



# The Third Bullet: A Bob Lee Swagger Novel (Bob Lee Swagger Novels Book 8)

By Stephen Hunter



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Bob Lee Swagger is back in a thriller fifty years in the making . . .

It's not even a clue. It's a whisper, a trace, a ghost echo, drifting down through the decades via chance connections so fragile that they would disintegrate in the puff of a breath. But it's enough to get legendary former Marine sniper Bob Lee Swagger interested in the events of November 22, 1963, and the third bullet that so decisively ended the life of John F. Kennedy and set the stage for one of the most enduring controversies of our time.

Swagger begins his slow night stalk through a much-traveled landscape. But he's asking questions that few have asked before: Why did the third bullet explode? Why did Lee Harvey Oswald, about to become the most hunted man on earth, risk it all by returning to his rooming house to secure a pistol he easily could have brought with him? How could a conspiracy that went unpenetrated for fifty years have been thrown together in the two and a half days between the announcement of the president's route and the assassination itself?

As Bob investigates, another voice enters the narrative: knowing, ironic, almost familiar, that of a gifted, Yale-educated veteran of the CIA Plans Division. Hugh Meachum has secrets and the means and the will to keep them buried. When weighed against his own legacy, Swagger's life is an insignificant expense—but to blunt the threat, he'll first have to ambush the sniper.

As each man hunts the other across today's globe and through the thickets of history, *The Third Bullet* builds to an explosive climax that will finally prove what Bob Lee Swagger has always known: it's never too late for justice.



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Booklist

\*Starred Review\* For nearly 50 years, the world has been obsessing over the assassination of JFK, from grassy knolls to magic bullets. Finally, though, there's somebody on the case who likes to act more than talk: Bob Lee Swagger, former Vietnam sniper and the man you want on your side when it comes down to "straight killing time." When the wife of a murdered thriller writer (with a bio very like Hunter's own) asks Bob Lee to find her husband's killer—and mentions that the writer was working on a book about the assassination (a book very like this one)—it's no surprise that Swagger, who has no interest in who killed JFK, says no thanks. But then the widow tells him that an overcoat that her husband found in a building across the way from the Texas Book Depository had a peculiar stain on the back, as if a bicycle had run over it, and suddenly Bob Lee is very interested indeed. It takes nearly 500 pages before Hunter explains what it all means—with the narrative jumping between 1963 and the present—and while assassination fanatics will likely find all kinds of problems with the scenario he constructs (naturally, it hinges on ballistics, Bob Lee's area of expertise), the rest of us will have no problem willingly suspending disbelief. Best of all, though, the novel isn't just about what happened in Dallas 50 years ago; connected to the unraveling of the JFK story is a contemporary manhunt that takes Bob Lee first to Russia and then to the Connecticut countryside, where, finally, it's straight killing time yet again. Who knows (or cares, really) if Hunter's hypothesis is accurate, but, like Stephen King in 11/22/63 (2011), he has used the assassination to forge a terrific thriller. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Bob Lee Swagger wipes the floor with all the usual suspects connected to the death of JFK—now there's a premise for the ages! Hunter does his subject proud, and the marketing campaign to support the launch will do the book just as proud. --Bill Ott

#### Review

"Former Marine sniper Bob Lee Swagger tackles the granddaddy of all conspiracy theories--the 1963 Kennedy assassination--in his latest adventure. . . . The author's obsessive attention to the events of Nov. 22 yields a stunningly plausible theory that will have readers holding the book in one hand and Googling satellite photos of Dealey Plaza and the Texas School Book Depository with the other."

"Hunter is extremely well-versed on guns and ballistics, and Swagger is nothing short of a legend. . . . it'll be catnip to conspiracy-minded readers . . . The whole thing ends with a shootout in rural Connecticut that's so tense you'll burn your dinner rather than stop reading."

"Hunter's action-packed new thriller, "The"Third Bullet" . . . introduces a shockingly plausible alternative to the Lee Harvey Oswald-'lone gunman' explanation."

"For nearly 50 years, the world has been obsessing over the assassination of JFK, from grassy knolls to magic bullets. Finally, though, there's somebody on the case who likes to act more than talk: Bob Lee Swagger. . . . like Stephen King in "11/22/63", Hunter has used the assassination to forge a terrific thriller."

"Bestseller Hunter's solid eighth thriller featuring master sniper Bob Lee Swagger . . . plunges into the byzantine world of conspiracy theory. Hunter develops some new angles on the JFK assassination."

"Some of Hunter's best writing can be found here, along with new revelations about Swagger . . . . Then, of course, there is the investigation into Kennedy's death on that fateful day in Dallas and its conclusions. Hunter raises some thought-provoking questions, and while the 'who' in the equation may still be in doubt,

the answers to the 'what' and 'how' may be contained in this work, which is labeled as 'fiction' but could be much more."

"The Swagger novel we've all been waiting for, and the Swagger novel Stephen Hunter was born to write . . . a magnificent thriller--and it might even be true."--Lee Child "#1 New York Times bestselling author of A Wanted Man and The Affair "

"Like an elite sniper, Stephen Hunter zeroes in on one of the most infamous shots ever fired and delivers a mind-bending thriller that answers the question 'What if?' in astonishingly plausible detail. "The Third Bullet" is his best Bob Lee Swagger thriller yet."--Vince Flynn "#1 New York Times bestselling author of Kill Shot"

""The Third Bullet" is as riveting as it is ambitious. It's Stephen Hunter's best so far."--Michael Connelly "#1 New York Times bestselling author of The Drop and The Black Box "

"Stephen Hunter is the bullseye ace of the modern thriller, a cerebral mix of mystery, blood, brutality, treachery and suspense. "The Third Bullet" is Hunter at the absolute apex of his art. Come on--it's time to hunt!"--Stephen Coonts "New York Times bestselling author of The Disciple"

#### About the Author

Stephen Hunter has written seventeen novels, including I, Sniper and Point of Impact. The retired chief film critic for The Washington Post, where he won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism, he lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### Lee Durfee:

Book is usually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can know everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book The Third Bullet: A Bob Lee Swagger Novel (Bob Lee Swagger Novels Book 8) will make you to be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that open or reading the book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

#### **Raymond Childers:**

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#### Jaclyn Warner:

Reading a book to become new life style in this year; every people loves to examine a book. When you read a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The The Third Bullet: A Bob Lee Swagger Novel (Bob Lee Swagger Novels Book 8) provide you with a new experience in reading a book.

#### **Anna Cooper:**

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