time, much of the loyalty she feels has been trained into her. If Ben gave her the word, she would kill anyone.

Mitch and Anna are doing some shopping in Milan. Anna loves it because she can buy designer clothes for much less than in America. Seeing her enthusiasm, Mitch says he is going to pop into a bookshop and meet her later back at the hotel. Instead of heading to a bookshop, Mitch prepares to meet Donatella. He goes into a cafe and buys some flowers, opting for yellow rather than red, so he does not give out the wrong signal. He then goes walks to her office. At the receptionist desk, he tells the secretary he is here to see Donatella, but not to warn her he is here because he wants to surprise her. The receptionist smiles and lets him through. In reality, Mitch wants to surprise Donatella because he will know immediately from her expression if she was involved in trying to kill him. Her office door is open, and Mitch watches her for a few moments before calling out her name. He is surprised to see just how genuinely pleased she is to see him. She embraces him and Mitch gives her the flowers. Donatella is disappointed they are yellow and not red, but Mitch explains he has a new woman in his life and wants to see Donatella on a business matter. Donatella starts to ask questions about Anna, proclaiming her jealousy. She gets so carried away, she almost forgets she has to be somewhere. She makes her excuses and tells Mitch to meet her at 6pm at the Jamaica Cafe.

President Hayes is attending a meeting when his adviser Michael enters and whispers something in his ear. The President makes his apologies and leaves to meet General Flood. Flood and his men have come up with a plan to destroy Saddam's weapons, while at the same time preventing the needless deaths of civilians. He tells the President that for security reasons Saddam has 20 palaces, and from these palaces, many white Mercedes leave each day and drive around the city of Baghdad. In the Iraqi's eyes, one of these cars contains either Saddam or one of his sons, so each car, even if it contains a lowly official, symbolizes fear. Their idea is use Saddam's strength against him. They want to put a Delta team inside a white Mercedes and drive it straight to the hospital. The General thinks no one will dare question them.

Mitch meets with Donatella at the Jamaican Cafe. Donatella is upset that Mitch has found a new woman and tells him she loves him and that once Mitch loved her, too. Has that all changed she asks? Mitch tells her that he has found the woman for him, but that is not why he is here. He wants to know if she was in Washington a few weeks ago. More specifically, he wants to know if she was at the George Washington University.



She asks if Mitch is the only one that wants to know. Mitch says no, but no one is more desperate to know than he. She asks Mitch why and Mitch tells her because Peter Cameron and the person who hired her to kill him wanted to kill him.

Back in the situation room, Colonel Gray tells the President that as it stands the plan using the cars only has a 50% chance of working. The President agrees that is not enough. The Colonel continues to tell him that they could increase the odds if they bombed around the area first, creating a distraction and a safety corridor for the car to drive through.

Chapters 16-20 Analysis

In this section, Flynn introduces Donatella Rahn to the story. Her character makes a big difference and is a center of conflict for all the story lines. In the opening scene of the section, the reader can see the kind of impact she is going to have when she scolds Mitch for buying her yellow flowers instead of red ones. Mitch explains he has a new love in his life, but this serves only to make Donatella jealous. This jealousy becomes destructive when she finally meets Anna at the hotel and tells her that she and Mitch are lovers. After this, Flynn dictates part of the book to Anna and Mitch rediscovering their love for each other. Because Mitch breaks up with Anna, he feels free to take the mission to Iraq. Furthermore, only Donatella can tell Mitch who hired her to kill Cameron. In this section, she refuses to tell him out of loyalty to Ben Freidman. Only when she breaks her loyalty with her mentor does Clark's plot lose its momentum, and everything begins to go wrong for him and the people who have helped him.



Chapters 21-25

Chapters 21-25 Summary

Mitch and Donatella are now out of the restaurant and walk side by side through a park. Out of habit, Mitch walks on the left side and Donatella walks on the right. This is so they can reach their guns easier. Mitch continues to ask who hired her, and Donatella says she needs time to think. She knows if she says it was Ben Freidman, her life in Italy would end. She realizes she needs to get Mitch off her back and decides she will have to try and get the information from Freidman somehow. Rapp squeezes Donatella's hand three times, and the two of them stop. Mitch starts speaking in code, telling Donatella that he has met her at 11:30 three times this week. Donatella looks over Mitch's shoulder at the direction of 11:30 and sees a man in a car watching them. Mitch pulls out his mobile and tells her he will phone her in a moment. He says whatever you do, do not enter your apartment. Donatella decides to enter her apartment anyway.

Rosenthal is upstairs in her apartment waiting. He has just spoken to Yanta outside, who says he has lost her in the park. He tells Rosenthal she was with a man, but Rosenthal thinks that it is not a problem. He does not want to kill anyone else, but if he is there, he will have to die as well.

Donatella takes the apartment stairs with her gun ready. She decides if there is anyone in the apartment, she will shoot first and ask questions later. She unlocks her door and makes a point of staying for a few moments in her hallway, adjusting her hair and taking off her coat. She then takes a deep breath and runs into her lounge, somersaulting through the air. The bullets whiz past, but she makes it to a safe position behind the sofa before springing to her knees shooting back. Bullets hit Donatella in the head and shoulder, and she falls to the floor.

Donatella is still alive. She received a head shot, but it had only grazed her. The man thinks she is dead, and Donatella lies perfectly still while he approaches. Hidden under her arm is a knife, which she grips firmly. The man is talking on the phone, and Donatella, knowing this is her only chance, jumps up and cuts the man's wrist, slashing his tendons and forcing him to drop his gun. She then kicks him in the groin, and while he is bent over in agony shoots him in the head.

Rapp enters the apartment with Yanta as his prisoner. He tells Donatella he thinks the men are from Mossad because Yanta swore at him in Hebrew. Rapp throws Yanta to the floor and leaves him to check out the apartment. Donatella knows that if it is Mossad trying to kill her, her life in Milan is over. She raises her gun and kills Yanta.

Mitch arrives back moments later asking Donatella why she killed Yanta. Donatella is now looking pale and weak from her wounds, and Mitch has to curb his anger and tend to her. He gets a first aid kit and bandages her wounds. She wants a shot of morphine, and Mitch says not until she tells him who hired her. She tells him only if he gives her



the shot. Mitch injects the morphine into her veins and asks her the question again. Donatella says it was Ben Freidman. Mitch changes Donatella's clothes and takes her back to his hotel.

Chapters 21-25 Analysis

In this section, Donatella's presence in the story becomes more complicated. The reader can see there is a strong bond between her and Mitch, which could result in a relationship if things went wrong with Anna. When Mitch sees a man watching them in a car across the street, he immediately squeezes Donatella's hand three times. Donatella immediately knows that someone is watching them and pretends to share an intimate moment with Mitch. Mitch whispers that he has seen him three times at 11:30. This signifies to Donatella that the man is positioned across the street at 11:30. It is only spy talk, but they do it so automatically it comes across as a genuine intimacy. This moment gives the showdown between Mitch and Anna greater impact because, though nothing happened between them, the reader can believe something could have happened and maybe would have had Anna been back home in America.



Chapters 26-30

Chapters 26-30 Summary

Rapp carries Donatella to his hotel room. He wants to use his phone, which is supposed to be secure, but Mitch comes from the point of view where nothing is secure. Nevertheless, he knows he has to use it to sort out the mess at Donatella's apartment and to get a government doctor for Donatella. He spies two men walking towards them quickly, and Mitch jumps into a doorway. As the men pass, he sees they are just civilians. From the doorway, Mitch phones Irene and tells her to send someone to Donatella's apartment, clean up the mess, and send a doctor to his hotel room.

Mitch takes Donatella up to his room. Anna is angry with him. She asks where the hell he has been because she has been worried sick. Mitch says he will tell her later, but now he has to deal with this woman dying his arms. Anna asks who the woman is, and before Mitch can reply, Donatella tells her she is his lover. Mitch says she is lying and they are not lovers; they used to be lovers but now he only loves Anna. Anna would like to know why he has gone to see an old lover without telling her, particularly when it is obvious that he went to her apartment. Did you have sex? Mitch says they did not, but Anna tells Mitch she cannot live like this. As she storms out of the apartment, Irene rings Mitch's phone.

Jonathan Brown walks his dog through the park. He is upset Irene took the position that had once been promised him. He thinks they do not trust him because he is a former judge. In some ways, he knows they are right. If he got into the position, he would clear out the whole organization and bring in his own people. These people would do everything by the book, just like he does. Brown sees a man approaching him and realizes it is Steveken. Steveken tells Brown that Rudin has hired him to find information on Irene Kennedy and thought Brown could help with their investigation. Brown says he is interested, but they should meet tomorrow.

Kennedy meets Scott Coleman at the airport. Coleman has to protect Donatella Rahn while she is in America. A plane lands and Mitch and Donatella climb out. Mitch introduces them, and Donatella hardly acknowledges them. Mitch says she is in a bad mood and really she is a lovely person. Donatella does not want to go with Scott, but Mitch tells her to trust him. He says he has worked with Scott and he is very good.

Mitch and Irene meet with General Flood about the Iraq mission. Flood knows Mitch wants to retire, but this is an important mission and they need Mitch to be part of it. Mitch says he is not happy about bombing a hospital, and Flood mentions the—they will not kill innocent people and they can make sure the bombs are taken out.



Chapters 26-30 Analysis

This section shows why Mitch is so good at his job; his analytical mind puts him ahead of any of his nearest competitors. The reader saw in the previous section how his calm thinking saved Donatella's life, yet at the same time, retrieves the information he needed. Here he quickly covers Donatella's tracks. The minute they walk out of her apartment, he is on the phone to Irene Kennedy telling her to send someone to Donatella's house to clean up the mess and also to send a CIA man to his hotel room. Despite these concerns, Mitch still shows the presence of mind to be wary of passersby. He sees two men acting suspiciously and pulls out a gun. In the end, they are mere civilians—Flynn only uses them as a foil to highlight Mitch's professionalism. His professionalism and sense of duty means he has to let Anna go and look after Donatella, a moment that could potentially destroy his future happiness. Flynn uses this as an example of how much Mitch's need to serve his country has been ingrained into his mind, putting into doubt whether such a person could retire happily and maintain a solid marriage



31-35

31-35 Summary

Anna Rielly is eating dinner in a restaurant in Milan when a man approaches her table. Anna is not in a good mood and certainly in no mood for men. She is getting ready to tell him to go away when he says his name is Tino Nanne, and he has come on behalf of Irene Kennedy. She wants her to return to the USA as soon as possible. Anna asks him why, but Tino knows nothing and says he is just the messenger. He leaves her his business card and walks away.

Irene Kennedy makes her way to the Hart Senate building for a confirmation hearing. Reporters and photographers surround her, and she has to battle to get into the building. She knows the committee will ask her some tough questions, but she feels mentally ready and is prepared. The only thing she has to worry about is telling the committee a lie that could haunt her.

Jonathan Brown is again in the park walking his dog. Steveken approaches him, and Brown hands him an envelope. He tells him to give it straight to Rudin.

Mitch Rapp takes a plane to Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Colonel Gray meets him and takes him to the special operations training facility. Gray introduces Mitch to the team's commanding officer, Major Berg. Berg introduces Mitch to the 12 other men in the team. He tells the men Mitch's name is Kruse. The men know that is not his real name, but they all nod their heads. Each man has dark hair, eyes and a mustache, enabling them to blend in with the Iraqi civilians. Mitch thinks they can probably speak Arabic fluently, though not as well as he.

They all begin talking about the operation. Mitch says they need to drive into Baghdad as if they own the joint. This means they should just continue straight for the hospital. The Major questions why they should not scout the area; surely they need to know their surroundings. Mitch says if they scout the area, they will almost certainly be caught. The best bet is to be decisive. The Major is confused. He says if they are not going to scout the area, why has Mitch bothered to turn up. Mitch laughs. He tells him he can impersonate Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, and in fact knows everything about Uday right down to the position of his scars. If people think he is Uday, it puts them in a very powerful position and they could practically walk into the nuclear bunker.

Steveken wonders about Jonathan. He thinks it is strange he gave him an envelope with top-secret information, particularly as he said nothing about not looking inside. Steveken meets Rudin in a car. He hands Rudin the envelope and tells him he has found out Kennedy has been running special operations in the Middle East. This is just the kind of information Rudin wanted, but Steveken says before he hands over the envelope, he wants to know why Rudin hates Kennedy so much. Rudin tells him



Kennedy is a corrupt liar and such a person in such a high position is bad for democracy.

31-35 Analysis

The reader will notice that Vince Flynn knows his subject. In the previous sections, he has taken the reader through all the main rooms of the White House, including the Situation Room and the Oval Office, as well as the CIA head quarters in Langley, Virginia, the Pentagon and the Mossad head quarters in Israel. In addition, Flynn has taken the reader to cafes and parks in Milan and is about to show the reader Baghdad in Iraq. In this chapter, he describes the Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. In addition, he explains the intricacies of a mission, the type of weapons they will need, and the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy.

Flynn's research appears so thorough that it creates a realism the reader would expect Flynn to adhere to for the remainder of the book. However, because of this realism, the reader may find some events implausible. The first example was in Donatella's flat when she somersaulted across the room, avoiding Rosenthal's bullets. When she springs to her knees, Rosenthal bullet only grazes her head. He then, presuming she is dead, approaches her while talking on the phone, allowing Donatella to shoot him dead. Unfortunately, rather than make Donatella and Mitch seem a cut above the rest, it makes the other agents look like incompetent fools. Flynn highlights this when Mitch thinks to himself that he is sure everyone in the room can speak Arabic fluently, but no one can speak as well as he. He then proceeds to outline his plan with more authority than his superiors. The major problem is the plan's implausibility. Mitch has been studying Uday Hussein and thinks he can impersonate him well enough to fool security. This would suit a James Bond book, but does not fit with a novel where the characters are generally careful and analytical.



Chapters 36-40

Chapters 36-40 Summary

Ben Freidman is at his desk thinking about Donatella. He had someone check her flat, and it seems someone had already cleaned away the mess. He checked her work and was told she had called in sick. Rosenthal has not been in contact, and Friedman is almost certain Donatella has killed him and the other two men. Freidman is worried Donatella will now tell someone about him, so he decides to make out she is a psycho. It will not be hard because he just has to say Mossad had stopped her contract years ago, and she has betrayed Israel by freelancing.

Rudin goes to see Clark. He is desperate to show him the contents of the envelope, and when they meet, he can hardly contain his excitement. He tells Hank about the illegal operations Irene has run in the Middle East. Hank already knows about it, as he was one of the senators who supported the actions, but he plays dumb and acts shocked. He asks Rudin if he is still due to appear on the Meet the Press show the next day. Rudin says he is and Clark tells him exactly what he to say.

The next day, Clark puts on his T.V., inserts a blank tape, and waits for Meet the Press to begin. Rudin is up against the Republican Tim Zearth. Zearth questions Rudin on why he has such a problem with the CIA. Rudin pulls out a file and looks into the camera smugly. He says he has proof that Irene Kennedy has committed perjury, and the proof is right here in his file. He tells Zearth about the Orion Team and the illegal operations Kennedy has been running in the Middle East. Zearth asks calmly how he found out. Inside he is seething, as he was another politician who supported the Orion Team. Rudin ignores him and pulls out a picture of Mitch Rapp. He tells the audience that Rapp has killed over 20 people. Back in his study, Clark is ecstatic. This means there will be another confirmation hearing with Irene most likely stripped of her role. It also means Hank will be the next president of America.

Back in the White House, the President is seething over Rudin's appearance on Meet the Press. He thinks Rudin has gone behind his back, and in his opinion, you do not go behind the back of someone who is essentially your boss. He has put the President's job on the line, but Hayes is not giving up just yet. Only one of them can survive, and he is going to go out his way to make sure it is not Rudin.

In this mood, the President meets with Irene Kennedy. He asks her how she thinks they should fight the accusations. As usual, Kennedy reacts calmly. She tells the President Rudin has aired top-secret information. No matter how damning the information is, Rudin, like everyone else in government, has signed a national security non-disclosure document and now has breached the agreement. President Hayes is not sure. He tells Irene he has disclosed to the world information that makes the American government look very bad indeed. Irene again reassures him. She says before John Stansfield died, he made it his business to create a paper trail behind all what the Orion Team achieved;



in other words, he legalized it. She suggests they ask the FBI to break into Rudin's house and take back the file. The President thinks that is a bad idea, but Kennedy tells him any furor Rudin creates behind the break in will be short lived. After that, Kennedy will end Rudin's career.

Chapters 36-40 Analysis

Flynn presents politics as a hard game where only the strongest survive. Sometimes a character will need to go against the rules to achieve what they need to achieve, but that is acceptable as it is not motivated by greed. In this section, Flynn gives the reader three examples of a character working illegitimately, but for the good of others, a character working illegitimately for himself, and a character who is not strong enough to survive in such a cut and thrust world.

First, Freidman finds out Donatella has killed Rosenthal. Knowing the American and his own government will ask questions, he decides to make Donatella look like a psychopath who went against Mossad orders. This excuse would work, but his motivation is greed and in the final chapter, Mitch forces answers from him. Albert tries to go behind his president's back and uncover top-secret information to the public. His public facade initially works very well, but he does not have the analytical brain to think about the consequences of violating a confidential agreement, which is a criminal act for him to expose such government operations. Irene does realize this and is not afraid to use it against Rudin to break into his house, take back the file, and ultimately ruin him. The President sums it up the general attitude when he says only one of them can survive and he will make damn sure it is him.



Chapters 41-45

Chapters 41-45 Summary

Irene Kennedy appears in front of the committee, which Hank Clark is chairing. Clark asks Kennedy to respond to Rudin's accusations. His questions are quickly followed by a dozen more from around the room. However, Kennedy's mouth stays firmly shut. Finally, she tells the room that for reasons of national security, she cannot answer their questions. Senator Jetland shows her a picture of Mitch Rapp and asks if she has ever worked for the CIA. Irene's answer is the same. She says for reasons of national security, she cannot answer his question. Kennedy apologizes to the committee, but says she has to leave.

In Iraq, Mitch and the Delta team jump drive off into the Iraq night in their white Mercedes. They do not put the car lights on, so the driver has night vision goggles to guide him. Mitch tells the Delta boys about Uday and why he is feared so much, giving them two examples of his brutality. He tells them about how Uday's stepbrothers fled to Jordan. Saddam convinced the stepbrothers he wanted them to come back and had forgiven everything they had done. They believed him and returned, but Uday convinced his father to allow him to make an example of them. Saddam said yes, and Uday tortured and killed them before burning down their houses. The second example is about the time someone criticized Uday. He retaliated by tying the end of the man's penis, forcing three bottles of gin down his throat and leaving him to die.

The Mercedes speeds past a policeman and the policeman just looks away, proof to the men they are safe in the Mercedes. At this point, the missiles start to fall and Mitch curses. He specifically told the military to start the attack after they entered the hospital. The problem is if they start firing now, it could trigger off the bombs automatic lock down procedure. They make it safely into the hospital, and Mitch limps into the premises, impersonating Uday. He sees a man on a phone and screams at him in Arabic to put the phone down. The man thinking Mitch is Uday immediately does what Mitch tells him. Mitch asks why the man was on the phone, and he tells him he was calling for more men. Mitch says he is stupid and that will just advertise to everyone where they are holding the bombs. He tells the man to phone them back and tell them to send back the men. The North Korean, Park Chung Lee, arrives and Mitch tells him to begin loading up the nuclear components. Someone calls Uday's name and Mitch turns to see an Iraqi Colonel. Immediately the Colonel sees Mitch is not Uday, and Mitch has to shoot him in the head. To cover up the murder, he screams that is what happens when you criticize my father.

Back in Washington President Hayes celebrates a successful mission. The Israeli Prime minister David Goldberg thanks the President and America for being a great ally. The President repeats the compliments, but with far less enthusiasm. He tells the Prime Minister he would like to see Ben Freidman again and apologize for the frosty reception



he gave him last time. The Prime Minister tells him he will send him over to America as soon as he can.

Chapters 41-45 Analysis

In this section, Flynn highlights the importance of decisiveness in the world of politics. First, Irene goes in front of the committee and refuses to say anything. In doing so, she puts her job at risk, but it is all part of her plan to turn the tables on Rudin. She knows if she claims the moral high ground, then the fact Rudin revealed top secret information will look worse than what it is. In addition, she shows the strength of character to ride any storm that could result from not saying anything. As she says to the President, the negativity will only last in the short term, but in the long term they will not only win, but also ruin Rudin's career. Her confidence is commendable, particularly as it puts a lot of faith in Mitch achieving a mission that is far from simple.

Second, Mitch shows decisiveness in Iraq. Mitch is the one man on the team that knows Baghdad inside out and uses this knowledge to take control of the situation. When the team pass a policeman, he tells the driver to keep going and that the police would expect a white Mercedes not to take notice of the law. When they get to the hospital, Mitch immediately gets into character by screaming abuse and threatening people. His aggression works to persuade the guard to phone back headquarters and stop the soldiers whom he had previously requested. The most telling moment is when an Iraqi colonel appears and questions whether Mitch is really Uday. Without a second thought, Mitch shoots him between the eyes.



Chapters 46-50

Chapters 46-50 Summary

President Hayes calls Anna to his office to explain about Mitch. He tells her they had to send him to Iraq on a top-secret mission and now he is coming back a hero. After their meeting, Anna goes back to work for the NBC, and the President attends the press conference. He tells the room they have gone into Baghdad and disabled Saddam's nuclear devices. He says Rudin divulged top-secret information and will have to answer criminal charges.

Albert Rudin knocks on Hank Clark's office door. He is angry with Clark because he thinks he is hiding away after telling Rudin to do everything. Clark apologizes and tells Rudin he is right, he is hiding, but Rudin took it all upon himself and now has to face the consequences. He steps towards Rudin and Rudin backs away. Hank smiles and tells him he wants to help. Rudin smiles back. He is happy to get any help because he knows his political career is in tatters. Hank invites him to look out of his window, saying he has something to show him. He points out toward the Washington monument and tells Rudin he fought a good fight just like George. Unfortunately, he says, history was not on your side. As Rudin hangs his head in sorrow, Hank grabs his waist and throws him out of the window.

The President meets with Ben Freidman. Freidman thinks the meeting will be a pleasant debriefing of the Iraq mission, but the president has a few questions to ask. First, he wants to know if Freidman knows Peter Cameron. Freidman says no. He then asks if he knows Donatella. Freidman admits he does, but that she is completely crazy. He is just telling the president how she has let down Israel when the President interrupts him, calling Freidman a liar. He tells Irene to let them in, and she opens the door to Mitch and Donatella. Ben Freidman starts to get scared and proclaims whatever she has said she is lying. The President laughs and tells Freidman that their best computer hacker has hacked into Freidman's account and found proof he has been paying Donatella for contract kills. Mitch takes out his berretta and points it at Freidman's head. Freidman tells them they cannot kill him in the Whitehouse, and the President says why not? Freidman says nothing, and the President tells him they will not have to kill him if he tells them who asked him to hire Donatella to kill Peter Cameron. Freidman says Hank Clark hired him.

Hank Clark visits the Cosmos Club for a Christmas party. He is in a buoyant mood because he has gotten away with killing Rudin and is on his way to becoming the next president. Currently, he knows Hayes' popularity is too high to challenge him, but the fact remains Clark has survived to fight another day, and as long as he survives, he has a chance of making the presidency. At the bar, Hank sees an exceptionally beautiful lady. He has left his wife at home so he feels free to approach her. The woman smiles and tells him she recognizes who he is. She says he is much better looking in person. Hank flirts back and orders some drinks. He is just about to take his first sip when the



woman points to a photograph of him on the wall. She asks if it is a photo of him. Hank turns to look and the woman quickly tips a clear liquid into his glass. A while later, Mitch Rapp approaches him and introduces himself. He tells Hank he knows he is the one who killed Albert Rudin. He says he wanted to come face to face with him before he died. At this point Hank is feeling unwell and slides to the floor. He asks what is happening and Mitch tells him he is having a heart attack. With that, he walks onto the dance floor with Donatella.

Chapters 46-50 Analysis

In this final section, Flynn compares the effectiveness of decisive action and the problems that can occur if you lack self-control. Throughout the novel, Hank Clark has been a model of confidence and as such has controlled characters such as Albert Rudin like a puppet master. However, his confidence has always verged on the extreme and here he crosses the line by killing Albert Rudin. He thinks no one can catch him, but his confidence no longer comes from a man who knows when to draw the line. Clark has gone above himself, and in Flynn's mind that signifies he has lost his greatest asset control and therefore the government will find out what he has done.

In comparison, Mitch maintains the control he has shown throughout the book. When the president calls in Ben Freidman, he holds him to gunpoint until Freidman tells him who asked him to hire Donatella. Freidman is in no doubt Mitch will kill him if he has to and he tells him it was Hank Clark. The difference between Hank killing Rudin and Mitch threatening Freidman is doing it under orders and secondly the action does not feel removed from his original goal of finding out who tried to kill him. This gives him the edge over Hank Clark and the chance to kill him at the end.



Characters

Mitch Rapp

Mitch Rapp is a 32-year-old known counter terrorist working for the CIA. At the beginning of the story, he is preparing to settle down with his girlfriend Anna Rielly. He promises her that he is going to retire from fieldwork and move into a position inside the company. Secretly, Mitch is unsure if his new role as a "desk jockey" will work. He thinks he will not be able to stand the boredom and tells his boss, Irene Kennedy, it will not take long before he loses his temper with one of his colleagues, and when that happens, everyone will regret he took the position.

Mitch thinks the best thing for someone like him is to retire completely. Before he does that, he has to tie up a few loose ends. On his previous assignment in Germany, someone in the CIA, named Peter Cameron, hired two CIA agents to kill him. Peter Cameron is now dead, but the person who hired Cameron is still alive, and Mitch cannot feel safe until he is caught. With this in mind, Irene Kennedy asks him to go to Italy and kill two birds with one stone. First, propose to Anna and then visit Donatella Rahn, the woman who assassinated Peter Cameron, and find out who hired her.

Donatella is one of Mitch's old flames, and he becomes involved in saving her life from the Israeli Secret Police. He does so at the cost of his relationship with Anna. After Mossad almost kills Donatella, he takes her back to his hotel where he has to explain to Anna that she is his ex-girlfriend. Anna is upset—not necessarily because he has brought back an old flame, but that it seems he constantly puts both their lives at risk. In turn, Mitch cannot believe Anna is being so selfish; Donatella is dying. Anna leaves the apartment, but Mitch, who always puts duty first, helps Donatella.

Armed with the knowledge Peter Cameron was hired by the Mossad boss, Ben Freidman, Mitch takes Donatella back to America. Here Kennedy asks Mitch to go on one last mission to Iraq. She needs his ability to speak Arabic and his expertise in Middle Eastern culture to manipulate his way into the country and destroy three nuclear warheads. Now without Anna, Mitch decides he will take the mission.

Mitch's analytical skills are a great help in the planning of the mission. He has in-depth knowledge of Saddam Hussein's son Uday, right down to the position of his scars, and suggests he impersonates him so they can get past the guards. The plan works. One Iraqi Colonel realizes Mitch is not Uday, but Mitch shows his decisiveness by shooting the man in the head. Mitch then destroys the nuclear warheads and goes home a hero.

Mitch's decisiveness is further in evidence back in the States. First, he forces Ben Freidman at gunpoint to tell them who asked him to hire Donatella Rahn. Secondly, with Donatella, he visits Hank Clark, the man behind killing her and assassinates Clark. At the end, he reunites with Anna and they decide to get married.



Hank Clark

Hank Clark is a republican senator and the man behind hiring Peter Cameron. Despite his increasingly dark side, he is a popular figure in American politics and with both parties. His relationship with the President is surprisingly strong. Both men supported the need for a counter terrorist group and in theory, Clark supports Irene Kennedy's appointment as the CIA director. In reality, Clark knows that usurping Kennedy can create divides within the democrat party, giving him a free run to the presidency.

Within this in mind Clark gathers around all the figures, he feels can help him achieve his goal. The most important of these people is Albert Rudin. Rudin is a democrat who has a personal vendetta against the CIA, which he sees as unconstitutional. He wants them to become more in line and is against hiring an insider like Irene Kennedy. Clark uses Rudin's hatred to uncover the fact that America has been running illegal counter terrorist operations in the middle east for years. Clark is an exceptionally clever man and knows he cannot tell Rudin the fact directly, so he hires FBI agent Norb Steveken to dig up the dirt on Kennedy. Rudin is shocked at the truth and finally armed with the information to prove his point goes on TV to tell the world.

Clark's plan works perfectly up to a point. Despite Hank's cleverness, he had to rely on both people's lust for power and money and their ability to keep their mouths shut. In the prequel, he had already killed Cameron because, as he claims in the Separation of Power, he became too cocky. and here he kills Rudin when he becomes too much of a liability. Similarly, he persuades the Mossad boss Ben Freidman to assassinate Donatella Rahn, one of the few people who can link him to Cameron's death. One person he cannot kill is Ben Freidman. Mitch Rapp saves Donatella, gets her to reveal that Freidman hired her to kill Cameron and then forces Freidman at gunpoint to say who asked him to hire Donatella. Freidman admits Clark hired him and Mitch is sent to assassinate him. In the end, Clark becomes too cocky and like Cameron before him has to suffer the consequences.

Anna Rielly

Anna is a news reporter with NBC and also is Mitch Rapp's girlfriend. As such, she has privileges many reporters do not have. For example, the President at one points calls her into his office to explain what Mitch has been doing. During press conferences, he often addresses her in preference to all the other reporters.

At the beginning of the book, Anna has persuaded Mitch to retire from the CIA and settle down with her. Mitch takes her to Milan, Italy to propose and at the same time do a little business. What Mitch does not say is that the business is with his ex-flame Donatella Rahn. When Anna finds this out, she is distraught and leaves the hotel in which they are staying. Mitch has to go back to America because his life is at risk from the Mossad, so when Anna returns to the hotel, he is gone and without a trace of an apology.



Anna spends a lonely few days in Milan, thinking Mitch was not the right man for her, nor is he the type to settle down. She stays in Milan until Irene Kennedy sends someone to bring her back. On her return to America, she finds out what Mitch has really been up to and decides she can forgive him. However, she does not forgive him without first making him feel miserable. When he returns from his mission in Iraq, she makes sure she is not at his house to greet him. Instead, she is outside watching him cry over the fact that their relationship has finished. Unable to take it much longer she runs into the house to embrace him.

Albert Rudin

Albert Rudin is a democrat with a personal vendetta against the CIA. He thinks the CIA is unconstitutional and is determined to force them to straighten their act. He knows that with Irene Kennedy as the new CIA director, the organization will run exactly the same way as before. The only way he can prevent this from happening is by forcing her out.

Hank Clark encourages Rudin's obsession. Clark hires Nob Steveken to find out information on Kennedy and learns that she has been running illegal counter terrorist operations in the Middle East. Rudin, of course, is ecstatic and goes behind his own president's back to appear on television and tell the world about Irene Kennedy's antics.

Rudin's obsession blinds him to a number of problems. First, he does not know Hank Clark is only using him to rise to power. Second, the information he has told the world breaches national security. Third, he is so blinded by his hatred for Kennedy that he is not taken into account he is putting his own party's leadership at risk. Consequently, President Hayes becomes so angry, he isolates Rudin from the Democratic party. Rudin has lived and breathed politics all his life and now seeing his career is in tatters becomes a desperate man. He goes to Hank Clark looking for support, but Hank pushes him out of his office window to his death.

Irene Kennedy

Irene is the first female director of the CIA. Almost everybody sees her as highly competent and the perfect successor to her friend and mentor, John Stansfield. The only person who does not like her appointment is Albert Rudin. Rudin is an elderly politician and had a huge problem with her predecessor, Stansfield, who he saw as nothing more than a dictator. As Stansfield's protégé, he thinks Irene will be much the same.

Irene is an intelligent woman and she takes the battle to Rudin and wins comfortably. Even when Rudin uncovers the fact she was behind the Orion Team, a Special Forces team that took part in top secret and illegal missions in Iraq, Kennedy goes about proving the team's validity with great calmness. She has no problem whatsoever in lying in front of Congress, knowing her close relationship with the President will save her. Furthermore, she turns the tables on Rudin by proving he has breached national security.



President Hayes

Hayes is a highly popular Democratic president. As a president, he is more of a leader than a figurehead and is the last word on everything that happens. Furthermore, he is not afraid to make big decisions. He vetoes the operation to Iraq, and when he finds out the Mossad director has been causing him problems, he invites him to the White House and allows Mitch Rapp to force questions from him at gunpoint. His biggest strength is making people understand that he is their leader; while people can give him advice, they do not do anything without with his say so. When Rudin, a member of his own party, discloses sensitive information to the nation, he makes a point of ruining Rudin's career

Donatella Rahn

Donatella is a former catwalk model turned deadly assassin by Mossad leader Ben Freidman. She was sent by Freidman to kill Peter Cameron. The American government finds out and sends her ex-flame, Mitch Rapp, to ask her who hired her. Freidman had trained Donatella to be loyal to him, so at first she will not answer. However, during Mitch's visit, Mossad attempt to assassinate her. An injured Donatella tells Mitch Freidman who hired her and Mitch takes her back to America for her own safety. At the end of the book, Donatella helps Mitch assassinate Hank Clark.

Ben Freidman

The Mossad leader. He hired Donatella to kill Peter Cameron and then on the say so of Hank Clark, hires David Rosenthal to kill Donatella.

David Rosenthal

Rosenthal is the assassin Freidman hires to kill Donatella.

General Flood

The President's military adviser.

Jonathan Brown

A former judge. An ambitious Clark wants to become the next CIA director by ousting Kennedy from the position.

Norb Steveken

Hank Clark hires him to find information about the Counter Terrorist operations supervised by Irene Kennedy.



Objects/Places

Washington D.C

The city where much of the action takes place and where most of the characters live.

Maryland

Mitch lives with Anna in a cottage in Maryland.

The White House

Some of the novel's scenes take place in the White House, including the Situation Room and the Oval Office.

Iraq Hospital

Saddam hides his nuclear components in a bunker under a hospital.

Baghdad

Mitch and a Delta Team drive through Baghdad in a Mercedes to get to the nuclear components.

The Hart Senate Building

This is the building where Hank Clark works.

Wolf Park

The park where Steveken meets Jonathan Brown and hands him top secret information.

Milan

Mitch goes to Milan to propose to Anna and talk to Donatella.

The Jamacian Cafe

Mitch meets Donatella at the Jamacian Cafe in Milan.

Donatella's Apattment

Rosenthal attempts to assassinate Donatella in her apartment.



Themes

Relationship Between Israel and America

Flynn presents a complex and somewhat one-sided relationship between Israel and America. In Flynn's novel, America is willing to help Israel destroy Saddam's weapons because they know any problems raised by Israel can affect them, too. Nevertheless, Israel's insistence that they will attack Iraq if America does not attack first comes across as black mail. In addition, the Mossad leader, Ben Freidman, is one of the more self-serving characters in the book, putting his own wealth before his country's close relationship with the USA. This suggests Israel is a loose cannon that only America can control.

Hank Clark takes advantage of this situation by using Freidman to find him an assassin to kill Peter Cameron. Despite Freidman's powerful position, the narrator shows that Freidman is more than willing to do it as long as there is enough money involved. In comparison, the narrator presents his counterpart in the CIA, Irene Kennedy, as incorruptible. She is willing to lie in front of the committee, but only for the good of her country.

She is, in fact, shocked when she hears Freidman is involved in Cameron's killing, and along with the President, she sets about showing him who is really his boss. They call him into the White House under the pretense they want to debrief him on the Iraqi mission. When he gets there, he finds Mitch Rapp pointing a gun in his face, saying if he does not tell the room who asked him to hire Cameron, he will kill him. Freidman tells the President he cannot do this, and the Israeli Prime minister would be greatly aggrieved if he knew anything about it. The President suggests that the Prime minister would be more relieved that a man threatening Israel's relationship with America is dead. This suggests Israel needs America more than America needs Israel. The American attitude is summed up when President Hayes says without America, Israel would never have come into existence.

Confidence and Decisiveness

Vince Flynn presents confidence and decisiveness as two of the most important attributes in the world of politics and military operations. Consequently, highly-successful characters such as Mitch Rapp and Hank Clark possess both characteristics. For example, when Mitch goes back to Donatella's apartment, he sees a man watching from a car and wastes no time in communicating the fact to Donatella and then working a way to get into Donatella's apartment safely. When he arrives and sees Donatella has already killed a man he immediately phones for a doctor, arranges for someone to clean up the mess and gets Donatella back to America. Similarly, Hank Clark acts quickly and never regrets what he has done. When he realizes Donatella could potentially expose him, he tries to arrange her death.



Nevertheless, Flynn suggests confidence and decisiveness loses its strength if a character does not use it with a degree of thought and control. At the beginning, Hank Clark displays plenty of control and uses it to manipulate weaker characters such as Albert Rudin. Most notably, he hires Donatella through a third and highly-reliable person. Donatella has no knowledge of Clark, and therefore it is unlikely he will be exposed. However, he will not take unnecessary risks and arranges for Ben Freidman to kill her. Towards the end of the book, Clark's plan to ruin the Democrats fails and in his need to cover his tracks, he takes an unnecessary risk, throwing Albert Rudin out of a top story window. Soon after this momentarily loss of control, Mitch assassinates him.

In comparison, Mitch Rapp keeps control throughout the book. This is most evident when he has Ben Freidman at gunpoint and Rapp is willing to kill Freidman if he does not tell the truth, but just as willing to keep him alive if he does. In other words, Mitch is completely in control of his actions and what happens depends on how the other person reacts. Similarly, when he assassinates Clark, it is by using a well-thought-out plan, working on Clark's weaknesses. Both actions are admirable because both men were responsible for trying to kill him and he could easily have lost control with both men. In fact, the narrator implies it is Mitch's professionalism which makes him successful.

Marriage and Understanding

One plot line of the book details the love affair between Mitch Rapp and Anna Rielly. At the beginning, the narrator presents them as deeply in love, living together in Mitch's house in Maryland and thinking about marriage and kids. Anna has even persuaded Mitch to retire from his dangerous work with the Orion Team. Mitch agrees to this after he has found out who tried to kill him in Germany. With this mind he takes Anna to Milan to both propose to her and to visit the assassin Donatella and find out who hired her to kill Peter Cameron.

The trip to Milan exposes how little Mitch and Anna know about each other. Donatella is Mitch's ex-girlfriend and a relationship he never really put completely to rest. In fact, it is obvious the two of them have a lot more in common than Mitch and Anna by the way they respond so naturally to each other—for example when they are walking down the street, the narrator describes how Donatella and Mitch both automatically walk on the side that allows them to reach more quickly for their guns. In comparison, Mitch thinks about the annoying quirks that are ingrained into him because of his job and how Anna will have to get used to them. For example, in a restaurant, he always has to sit facing the door and with his back to a wall.

When Mitch takes an injured Donatella back to his hotel room, Anna is angry because she did not know Mitch was going to see his ex-girlfriend. In fact, Mitch never talks about her ex-girlfriends, and Anna is beginning to wonder if she knows him at all. She storms out of the room, leaving Mitch to wonder what kind of person Anna is. He has taken Donatella back to his room to save her life, and Anna picks a fight. From here, they do not see each other again until the last few chapters.

Only when Mitch finds out whom tried to kill him can he put his old life behind him and settle down. Without the distraction of Anna, Mitch gets back his killing instinct and successfully uncovers the truth. At the end of the book, he takes an office job with the CIA and reunites with Anna.



Style

Point of View

Flynn tells the story in the third person omniscient, revealing the thoughts of all the major characters and most of the minor ones as well. The two main characters are Mitch Rapp and Hank Clark. Flynn presents these two characters as the two people who control the story. Within Rapp and Clark's separate storylines, the other characters tend to rely on their point of view to guide them. When Mitch goes to Iraq, he controls the whole mission, despite the fact he is not the commander. The other characters respect him so much, no one raises this as a problem. At the end of the book, Mitch orders the President to leave the room, a reversal of positions that the President is willing to obey. On Hank Clark's side of the story, he manipulates Albert Rudin and Jonathan until they are thinking exactly how he wants him to think.

However, when a character stops thinking on the same lines as either Mitch or Clark, they become a problem. Initially, Flynn presents Anna and Mitch as very much in love. However there are signs at the airport that there could be problems when Mitch ponders the fact Anna will have to get used to his habits, indicating just how much control he likes to have. Unfortunately, when Anna sees his negative side, she leaves him. Albert Rudin does exactly what Hank Clark tells him to do until the end when he becomes angry with Clark. Clark, seeing he has lost control of Rudin, throws him out of his office window. In general, the goal of both characters is to get their respective comrades thinking the same way as they, and therefore working towards the same goal.

Setting

The major setting in the novel is Washington, D.C., and the place Irene Kennedy, President Hayes, Hank Clark and Albert Rudin make all their major decisions. Kennedy and the President meet at the White House in either the Oval Office or the Situation Room. They use the Oval Office for normal meetings, such as when they meet Ben Freidman, and use the Situation Room to discuss military action. Clark works at the Hart Senate building, and he tends to meet Rudin here or at the Congressional Country Club. They rarely meet in secret because they know it is less suspicious to meet at work. Sometimes Clark sets up secret meetings between some of the other characters when they need to pass over top-secret information. He arranges Jonathan Brown to meet Norb Steveken, so Brown can hand over information about the CIA; Clark then arranges for Steveken to hand over the information to Rudin in a car park. Only when Rudin has the information in his hands does Clark let him air his grievances in public. In contrast, Hank Clark maintains his secrecy by watching Rubin's appearance on TV from his study. His study is his personal space that few people enter, symbolizing his role as the mind behind all the plotting.



Mitch lives in a cottage in the Maryland countryside, one of the few places Flynn does not present as closed and secretive. Here, Mitch can drop his professionalism, and the reader can share with him the intimate scenes he has with Anna. Mitch's character changes when he is in the White House, where he has a far more professional attitude; without the glimpses into his private life, the reader could construe him as a cold-blooded killer. His sense of duty in the White House leads him to threaten to kill Freidman—it says a lot about Mitch that the Mossad leader knows he means it.

Language and Meaning

In the *Separation of Power*, Flynn tends to use formal language. His style works to express the professionalism needed by such important people as the President and the CIA director, both of whom he presents as having too much responsibility to be able to relax and let their guard down. Within such rooms in the White House as the Situation Room and the Oval Office, they discuss top-secret missions to Iraq and how to achieve things others might view as unethical.

The conversations between Hank Clark and Albert Rudin are less formal, but show Clark in particular as no less professional. Clark's personable attitude is something he uses to gain popularity and manipulate people. In this respect, Rudin's more natural way of reacting to situations, for example the various exchanges through out the book where his loses is temper, is very much a disadvantage in such a hard world as politics; this lack of control contributes to his eventual demise.

The only time the language is informal is when Flynn is detailing the relationship between Anna and Mitch. Here they discuss how much they love each other, joke around and argue. However, Mitch becomes a harder but no-less-natural character when he meets fellow assassin and ex-lover Donatella Rahn. Their language is full of swearing and aggression, both symbolizing their roles as killers and an intimacy that threatens to ruin the relationship he has with Anna.

Structure

The story concentrates on Irene Kennedy's first few weeks as the new CIA director. Her appointment is controversial on a number of levels—she is the CIA's first female director and certain parties think her predecessor, John Stansfield, was nothing more than a dictator, a leadership style that many believe his protégé, Kennedy, will continue along the same lines. Consequently, the story centers on Kennedy's struggles to stop her dissenters from plotting to remove her, while proving to the President and the public that she is a worthy choice.

The story begins with the funeral of her predecessor, John Stansfield. His death is not sudden, so when he dies, she is ready to take over. The problems she faces come from other characters; many of those problems are unexpected. First, with the help of Albert Rudin, Hank Clark is trying to uncover her counter-terrorist operations, which were not sanctioned by the UN. Second, the Mossad director, Ben Freidman, comes to the White



House on behalf of the Israeli government and asks her and the President to send in a team to remove nuclear components from Iraq. As the story moves on, she solves these problems by enlisting the help of the President, the military, and Mitch Rapp.

Kennedy sends Mitch to Milan to find out who hired Donatella Rahn to kill Peter Cameron. While he is gone, she has to answer questions from Congress about her involvement with the assassination of a German Count. Working with the President, she figures out a way to turn the tables on Albert Rudin, keep her job, and raise her popularity. At the same time, she is involved with organizing the mission to Iraq, and when Mitch comes back from Milan she sends him to Baghdad.

Flynn crosscuts Kennedy's meetings with the president with the meetings of Hank Clark, who is plotting Kennedy's career demise. The reader knows these events are happening at a similar time because Flynn starts each section with the day and time of day it is taking place. As the story moves on, the two plot lines gradually come together. Mitch discovers Ben Freidman hired Donatella. When Mitch comes back from Iraq, the President invites Freidman to the White House and demands to know who asked him to hire Donatella. He has no choice, but to tell them it is Hank Clark. The book ends with Mitch and Donatella assassinating Clark.



Quotes

"Americans had grown soft with all of their rights and personal freedom. They had no idea how harsh the rest of the world was. On the surface most Americans would be shocked by the things he had done. But they would be shocked from the comfort of their homes, having no idea what things were like in the Middle East. Women would judge him the harshest, and they would do so without thinking how they would be treated by the men he killed. Women in these fundamentalist Islamic communities weren't even treated as second-class citizens. They were property owned by their fathers, and then by their husbands once a marriage was arranged. No, America didn't have the stomach to be confronted with what he had done. That was why secrecy was essential."
P.27

"He had to find out who in the hell had hired Peter Cameron and why. It was one thing to have to look over his shoulder when he traveled in the Middle East, but it was an entirely different matter to do it here in the U.S. It would be no way to raise a family, worrying every time he left the house that someone would harm his loved ones."
P.36

"The senator searched Rudin's face for a sign that he was with him, and that his ego was inflated to the proper degree. Satisfied, Clark went for the kill."
P.73

"Whatever this bomb hits, sir, it will destroy."
P.91

"Rielly took a sip of her beer and looked at Mitch. Leaning in, she asked in a whisper, 'You're not carrying a gun, are you?' Rapp pulled his beer away from his lips and said, 'No. Just my love gun.' Rielly laughed and then purred like a cat."
P.105

"'They won't let you get on a plane drunk. Its against FAA rules.'
'What if I'm drunk on love?' She closed her eyes pursed her lips for a kiss. Mitch laughed and gave her what she wanted."
P.106

"'Sir, being a Delta Force commando is dangerous. No one fights for me who doesn't want to be there. If my men wanted a safe job they'd go sell cars for a living.'"
P.209



"Should we meet at eleven-thirty?' Rapp gave her hand a quick squeeze. 'That sounds fine.' Donatella's eyes searched the street. Twelve o'clock was straight ahead. Eleven-thirty would be a click to the left. She could barely make out the form of a man slumped behind the steering wheel. The man was parked in the perfect position to keep an eye on her street and the one they were now walking on. 'That photo shoot you were talking about earlier?' 'Yeah. I've run into that photographer three times this week.' 'Really,' said Donatella. Mitch had no idea who the photographer was, so she knew he was telling her this was the third time he'd seen the car."
P.233

No longer did she think it was good idea for him to take the job in the CIA's Counterterrorism Center. He needed to sever all ties with that godforsaken place. If they were going to get married and have children he would have to take a normal job like normal people Rielly made up her mind. She didn't like giving ultimatums, but she was going to. It was worth it. She couldn't live the rest of her life in fear that every time her husband was late something terrible had happened"
P.303

"Rapp didn't like the idea of dropping a bunch of bombs on a hospital. He liked the people of Iraq. They were caught between an inhumane dictator and a superpower that was hell-bent on destroying them."
P.327

"Rapp didn't have to ask about language skills. He doubted any of them spoke Arabic as well as he did, but they would all be fluent."
P.350

"Yes, he told himself, that was the path to take. Always mix fact with fiction for the most believable story."
P.358

"One of the tenets of the intelligence business was to deceive your enemy, to get them thinking one thing, while you're planning something else. That's what this was about. It was her last gambit."
P389

Topics for Discussion

How does Flynn reveal the professionalism of the main characters?

Why do you think Flynn allows the reader to see Mitch's private life, but only shows the other characters in a professional setting?

Do you think Hank Clark is an inherently bad character, or just part of the cut and thrust world of American politics?

How accurately do you think Flynn represents the relationship between Israel and America? Is his portrayal problematic?

How do Irene Kennedy and Ben Freidman act to symbolize Flynn's thoughts on the relationship between Israel and America?

How does Flynn present decisiveness as an essential part of politics?

How does Donatella's presence change the dynamics of the novel?