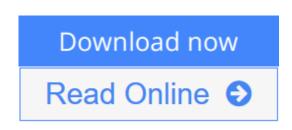


# Map of Bones: A Sigma Force Novel (Sigma Force Series Book 2)

By James Rollins



## Map of Bones: A Sigma Force Novel (Sigma Force Series Book 2) By James Rollins

The bones lead to ancient mysteries and present-day terror . . . To follow them means death.

During a crowded service at a cathedral in Germany, armed intruders in monks' robes unleash a nightmare of blood and destruction. But the killers have not come for gold; they seek a more valuable prize: the bones of the Magi who once paid homage to a newborn savior . . . a treasure that could reshape the world.

With the Vatican in turmoil, Sigma Force under the command of Grayson Pierce leaps into action, pursuing a deadly mystery that weaves through sites of the Seven Wonders of the World and ends at the doorstep of an ancient, mystical, and terrifying secret order. For there are those with dark plans for the stolen sacred remains that will alter the future of humankind . . . when science and religion unite to unleash a horror not seen since the beginning of time.

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#### Map of Bones: A Sigma Force Novel (Sigma Force Series Book 2) By James Rollins Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #11964 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-10-13
- Released on: 2009-10-13
- Format: Kindle eBook

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

A mysterious biblical object, nefarious Vatican spies and a deadly centuries-old religious cabal—sound familiar? Sacramento veterinarian Rollins offers more *Da Vinci Code*–style thrills for the seriously addicted. In this seventh outing, hooded men invade midnight mass at the Cologne Cathedral and slaughter almost everyone present, then break open a gold sarcophagus and steal... the bones of the Three Wise Men. Grayson Pierce, top agent in the Department of Defense's covert Sigma Force, takes a team to Rome, joins up with love-interest Rachel Verona, a *carabinieri* corps lieutenant, and her Vatican official uncle, Vigot. It seems that the Dragon Court, a medieval alchemical cult-cell that still operates within the Catholic Church, is to blame, and it also seems that the bones of the Magi aren't really bones, but the highly reactive Monatomic gold that the group plans to use to accomplish its ultimate goal—Armegeddon. Rollins has few peers in the research department, which makes the historical material fascinating, and he keeps the dialogue believably colloquial and the incidental elements motivated—and plausible for at least short stretches. Clumsy romance is mostly overcome by lots of action. Dan Brown-ers looking for methadone will add to Rollins's usual solid numbers. *(June)* 

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#### From **Booklist**

This novel about an ancient secret society and the race to find priceless antiquities is sure to be compared to Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*, but, in every way, it's a much better book. Where Brown's best-seller was predictable despite its compelling premise, this tale is clever and suspenseful. Where *Code* featured ropey dialogue and assembly-line characters, this one offers (mostly) real people engaging in (mostly) real discourse. Like Brown, Rollins makes the most of a moderately implausible premise, this one requiring that the reader accept the literal truth of a certain allegorical aspect of the Bible. But, as both books prove, a thriller can be as implausible as it likes as long as it is entertainingly developed. Fans of *The Da Vinci Code* will obviously want to read *Map of Bones*, but even those who found Brown's opus unpalatable will thoroughly enjoy the taste of this one. *David Pitt Copyright* © *American Library Association. All rights reserved* 

#### Review

"This novel...is sure to be compared to Dan Brown's DA VINCI CODE, but, in every way, it's a much better book....Clever and suspenseful." -- Booklist

"Rollins has few peers in the research department, which makes the historical material fascinating....Dan Brown-ers looking for methadone will add to Rollins's usual solid numbers." -- Publishers Weekly

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#### **Paul Quintana:**

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