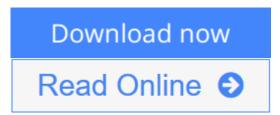


Sphere of Influence

By Kyle Mills



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Hailed by Tom Clancy as a novelist who is fast becoming "the new master of gripping and intelligent page-turners," Kyle Mills is at the forefront of America's hot new thriller writers. His *New York Times* bestsellers *Storming Heaven* and *Burn Factor* showed Mills to be a storyteller of breathless pacing, stylish prose, and chilling effectiveness. In *Sphere of Influence*, he takes FBI agent Mark Beamon into unnervingly hazardous territory, with shattering results.

Mark Beamon has always been an unconventional FBI agent. Years of putting the truth ahead of political expediency have resulted in a dead-end job in the Phoenix office. But a new terrorist threat brings him back from the wilderness. A videotape proves that a terrorist cell in the United States has access to modern missile technology. Suspecting there is a connection between the Mob and the fanatics, Beamon is sent undercover with a fellow FBI agent. When the other agent is brutally murdered, Beamon's attempts to trace the man who fingered them leads him into an international criminal conspiracy that may have roots in the American government. As events plunge him into a river of deceit, he is forced to address the most important question of his life: What makes a crime a crime?



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Sphere of Influence By Kyle Mills Bibliography

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• 400 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

New York Times bestseller Mills (Burn Factor) returns with his fifth novel, featuring brilliant FBI tough guy Mark Beamon, who is investigating a terrorist threat linked to a global conspiracy. Killing time on a deadend assignment while the Bureau plans his downfall, Beamon is thrown together with his former colleague Laura Vilechi when a videotape is delivered to the American media, indicating that Al Qaeda has smuggled a rocket launcher into the U.S. Their threat to use it against civilian targets has thrown the country into a panic, with people afraid to leave their homes. Meanwhile, Chet Michaels, one of Beamon's former trainees, now deep undercover in pursuit of a psychotic Mafioso, is nervously watching drug deals being made with shadowy Afghans. Looming behind all of this is a CIA deal with the devil (in the form of Christian Volkov, an international criminal mastermind), in which the U.S. government attempts to use organized crime figures as a proxy underworld army in the so-called war on terror. This thriller features real people and groups drawn from daily news headlines, playing on the anxieties of the American public-from the heroin trade to terrorism (and the connections between the two). But Mills avoids cynical exploitation, offering up human characters and a story that, despite some implausible subplots and heavy-handed editorializing, remains engrossing and affecting.

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From Library Journal

Reeled in from a dead-end job, outspoken FBI agent Mark Beamon is sent undercover to investigate a terrorist cell with access to modern missile technologyand promptly sees a fellow agent get murdered. From the author of The Burn Factor.

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From **Booklist**

Starred Review FBI agent Mark Beamon was once considered the best investigator in the bureau. He also set new standards for ignoring protocol and embarrassing his superiors. That's why his career is stalled in middle-management hell as the head of the Bureau's Phoenix office. Then he gets a call from his former lover, Laura Vilechi, who is the lead FBI investigator in a new al-Qaeda crisis. The terrorists have cobbled together a rocket launcher inside the U.S and also have four operational rockets. She needs Mark's investigative skills to find the launcher before hundreds, maybe thousands, of Americans are killed in a September 11 redux. The lead she has Mark follow trails back through a botched drug deal and eventually places him undercover in the Russian crime organization run by Christian Volkov. It's there he learns that the CIA, employing its standard tortured logic, laid the groundwork for the latest al-Qaeda plot by disrupting the world heroin market. Beamon and Volkov form an uneasy alliance in which he will help Beamon discover the launcher location if Beamon will help him retain control of the heroin market. This is a brilliant modern crime thriller with a byzantine--yet believable--plot, a plucky hero, and villains who manipulate world events from their lofty positions in government. Mills does the large-scale thriller better than anyone else working the genre today. As a matter of fact, he may do it better than anyone who's *ever* sent a character out to save the world. *Wes Lukowsky*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clyde Welch:

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