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**The Brothers Cro-Magnon** Roger Thomas Pepper  
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## The Brothers Cro-Magnon Details

Date : Published August 1st 2014 by TrekkerPress

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Author : Roger Thomas Pepper

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## **From Reader Review The Brothers Cro-Magnon for online ebook**

### **Angelique The Gilded Pages says**

I won this book in a First Reads giveaway, thanks Roger!

This was a very entertaining read and I enjoyed it. The story was original and kept me wanting to find out more. Obviously, the reader has to have a suspension of disbelief but if you read a lot of fiction then that shouldn't be an issue.

The writing for the most part was good, there were a few mistakes and some parts that didn't seem to flow with the rest of the language, but it was overall very well done.

Corky was a great character. She wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty. I liked how she wasn't a damsel in distress. The brothers were interesting. Smerd was my favorite out of the bunch. I was pleasantly surprised by him.

If you like Russian culture and pre-historic history with a little bit of modern action thrown in, you will enjoy this book!

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### **Melissa says**

I did not win this book on Goodreads First reads. The author contacted me in order to send me his book. I am very glad that he did!! This is an awesome story. It's a little violent and action-packed, but with a lot of touching moments in between. When I was unable to read this book, I continually wondered what was going to happen next and did not want the story to end. The characters are well done and the scenery descriptions makes you, almost, think you are in Siberia in your mind. I could picture everything. This story is brilliantly written!!

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### **Chris Meads says**

This proved to be an exciting book, using prehistoric animals and Cro-Magnon man and blending it with modern day scientific approaches.

Corky, a reporter from New York, is on her way to Siberia, to find out about her parents who were killed when she was young. Once there, she finds out that she might be one of the Cro-Magnon experiments, a sister along with three brothers. She goes in search of finding the real truth, finds that mammoths have been created as well. Corky finds out that the brothers will stop at nothing to keep their and her freedom. Everyone and everything is out to get her or kill her. This includes the Russian police, polar bears and the ice of the arctic. What she finds out in the end is something she never thought could happen.

This is a great fictional book that combines the prehistoric with the modern, and what can happen when things don't go the way they're planned. It's action-packed and a real page turner for those that like science fiction/fantasy type stories.

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## **Roger Pepper says**

Where do my book ideas come from? During a flight from Moscow to Kazakhstan, it struck me how beautiful the Tien Shan Mountains looked all decked in white and how ugly they could become with global warming. But what about when the permafrost melts in Siberia, now there really had to be a story there. Gradually, Corky Mason, the heroine of *The Brothers Cro-Magnon*, came into being and told me the story of how she fell in love with a baby mammoth and came within a polar bear's whisker of being a cavewoman.

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## **Bill Thibadeau says**

My rating is 3.5 stars.

I enjoyed the first 25% of the book very much. The premise of using prehistoric sperm to impregnate a modern woman is interesting. My problem is that the story is disjointed with several major breaks in logic and reality. It is definitely an easy quick read for those times when you want to veg out in your reading. The writing reminds me of YA fiction. I wish the last 75% of the book would have been as interesting as the first part.

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## **So, I Read This Book Today says**

“We’re all clay, created by evolution and molded by life on Earth.” – Dr. Stu Uhlig, *The Brothers Cro-Magnon*

“The tissue cut clearly shows blood vessels with strong walls. Inside the vessels there is haemolysed blood, where for the first time we have found erythrocytes. Muscle and adipose tissues are well preserved. We have also obtained very well visualised migrating cells of the lymphoid tissue, which is another great discovery. The upper part of the carcass has been eaten by animals, yet the lower part with the legs and, astonishingly, the trunk are very well preserved.” – Viktoria Egorova, chief of the Research and Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory of the Medical Clinic of North-Eastern Federal University

She was thrown away like trash. A simple Neanderthal woman, she was gang raped – probably by the new dominant species to come along, the Cro-Magnon. Modern man's predecessor – and just as vicious. They finished with her, then they threw her into a crevasse where she died and froze, the sperm of her rapists frozen on her thighs. We can't, of course, know what her name was, or if she even had one. So they called her Galine – God Has Redeemed. Her rape, her cold and lonely death, were not the last of the indignities heaped upon her. No. Bureaucracy had the dubious pleasure of heaping ignominy upon her poor corpse. They burned her. Ah well, maybe that is for the best. To be placed in a glass case and stared at by the ignorant and unwashed would perhaps have been even worse. But the last, the worst humiliation of all?

Some of the sperm is alive. It is viable.

And it has been used for insemination.

What could possibly go wrong?

Now Catherine “Corky” Mason is in Khatanga, right up near the North Pole. Quite a change from her last ten year posting in the Middle East. Which is worse? Heat exhaustion and sand in your panties, or freezing the skin off your body in 90 below with a stiff wind? Seeing as how her luggage is lost in Moscow, well, you get the picture.

In Khatanga at the urging of her editor at the New York Herald, Corky is theoretically on a threatened Northern spotted owl in a fresh clear-cut vacation, but she is also there to write a story about the cloning of a perfect mammoth specimen retrieved from the Siberian ice. The actual request came from a “crazy” Russian paleontologist named Zuyev. A man who has an unhealthy interest in Corky – an interest that soon turns deadly. For Zuyev is convinced that Corky is the only sister of four very special brothers; Cro-Magnon brothers, born from the sperm of Galine’s rapists. Brothers who have a lot in common with their sadistic sperm donors. The hubris of man, the reach for glory, for fame, for one’s name to carry through the centuries. But to what effect?

Cro-Magnon skeleton

Photo courtesy of Sciencephoto.com Yes, the Cro-Magnon people buried their dead.

The Brothers Cro-Magnon has its plusses and minuses. I was absolutely captivated by the concepts of the story. The work on the Vindija-80 (Vi-80) sample led to the first viable steps in unraveling Neanderthal genomics. Today, the Neanderthal genome is “an abstract string of billions of DNA letters stored in computer databases”. But that doesn’t mean that it will stay that way. As for the mammoth cloning? In May of 2013 scientists from the Siberian Northeastern Federal University unearthed an absolutely amazing find. On Maly Lyakhovsky Island they found the corpse of a mammoth in the permafrost. An autopsy of the huge creature - nicknamed Buttercup - will be shown in a Channel 4 documentary later this month. The corpse which, “During excavations, the carcass oozed a dark red liquid that may have been fresh mammoth blood. In fact, the mammoth meat was reportedly fresh enough that one of the scientists took a bite of it.” The female mammoth, nicknamed Buttercup, lived about 40,000 years ago. And she was so well preserved, she actually bled.

So, Roger Pepper has his science pat, though a bit ahead of its time. What bothered me, what always bothers me, is the rough, very rough, editorial work. It would have been much better if the prose was tightened up, and especially if the continuity, logic and flow were handled by a good editor. It was frustrating and dragged me out of the story more than I like. Otherwise? A solid entry into the pseudoscientific. A worthwhile read for anyone who finds the subject matter interesting.

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## **So, I Read This Book Today says**

An Editor could make this a five-star read “We’re all clay, created by evolution and molded by life on Earth.” – Dr. Stu Uhlig, *The Brothers Cro-Magnon*

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## **Fermentum says**

Liked this book. I would rate it 3.5-4. Sort of Incredible the Russians found "sperm" on a frozen Female and were able to impregnate modern women with it..... AND to raise 4 cro-magnon brothers and mammoths in a secret facility in Russia.

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## **Elizabeth Grieve says**

I'm afraid I couldn't get into this, despite being intrigued by the outline of the story. I didn't find it well written, and it seemed more like a book for children or teens than one for adults. It doesn't appear to have been edited or proofread at all. Here's an example of an odd sentence with poor grammar 'Not a lecherous scare, he scrutinized her as if he were studying a scientific specimen.'

Having previously abandoned another book ('Davide') by this author, I must say to Mr Pepper - please employ a good editor and proofreader. You have interesting ideas for stories, and it seems a pity not to get some professional help. The formatting is also poor, and would really benefit from some revision.

Also, I'm not sure it's the done thing to leave 5 star reviews (2 on this page alone) for your own books here on Goodreads ...

Reviewed in exchange for a preview ebook.

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## **Meredith Hillenbrand says**

I really enjoyed this book. The concept was very intriguing and even though some people believe the idea to be too far fetched, especially for the time period the inseminations were to have taken place, I believe anything is possible. Technology released to the public is always behind the technology the government has, and governments of all countries are always performing experiments that the public has no idea is happening.

That being said, I thought that it was great that Corky was a strong female character who would not give up her quest in the face of danger. There were twists and turns in the story that were unexpected and which I definitely liked. There was also murder, mystery, suspense, action, etc.

The reason I only gave it three stars was because there were many times I couldn't tell who was talking. It also didn't flow properly in a few places. Some of the chapters were a little tedious, while others could have been more developed. If the author would take it to an editor, I believe this has the makings of at least a four star novel This book is worth reading even with the trouble spots. I received this book as a gift from the author, but it did not influence my review in any way.

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## **Michael says**

I thought this was going to be a historical fiction but turned into something completely different. When I first began reading it seemed like watching a four-hour movie in thirty minutes. I read some deleted scenes after finishing the book and thought parts of them should have been included. That would have explained more to take away my confusion.

I liked this because it was so unusual from any book I've read. Once I figured out what was happening I really got into the book. I have no idea of the feasibility of resurrecting mammoths and cro-magnon people but it sure makes one think about what some people are up to. The book had many twists and turns which made it more enjoyable.

A very intriguing book that any fan of fiction would enjoy.

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## **Schuyler Wallace says**

Roger Pepper is a retired aerospace materials engineer and his "The Brothers Cro-Magnon" is an imaginative attempt at melding prehistoric elements with modern environmental and biological science. It's an adventurous quest that's often attempted but seldom ends with any authenticity. Pepper has done better than many others.

The plot of this novel, exploring the use of both human and animal sperm (that has been preserved in pure ice from prehistoric times) in impregnating modern humans and animals to recreate ancient creatures, is farce on its face and makes an unlikely subject for the persnickety reader. Pepper, however, doesn't shrink from the task and actually makes a bold attempt at credibility.

A New York reporter returns to her Siberian homeland to interview a Russian paleontologist about the rebirth of ancient mammoths through the judicious use of live sperm recovered from frozen fossils. She gets more than she bargains for when the story about the recreation of four brothers with ancient sperm surfaces. Even more disturbing is the suspicion that she might be the sister of the four brothers, a quartet of murderous mad men who destroy those who threaten their existence.

There's havoc as the recreated mammoths get loose, the reporter gets imprisoned for trying to escape from mad scientists, the Russian secret police get nasty, ravenous polar bears search for mammoth and human flesh, and the frozen environment threatens to cover everything in its deadly blanket. That's all I'm telling you.

Pepper gets it all welded together while taking big scientific liberties. The writing, at times, is somewhat sophomoric and the dialogue is stilted in places. On the plus side, he does a good job with his characterizations, distributing good and bad behavior to the right people, and keeping them distinct in the reader's mind. The scenic descriptions are also well done.



This is an entertaining read if reality can be ignored. Action scenes are well written and keep the reader engrossed. Many chases and cold weather encounters add magnetism. I recommend it as a pleasant interlude before tackling heavyweight Tom Clancy's more realistic material.

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## **Carol Kean says**

Roger Pepper is a retired aerospace materials engineer with a love of science, travel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, the Arctic, Cro-Magnons, woolly mammoths and all sorts of cool things (and really, really cold things!).

If you love woolly mammoths, elephants and all things prehistoric and big, this novel is a must-read. Never mind that willing suspension of disbelief is a gargantuan "must" as well. Sure, there's a lot of poetic license going on here, but as the award-winning speculative novelist E.E. Giorgi says, "... if you don't allow an author his or her poetic license you'll miss out on the most fantastic premises."

"*The Brothers Cro-Magnon*" is imaginative and ambitious, fusing the prehistoric with contemporary biology and futuristic science. It's an adventure, a hero's journey, a quest. Catherine, aka Corky, is a New York reporter who was born in Siberia but given up for adoption and raised in America when her parents were killed. She's traveled the world, endured the heat of the desert (so hot "she wore a burka without underwear"), reported from many an exotic location, but none so cold as this one. A tall, strong, cosmopolitan woman, she shivers on the helicopter "a short hop from the North Pole" and receives a furry hat from the short man seated beside her. I love the way she peeks at the journal this man is writing, unaware that the woman beside him can read his flattering observations about her because she's fluent in several languages.

Stu Uhlig, with his German name and Native American coloring, is a great foil for Corky, so I'm happy to report that he remains part of this novel to the very end. Stu and Corky share line after great line of dialogue. One of my favorites:

"So, where did you get the funny name?" Uhlig asked.

Corky frowned, and glared.

"Er, I mean, where'd you get that great name," he stammered.

"That's better." Unable to stop smiling, she recalled (the newspaper gang she worked with) calling her Corky because she'd collected corks over the years, when not dodging bullets.

Gotta love the way Corky, when Stu offers her the wolfskin cap, wants to say "no way would she wear the skin of an endangered species, but she'd tasted the warmth and couldn't pluck off the hat."

There's more to love, love, love in this opening scene. A huge man with bushy hair and a beard, also a passenger on this flight, has no hat or gloves, his parka wide open. Smerdyakov, or Smerd, "had a huge barrel chest, arms as thick as tree trunks and the biggest pair of hands she'd ever seen."

He's not the only one. Eventually Cork meets all four Brothers Karamazov—oops, Cro-Magnon—Dmitri, Ivan, Fyodor and Pavel (or was it Alyosha?). The four brothers, created from ancient sperm that survived being frozen in the body of a rape victim, loom large in this novel. So too does the disturbing possibility that Corky might be the sister of this quartet of murderous mad men.

She also meets the Russian Secret Service and a pack of hungry polar bears who guard a remote laboratory of cloned mammoths, and a captor who forces our heroine into a miserable prison cell until — well, you'll have to read for yourself how she escapes.

You won't want to miss the baby mammoth scene. What could have been the most terrifying, bloody and brutal scene in the novel becomes the most moving and memorable.

Pepper's larger-than-life cast of characters also includes real-life people. I love the Dolgons, a marginalized people "from the other side of the tracks, a much maligned minority. Stalin persecuted the nomads. He made them Soviet citizens so he could draft them into the army." Corky's first encounter with them is chilling in more ways than a thermometer could indicate.

Great story, great characters, great premise, however fantastical – what's not to love? Pepper's enthusiasm for his subjects is infectious. He writes with passion and rich, descriptive detail, even if his prose may not show the mastery of a Dostoevsky or even a Tom Clancy. This novel is riveting and entertaining, even if the prose is a little awkward at times, and the descriptions may exhaust contemporary readers who didn't grow up with the epic page count of 19thCentury literature.

I'll suspend disbelief for a novel like this any time.

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### **Joseph says**

I didn't love or hate this book- I enjoyed various aspects of the story, while at times, I felt that certain points of the dialog were either unnecessary, or bloated. The premise of scientists producing Cro-mag/Human hybrids, and Mammoths via insemination of frozen, ancient sperm is a stretch, but leaves room for an exciting, or at the least, entertaining story. This book may have just been ok for me, but I can see how it would appeal to many readers of Michael Creighton. I really believe that if the writing was a little more cohesive, and the story tightened up some, this would be a 4 star book, because it is a great idea, just not executed as well as I had hoped.

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### **angela says**

This book has a very interesting premise. It opens with finding frozen pre-historic sperm, bringing it back to life, and inseminating humans with it to create hybrids, I. E. The Brothers Cro-Magnon. The story kept my interest and included several complex characters . Although I enjoyed the read, I think this could have really benefitted from a good editor. Particularly in the beginning, pronouns and narrators switched mid paragraph causing me to re-read passages to parse the meaning. There were also several typos and grammatical errors. That did improve by the end of the book though.

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