

The Demon Crown

James Rollins

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To save mankind's future, the members of Sigma Force must make a devil's bargain as they join forces with their most hated enemy to stop an ancient threat in this gripping adventure from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author James Rollins.

THE DEMON CROWN

Off the coast of Brazil, a team of scientists discovers a horror like no other, an island where all life has been eradicated, consumed and possessed by a species beyond imagination. Before they can report their discovery, a mysterious agency attacks the group, killing them all, save one, an entomologist, an expert on venomous creatures, Professor Ken Matsui from Cornell University.

Strangest of all, this inexplicable threat traces back to a terrifying secret buried a century ago beneath the National Mall: a cache of bones preserved in amber. The artifact was hidden away by a cabal of scientists—led by Alexander Graham Bell—to protect humankind. But they dared not destroy it, for the object also holds an astonishing promise for the future: *the very secret of life after death*.

Yet, nothing stays buried forever. An ancient horror—dormant in the marrow of those preserved bones—is free once more, nursed and developed into a weapon of incalculable strength and malignancy, ready to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting world.

To stop its spread, Commander Grayson Pierce of Sigma Force must survive a direct attack on the island of Maui. *To be there first* has always been the core mission of Sigma Force, a covert team forged to be America's front line against emerging threats. But this time, even Sigma may not be able to decipher this deadly mystery, one that traces back to the founding of the Smithsonian Institution.

With each new discovery, the menace they hunt is changing, growing, spreading—adapting and surviving every attempt to stop it from reconquering a world it once ruled. And each transformation makes it stronger . . . and smarter.

Running out of time and options, Commander Grayson Pierce will be forced to make an impossible choice. To eradicate this extinction-level threat and expose those involved, he will have to join forces with Sigma's greatest enemy—the newly resurrected Guild—even if it means sacrificing one of his own.

The Demon Crown Details

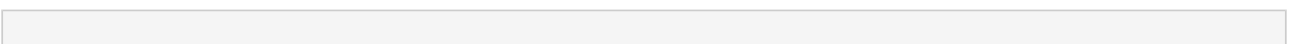
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From Reader Review *The Demon Crown* for online ebook

Skip says

Marginally better than *The Seventh Plague*, mostly because of the great settings in Hawaii, the Balkans, and Wieliczka salt mine in Poland. This series has stagnated, with little character development, and most new ones getting whacked. As payback for Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the death of his beloved ninja, an aging Japanese pharmaceutical magnate looses a nightmare invasive species after liberating it from its amber cage for several millennia. The Sigma Force is divided into teams to battle the scourge, and an old adversary makes an appearance; however, the uncharacteristic and pivotal switch of sides, as the walls starting crumbling, made no sense.

Steven says

First off, thank you to William Morrow imprint and the Harper Collins publishing company for sending me a physical ARC of the newest in one of my absolute favorite series of all time. They paid me nothing, and all I had to do was read it and review it honestly.

Sigma Force novels are always action-packed roller coaster rides of thrills and emotions. Rollins always seem to find a way to up the game to huge stakes, but not seem so utterly ridiculous that the situation becomes unbelievable. Not to say there aren't some unbelievable moments in some of these books, but that's a genre-thing. Rollins, who also is a trained veterinarian, has a love and respect for science and technology, which is evident in his books. Sure, the theories he posits might be out there or a stretch on the imagination, but he's always sparked by something real he's read about, and researched thoroughly. His blend of history, technology, science, and action really works for me.

The Demon Crown was definitely one of the stronger entries in the series. The villain was a little bit of a Bond villain, but it worked for the story, since The Guild and its agents have played a pivotal role in the course of the series, driving much of the action for the beginning of the series and helping facilitate some key character growth in many of the major players on both sides of the good-evil spectrum. Many fan favorites are in danger in this one, thanks to the threat -- which is absolutely terrifying. The Ezekiel Boone-esque menace of global-balance-upsetting proportions is both riveting to read (you won't want to look away!) and downright scary.

I can't say much more without spoiling stuff, but if you haven't picked up Sigma Force, you should. It's a fun ride, with lots of ups and downs and action along the way. I wouldn't recommend reading this without reading the rest of the series, unless you don't mind stuff being spoiled, because quite a few things in this one are based off the events of the other books -- and you won't appreciate the characters and their plotlines and growth stories here without that history.

But I can 100% recommend the series overall. Pick up book one (and push through if you have to, it's the slowest in the series, in my opinion) and binge them. DO IT.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

The Demon Crown is book thirteen in the Sigma Force series and let me tell you that this is a favorite series of mine and I have read every book published! And, the series keep going strong with its mix of thriller, science fiction, and adventure. One thing I always find so enjoyable with the books is the history lesson you get. Like in this book which started with Alexander Graham Bell traveling to Italy to steal James Smithson (founding donor of the Smithsonian Institution) remains. Yup, true story. Quite a fascinating tale.

But, what has James Smithson remains to do with this story? Well, you see he discovered something that could change the course of history and pretty much unless destruction on earth. And, of course, now someone has managed to release it. And, it's up to the Sigma Force to stop it. Without spoiling the story too much do I just want to say that there is a deadline of three days before everything is too late so they have to hurry to solve the riddle that Smithson left behind and find a "cure".

As usual is the book thrillingly good, and this one is storywise better than the last book. The threat to the life on the planet felt acute especially when the story in detail revealed what could happen to the human body if the threat that has been realized would infect. Trust me, I was like "shoot me" if that would happen to me! Personally, the only drawback was that the story now and then got a bit "scientific". I'm more a history fan than science so I prefer when the characters travel over the world hunting information than stories taking place in a lab. But, that's me. Other than that was the book truly great and I can't wait for the next book to be released!

I want to thank the publisher for providing me with a free copy through Edelweiss for an honest review!

Jerri Brissette says

I just finished this book, then saw this headline in the news today.

SECRET PARASITE: VA STUDY SHOWS PARASITE FROM VIETNAM MAY BE KILLING VETS

This book was pretty scary before I saw that headline; now it's terrifying! James Rollins unrolls an all-too realistic story of what a biological infestation could result in. If such a thing should happen, it's not likely the world would be so fortunate in a solution.

Kate says

I adore the Sigma series and this could quite possibly be the best of them all!

Freda Malone says

I vaguely recall seeing a small golden stone with a mosquito in the middle when I was a very young girl. It didn't mean much to me then but now that I've read the demon crown I can't help but shiver at even the fictional subjects of this story. The blurb says it all. Amber, a resin from plants that dripped like honey into cracks and crevices of the earth and funnels that were created by volcanoes gave new meaning to the words fossil and preserve. But in this story, a couple of entomologists go one step further, extract the DNA from a wasp and create a wasp species so deadly that it takes a team such as Sigma Force to barely grasp the solution to ending these huge deadly things.

This story in the series was a bit too buggy for me and played with my mind enough to give me the heebie jeebies and make me scratch at even the slightest itch. I say this because James Rollins has a mind so brilliant as to put very little fiction in this series and he tells you at the end what is true and factual and what is not. *shiver*. He makes the history feel so plausible it's scary, very scary. I'll be honest. I almost didn't finish this one. I just don't have the thick skin that most people have when it comes to 'bugs'. A great addition to the Sigma series, I can finally pretend it isn't real.

Matt Tandy says

Like an episode of G.I. Joe, Sigma Force comes roaring back with even more fanciful tech, situations and globetrotting. The villains are cartoonish, complete with underwater lairs and killer bees (wasps actually), while the established heroes are exactly the same as in the previous 12 books, having not developed in any way. At this point, any suspense is lost as no major character has died, so that the perilous situations are rendered meaningless. Rollins writing style is unfortunately taking a step backward as he finds it necessary to explain every little thing that's happening. I know what scuba gear is used for, it doesn't have to be a couple of paragraphs of exposition and hokey dialogue. The Demon Crown is easily the most boring and infantile of the Sigma Force series, as it's increasingly evident Rollins jumped the shark at least three books ago.

Orient says

My 13th adventure with sigma, it was absolutely fantastic. My inner science freak was high. Loved to see all the characters I adore over decade already ???

Tim says

My first story of 2018 confirms what I suspected. I need to stop listening/reading Mr. Rollins. Too many trite, uninteresting details do little but get in the way of story-telling. 0 of 10 stars

Ms. Just One More Book (Kris Miller) says

With his unique blend of science, history and terrific storytelling skills, Rollins brings forth his most chilling Sigma Force read to date. In 1903 Alexander Graham Bell, along with his wife Mabel, rushes to Italy on a covert mission to secure the remains of James Smithson -- founder of the Smithsonian Institute -- after receiving word that his remains were in danger via a trusted friend. Buried alongside Smithson's body, Bell discovers a secret that could solve the mysteries of life after death, but also has the ability for mass genocidal destruction. Now, years later, it has fallen into the enemy's hands for that very means. Commander Grayson Pierce, along with former Guild member and girlfriend, Seichan, are on the island of Maui when the first attack hits. Within hours, the island is overrun as this terrible evil is unleashed. With no time to lose, Gray makes a deal with the devil to have a chance at saving the human race, even if that means the ultimate sacrifice. Rollins creates a fearsome picture in his newest masterpiece. An utterly plausible future scenario combined with a tightly woven storyline, renders this a stupendous, yet terrifying read. Suspenseful and action-packed, THE DEMON CROWN is a pulse-pounding thriller flawlessly executed.

~ Kris Miller, TopShelf Reviews

Chad says

A ton of fun, packed with action and danger. I love when writers ground their stories in real events. Here Rollins takes a few things that really happened to Alexander Graham Bell and the founder of the Smithsonian, James Smithson to craft a base for his story revolving around prehistoric insects and genetic engineering with globe altering repercussions. The villain is Bond villain level bananas and clearly he's never read a Michael Crichton novel, as we all know, "Life finds a way".

I don't know where Rollins finds all of his locations, but he has me wanting to visit the salt mine found in the book. It sounds amazing.

Marialyce says

4.5 always scientifically intriguing but possibly scary stars

James Rollins is an author that has never disappointed me. He fills his novels with adventure, science, the winning nature of good over evil and the ability to make the reading of his books so much like a walk on the wild side.

In this rendition, members of the Sigma Force again battle the evil of the world this time manifesting itself in the form of killer wasps. The elements of science as Rollins blends the various truths with fiction always is so much fun. As the members of the force again make the world safe, we find the characters we have come to know in these novels present and ever ready to stake their lives in protecting ours and the world we live in.

Keep 'em coming Mr Rollins. We, as your avid readers, can't wait for the next installment.

Robin Carter says

Review

Thirteen books into the Sigma series and as a reader i always worry how a writer will keep a series fresh, new and exciting and with this type of book where cutting edge is key can they keep it in the realm of believable.

James Rollins always amazes me with his ability to write a tight, interesting, action packed story, but most of all his ability to keep coming up with world ending scenarios that are totally realistic. Each and everyone a trial for the Sigma team, to both solve the world ending conundrum and also survive those who are trying to cause the apocalypse.

Full review: Link <https://parmenionbooks.wordpress.com/...>

Jordan Anderson says

For the 14th or 15th time James Rollins once again delivers an absolutely fantastic novel.

As I've said in basically all of my 5 star reviews of his books, the guy is a phenomenal author who very rarely disappoints (if we don't count that whole *Order of the Sanguines* debacle from a few years back).

I think what made *The Demon Crown* so good, aside from an actually original and entertaining story, was the way it harkened back to Rollins's original novels, what with crazy creatures and exotic locales, while, at the same time, mixing in the familiarity of the *Sigma* novels where science and ancient history combine.

Seriously though, *The Demon Crown* was a ton of fun, the best Rollins novel in 2 years, and all the evidence I need to keep him amongst my top 3 favorite authors of all time.

Faith says

I thought that this book was a lot of fun even though I am not a fan of the Sigma Force members or of endless fight scenes. This book had historical figures, buried secrets, ecological threats, scientific experiments, and big, immortal, killer wasps. I enjoyed it.
