

BOOK PROPOSAL — CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSION

# ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE

A POLITICAL THRILLER

## GENRE

Political Thriller

## AUTHORS

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## OVERVIEW

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It is 2028. Frank, a former U.S. Senator and ex-CIA operative, and his wife Catherine, an international espionage expert, are newly married and dreaming of a family — a ranch in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, a life finally their own. Then the President of the United States dies of cancer, and Vice President Dmitry Melnikoff is sworn in.

Melnikoff is no ordinary successor. A covert communist loyalist who has spent decades disguising his ideology behind a moderate facade, he moves immediately to consolidate

power. When riots erupt in every major American city, he declares martial law. The republic that Frank and Catherine have spent their careers defending begins to come apart.

The marriage fractures first. Frank wants to move forward — a child, the ranch, the life they promised each other. Catherine cannot. Not with a communist in the White House. Their conflict is not abstract: Catherine's mother is terminally ill, and her one dying wish is to hold a grandchild before she goes. The personal and political stakes collide in every conversation Frank and Catherine have, pulling at the seams of everything they love.

Written in the tradition of Vince Flynn, Brad Thor, and Daniel Silva, *Enemy in the White House* delivers the visceral urgency of the best espionage thrillers while driving its tension from an entirely domestic source: the betrayal of trust at the highest level of American power. This is not a story about foreign agents in the shadows — it is a story about what happens when the shadow falls inside the Oval Office itself. Fast-paced, morally complex, and relentlessly plotted, this novel is designed for readers who want their pulse raised and their assumptions challenged, and who understand that in the modern world of geopolitics, the most dangerous operative may be the one living in the White House.

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## THE HOOK

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A beautiful international espionage expert joins forces with her soon to be ex-husband to defeat a communist takeover of the White House — and save both America and their marriage.

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## MARKET POSITIONING

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### The Landscape

Political thrillers are among the most consistently commercial categories in fiction. In a world defined by geopolitical volatility, contested elections, intelligence community revelations, and institutional distrust, readers are hungry for narratives that dramatize the machinery of power. The category has remained a perennial top-ten genre in mass-market and hardcover sales, and the appetite has only sharpened in the current environment.

### Comparable Titles

Title & Author	Year	Relevance to <i>Enemy in the White House</i>
<i>Oath of Loyalty</i> — Kyle Mills (Mitch Rapp #19)	2022	A sitting President who views his own CIA operative as a threat — close parallel in depicting executive-level distrust and the weaponization of loyalty. Demonstrates strong series potential and consistent bestseller performance.
<i>Code Red</i> — Kyle Mills (Mitch Rapp #22)	2023	High-octane intelligence thriller with White House political intrigue woven throughout. Confirms ongoing market appetite for Vince Flynn–universe political thrillers and the viability of internal-threat storylines.
<i>Shadow of Doubt</i> — Brad Thor (Scot Harvath #23)	2024	Brad Thor's consistent #1 New York Times debuts prove the genre's commercial ceiling is high. Thor's work features covert government operations and institutional betrayal — directly adjacent to this novel's core tension.
<i>Rogue Justice</i> — Stacey Abrams (Avery Keene #2)	2023	Demonstrates the expanding female readership in political thrillers and the appeal of protagonists navigating corrupt systems from within. Signals strong crossover demographic potential for <i>Enemy in the White House</i> .

### The Gap This Book Fills

While comparable titles deploy their tension outward — CIA operatives in the field, foreign adversaries in distant capitals — *Enemy in the White House* turns the lens entirely inward. The threat does not arrive via missile or cyberattack. It arrives in a suit, the threat is the President of the United States. No comparable recent title has placed the President himself

as the active, threat to the American public's, democratic way of life. This is the untapped angle: the most powerful office on earth is the American public's own enemy from within.

### **Series Potential**

The narrative is written to function as a standalone novel with a satisfying resolution, while deliberately seeding a structural hook — the vulnerability that enabled the betrayal remains intact — that supports a series. The President as a recurring protagonist, offers publishers a franchise-ready property in the tradition of the Mitch Rapp and Scot Harvath series.

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## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

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### **Primary Readership**

The core audience for *Enemy in the White House* is readers of political thrillers aged 35–65, a demographic that has demonstrated consistent loyalty to the genre in both print and audio formats. This readership skews male but includes a strong and growing female crossover — particularly among readers drawn to strong female leads, morally complex, character-driven political narratives. These readers purchase new releases in hardcover, follow series loyally, and represent the backbone of genre bestseller lists.

### **Secondary Readership**

- **News and current events consumers** — readers who follow geopolitics, intelligence community reporting, and national security journalism, and who seek fiction that reflects the texture of the world they read about daily.
- **Political drama fans (television)** — audiences of *House of Cards*, *Designated Survivor*, *The West Wing*, and *Homeland* represent a natural reading community. These viewers are already conditioned to find drama within the corridors of power, making the transition to the page intuitive and compelling.

- **Military and intelligence community readers** — a highly engaged, word-of-mouth-driven readership that prizes authenticity in depictions of national security, counterintelligence, and executive decision-making.
- **Debut thriller enthusiasts** — readers who actively seek out new voices in the genre through Goodreads lists, BookTok recommendations, and thriller-specific book clubs.

### **Commercial Format Potential**

The pacing, interiority, and high-stakes tension of *Enemy in the White House* make it exceptionally well-suited to the audiobook format, which has become one of the fastest-growing segments of the thriller market. The novel's cinematic structure — tight scenes, limited locations, escalating confrontations, and a single contained crisis — makes it an attractive property for film and television adaptation. The concept translates directly to a prestige cable or streaming limited series, a format in which political conspiracy and intimate betrayal have proven consistently successful. The completed feature film screenplay of ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE is currently in circulation.

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## **EMOTIONAL PAYLOAD**

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Reading *Enemy in the White House* is an exercise in controlled suffocation. The novel is engineered to produce paranoia as a reading state, not merely as a plot device. But beneath the intellectual tension runs a deeper emotional current. Everybody gets a second chance — Frank, Catherine, and the American people. Readers are rewarded in the final pages of *ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE* when they feel the pride they felt in the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid NY. The immortalized, “Miracle on Ice, another time when the Americans beat the Russians, serves as a vivid reminder of American pride and glory !

This is a novel about loyalty, to country, to democracy, and family. The themes of patriotism, the corruption of power, the moral compromise required of the resistance, and the terrible

clarity of the decision to resist, a decision that cannot be undone, will resonate long after the final page. This is a thriller that leaves marks.

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## FULL SYNOPSIS

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### ACT ONE — THE TAKEOVER

The novel opens in 2028 on a note of fragile, hard-earned happiness. **Frank** — former U.S. Senator, ex-CIA operative, and newly appointed Secretary of the Interior — is married to **Catherine**, an international espionage expert of uncommon skill and quiet ferocity. Together they have purchased a 100-acre ranch in San Luis Potosí, Mexico: a future, a family, a life that is finally theirs. The appointment as Secretary of the Interior is, for Frank, a formality — a political cover that keeps him close to power without demanding he return fully to the world he once inhabited. The plan is simple: settle in, let Catherine rest from the work that has defined her, start a family.

The President of the United States dies of cancer.

**Vice President Dmitry Melnikoff** is sworn in on a Tuesday morning, and the ground shifts beneath everything. Melnikoff is not who the country believes him to be. He is a covert communist loyalist, his ideology buried beneath decades of calculated moderation, a long and patient performance designed precisely for this moment. He inherits the most powerful office in the world and begins to use it immediately — systematically, methodically, without hesitation. Executive orders accumulate. Dissenting voices in the military and intelligence communities are reassigned, sidelined, or imprisoned.

**Commander Bill Henderson**, the NORTHCOM commander and one of the most effective

military minds in the country, is arrested on fabricated charges and transferred to Guantanamo.

Six months after Melnikoff's swearing-in, riots erupt in every major American city. The causes are layered — economic, social, political — but Melnikoff has been quietly accelerating them. He declares martial law. The declaration is the threshold. America as a constitutional democracy is on the edge of ceasing to exist.

Inside the marriage, the fracture begins. Frank wants to move forward. He understands the political crisis with the clarity of a man who has lived inside crisis, and his position is strategic: the resistance needs time to organize, and in the meantime, life should continue. A child, the ranch, the future they promised each other. Catherine cannot. She has made a promise to Frank, and she loves him with everything she has — but she cannot bring a child into a country ruled by Melnikoff. Not yet. The argument is not a fight. It is a slow, aching divergence between two people who want the same thing but cannot reach it from where they are standing.

The emotional stakes are sharpened by a revelation: Catherine's mother is terminally ill. She has one request. She wants to hold a grandchild before she dies. Catherine carries this knowledge through every mission that follows — a weight that transforms her professional sacrifice into something far more personal.

## **ACT TWO — THE RESISTANCE**

Frank and Catherine are pulled in separate directions by the demands of what must be done. Their missions are parallel structures, each essential, each carrying its own danger.

Catherine partners with **Danny Boy**, her former CIA partner — loyal, battle-hardened, and one of the few people in the world she fully trusts — and with **President Miguel**

**Gutierrez** of Mexico, a principled and shrewd leader who becomes a critical international ally. Their mission: persuade NATO member nations to recognize the American resistance as the legitimate government of the United States. It is a diplomatic and covert operation of extraordinary complexity. The world is watching a nuclear-armed democracy dissolve from the inside, and most governments are choosing silence. Catherine and Gutierrez work to break that silence, country by country, argument by argument, back channel by back channel. Danny Boy keeps Catherine alive while she does it.

Frank, operating under the cover of his Interior appointment, is building something else entirely. He quietly recruits eight state governors, men and women who have watched Melnikoff's consolidation with growing alarm, and begins to assemble a modern-day U.S. Militia — a constitutional resistance force grounded in the legal framework that Melnikoff has been systematically dismantling. Frank understands that military force without political legitimacy is just insurgency, and he is determined to build something that can govern, not just fight.

He recruits **General Mackay**, a senior officer caught in the oldest military dilemma: follow orders, or honor the oath. Mackay's internal struggle is rendered with care — he is not a coward, he is a man who has built his life on the chain of command, and what Frank is asking him to do exists outside every structure he has ever known. He joins the resistance not with enthusiasm but with the grave, deliberate commitment of a man who has thought it all the way through.

Frank also engineers the covert extraction of Commander Henderson from Guantanamo — an operation that requires precision, deniability, and the cooperation of people still embedded inside Melnikoff's apparatus. Henderson, freed, assumes command

of the NORTHCOM forces loyal to the resistance. His imprisonment has sharpened rather than broken him.

### **ACT THREE — THE CIVIL WAR**

The resistance is not abstract. It has a human face in **Private Pete Wilson**, a young soldier at Fort Jackson who is given an order he cannot obey: fire on American civilians. Wilson refuses. He is court-martialed. His story, woven through the novel's third act, becomes a symbol of the moral crisis Melnikoff has engineered — a generation of soldiers forced to decide what their uniform means. Wilson's refusal costs him everything in the short term and becomes, in the long arc of the story, one of the acts of conscience that the restored republic will eventually honor.

The dual missions converge. NATO recognition arrives — a formal, public declaration that the resistance government is the legitimate successor to the constitutional United States. It is a political earthquake. Melnikoff's international position, already precarious, collapses. Military units that have been waiting for clarity begin to move toward the resistance. Henderson coordinates their integration with the precision of a man who has been planning this from a cell in Guantanamo Bay.

The Militia, now backed by loyal military forces and the political legitimacy of NATO recognition, moves on Washington. The operation is surgical — Frank has insisted on it. The goal is not destruction but restoration. The capital is surrounded. Key facilities are secured. The White House is breached in a final, tightly controlled operation.

Melnikoff is cornered in the executive residence. He does not fight. He is airlifted out of the country under circumstances that are never entirely clean — politics rarely is — and transported to Russia. Standing on the tarmac in Moscow, he makes a vow. He will return.

The system that allowed him to rise is still in place. The men who helped him are still alive. This is not over.

#### **ACT FOUR — THE AFTERMATH**

America does not heal easily or quickly, but it begins. The wave of patriotism that sweeps the country in the weeks after Melnikoff's removal is genuine — complicated, contested in some quarters, but real. An emergency election is organized. After a three-month campaign that is itself a kind of national conversation about what the country is and what it wants to be, a woman is elected president. She inherits a nation that has been to the edge of authoritarianism and pulled itself back, and the work she faces is enormous. Her election is presented not as a tidy resolution but as a beginning.

**General Mackay** returns to a command structure that now exists inside a restored constitutional framework. He does not speak much about what he chose. He does not need to. **Private Wilson**, reinstated and quietly decorated, goes home. **Commander Henderson** oversees the reintegration of NORTHCOM with a restored civilian command structure. Danny Boy disappears back into the work he has always done, largely invisible, entirely essential.

Frank and Catherine return to their ranch in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. They sit on the porch in the early evening, the light coming in low across the property they bought when the future seemed simpler, and they have the conversation they could not have while the country was burning. It is not easy. Frank tells her what the year cost him. Catherine tells him what she could not say while she was in the middle of it. The reconciliation is not a scene of resolution so much as a return — two people finding each other again across the distance that duty created. A sonogram confirms what they are both beginning to allow themselves to believe: twins. A boy and a girl.

One year later, on a beach in Acapulco, Catherine's mother sits in a faded blue beach chair at the edge of the water. She holds both grandchildren, one in each arm. The sea is warm. The light is long. Frank and Catherine walk at the shoreline, hand in hand, their footprints pressed into the wet sand beside each other — two parallel lines moving forward into whatever comes next.

*In Moscow, Dmitry Melnikoff has not been idle. The systems that made him possible are still in place. The people who believed what he believed are still embedded in institutions across the Western world. He has made a vow, and he intends to keep it. The sequel is already underway.*

## **Book Outline**

### **Part I — The Takeover**

1. President dies; Melnikoff sworn in
2. Frank and Catherine fracture
3. Martial law declared
4. Catherine returns to espionage
5. Frank joins the resistance

### **Part II — The Resistance**

6. Governors recruited
7. General Mackay's moral struggle
8. Catherine's NATO mission
9. Private Wilson's crisis
10. Catherine's mother's illness

### **Part III — The Civil War**

11. Riots escalate
12. Militia mobilizes
13. Henderson freed
14. The White House breach

15. Melnikoff flees

#### **Part IV — The Aftermath**

16. America unites

17. New president elected

18. Frank and Catherine reconcile

19. Sonogram reveals twins

20. Acapulco epilogue

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### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

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Roger O'Keefe is a Carlsbad, California–based writer whose career in business and civic life has given him a front-row perspective on the dynamics of power, institutional loyalty, and the human calculus behind high-stakes decision-making. His professional background in the financial services industry cultivated a deep understanding of organizational trust, competitive intelligence, and the way ambition and ideology intersect in closed rooms — themes that animate every page of *Enemy in the White House*. Matt's varied background combined with a deep understanding of military command structure, battlefield strategy, and weapons, bring authenticity to the books many thrilling action scenes.

Lifelong and voracious readers of political thrillers, Roger and Matt have spent years immersed in the work of Vince Flynn, Brad Thor, Daniel Silva, and Tom Clancy, studying both the mechanics of the genre and the qualities that distinguish the best of it from the merely competent. What drew Roger and Matt to write their own novel was a conviction that the most dangerous enemy in any institution is the one making all the decisions at the top — and that this particular story, one focused on our country's president, betraying the American people, deeply moved readers.

*Enemy in the White House* is their debut novel. Roger and Matt are actively engaged with the political thriller reading community and are committed to bringing the same disciplined energy to their work as published authors.

## MARKETING STRATEGY

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Roger O'Keefe is prepared to be an active and engaged partner in the marketing and promotion of *Enemy in the White House*. Roger's background is in public speaking, and has appeared on numerous T.V. and Radio shows. Roger hosts two podcasts, and is a presenter of writers workshops in Sothern California. Roger is currently writing his 8th book, his third with Matt, who has written 12 novels. Their third book, a work in process, is a spy novel titled, *MONEY*, this is the third book of their trilogy, featuring Catherine and Frank. The first novel of the trilogy is titled *BACKYARD COLD WAR*. The following initiatives represent areas where the authors are prepared to invest time and resources in support of the book's launch and sustained commercial performance.

### Social Media & Digital Presence

- **Authors Website:** A dedicated authors website will be established prior to publication, featuring a blog, newsletter sign-up, book information, press materials, and event listings.
- **Instagram & Facebook:** Regular content covering the world of political thrillers — book recommendations, behind-the-scenes of the writing process, commentary on relevant geopolitical events — building a consistent audience in the genre's core demographic.
- **BookTok (TikTok):** Short-form video content engaging the growing BookTok political thriller community, including reading recommendations, author commentary, and genre discussion targeting younger crossover readers.
- **X / Twitter:** Engagement with political commentary, national security journalism, and the thriller writing community — platforms where the book's subject matter drives organic interest.

### Reader Community Outreach

- **Goodreads:** Active author profiles, early ARC solicitation targeting established political thriller reviewers, and engagement with genre-specific reading groups.
- **Reddit:** Participation in communities including Thriller Books /Politics, and relevant subreddits where the book's subject matter generates natural conversation.
- **Political Thriller Book Clubs:** Direct outreach to established genre book clubs, both physical and virtual, with ARC copies and authors Q&A availability.

### **Local and Regional Events**

- Book launch event(s) in the Carlsbad/San Diego/Los Angeles California area, and in Interlochen/Detroit Michigan area. including potential partnerships with local independent bookstores.
- Author signings at San Diego/ Los Angeles California area and Interlochen/Detroit Michigan area, venues and genre-appropriate events, including the San Diego Festival of Books and similar regional literary events.
- Outreach to San Diego/Los Angeles and Interlochen/Detroit Michigan area libraries, civic organizations, and business networks for speaking engagements and author discussions.

### **Media & Podcast Outreach**

- Targeted outreach to political thriller–focused podcasts and book review programs, including shows dedicated to the genre's core readership.
- Availability for interviews on political commentary podcasts and programs, where the book's subject matter — White House intelligence, institutional betrayal, executive power — generates natural conversational hooks.
- Press kit preparation for national and regional media outreach, timed to the publication window.

### **Trade and Industry**

- ARC distribution to key genre reviewers, trade publications, and book bloggers in advance of publication.
- Blog tour participation with established thriller-focused book blogs and review sites.
- Engagement with librarian networks and library purchasing channels, which represent a significant purchase block for political thriller titles.

### **Film & Television Adaptation**

- The concept — A president betraying the American public from within— is purpose-built for adaptation. The contained setting, escalating tension, and morally complex characters map naturally to a prestige limited series format.
- The authors are open to and actively interested in working with a literary manager or entertainment attorney to pursue simultaneous film and television representation alongside the publishing process. The feature film screenplay *ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE* adapted from the authors book, has been completed and is being circulated.
- The story's structure — tight timeline, single building, small cast of high-stakes characters — is specifically suited to a streaming limited series in the tradition of political and intelligence-focused prestige television.

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## **MANUSCRIPT STATUS**

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### **MANUSCRIPT COMPLETE**

Available in full or partial upon request.

The manuscript of *Enemy in the White House* is complete, polished, and ready for editorial review. The full draft has undergone multiple revision passes addressing pacing, character consistency, procedural authenticity in the counterintelligence sequences, and the clarity of the novel's structural arc. The outline contained in this proposal accurately reflects the

current state of the manuscript. Five additional primary character back stories, five additional chapters are available for inclusion in the *ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE* manuscript from the authors preceding book, *BACKYARD COLD WAR*, the first book of the trilogy, whenever requested by the publisher.

The authors have received feedback from a small circle of trusted readers with backgrounds in the military, law, national security affairs, and fiction, and has incorporated that feedback into the current draft. The manuscript is not in a developmental stage — it is submission-ready. The authors are fully prepared to provide a partial (first fifty pages and full synopsis) or complete manuscript to any requesting agent or acquisitions editor, in whatever format is preferred.

The authors welcome editorial collaboration and understand that the publishing process is a partnership. Matt and Roger are prepared to work closely with an agent and editorial team on any revisions that serve the book's commercial and literary goals. Matt and Roger are responsive, professional, and committed to delivering a novel that earns its place in the political thriller canon.

Sample pages, a full synopsis, and the complete manuscript are available upon request. The authors may be reached at the contact information provided on the title page of this proposal.

**Submission Note:** This proposal is submitted exclusively / simultaneously (please note as applicable) as of June 29, 2026. The author thanks the recipient for their time and consideration and welcomes any follow-up at their convenience.

*Enemy in the White House* — A Political Thriller

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