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**Jeffrey Stephens' First Novel, *The Portofino Deception*, Consistently
Draws Rave Reviews from NY Times Best-Selling Authors**

Houston, TX, April 18, 2008 -- *The Portofino Deception* is the premiere novel of Jeffrey Stephens and has again received top reviews, the most recent being from Steve Alten, NY Times best-selling author of *Meg* and *The Shell Game*. "Jeffrey Stephens takes the reader on a fast-paced tale of international intrigue and suspense in this, his first novel, *The Portofino Deception*. With a terrific lead character in Jordan Sandor, and many plot twists, I look forward to watching Stephens develop as a top-notch author," says Steve. Another rave review from NY Times best-selling author, Vince Flynn, who had this to say: "This is a ripping, good yarn of intrigue that will keep you turning the pages all the way to its explosive ending."

The story is about Jordan Sandor - an ex-agent with the Central Intelligence Agency - who is drawn back into action when events land him in the middle of an operation to expose and prevent a new al-Qaeda conspiracy intended to launch deadly nerve gas attacks around the world. The tension escalates when Sandor discovers that the rogue agent behind the plot is his former mentor and Jordan realizes he is the only man who can prevent the catastrophe. This journey takes him from Woodstock to New York City to Fort Lauderdale, then to Paris and ultimately to the beautiful Italian Riviera town of Portofino. It is an edge-of-the-seat adventure with an energy that never stops.

The rave reviews go on. Mr. Robert Tanenbaum, best-selling author of *Malice*, *Counterplay* and *Fury*, describes Mr. Stephens' novel with gusto: "a writer to watch.....a very solid, fast-paced thriller that carries the reader on a globetrotting adventure into the world of counter-terrorism."

City Magazine's review passionately sums it up: "Move over *Jason Bourne*, *Jack Bauer*, and *Jack Ryan* – a new agent is locked, loaded, and ready to save the world from terrorism*Deception* will only leave you hoping for the inevitable sequels."

Jeffrey Stephens has written a novel that many are saying would make the "movie of the decade" - it definitely sounds like a book to keep a close eye on. For additional information visit www.jeffreysstephens.com

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