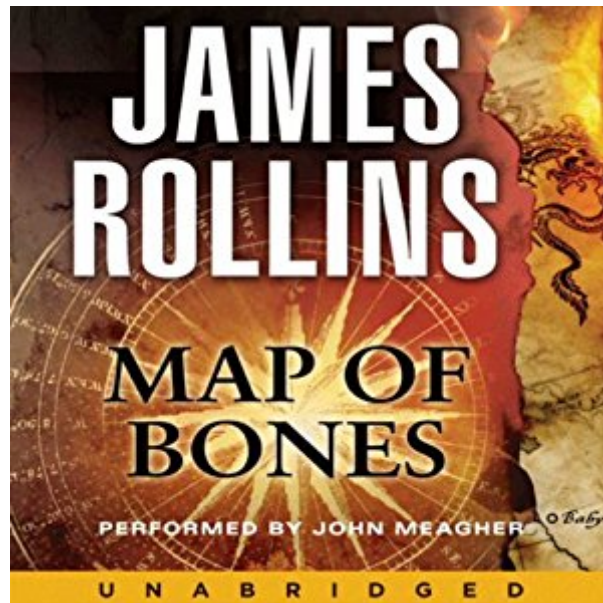


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Map Of Bones: A Sigma Force Novel, Book 2



Synopsis

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. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Just when you think you have a situation figured out, Rollins slips in a new twist and keeps doing it til the end, all the while developing an exciting and coherent story line, along with great character development. If you enjoy a thrilling mystery, with a bit of ancient history and mysticism thrown in then this is the story for you. Rollins, as usual, does not disappoint.

This is the third time I've tried to get into the book. The opening is great and I love where it may be going but it's soooooo slow and the characters are all over the place. I have found myself reading

the same paragraph 10 times because I keep nodding off. I just can't do it. I can't make it beyond chapter 4 and I even made it through *Gone Girl*. Sorry - I don't like giving bad reviews especially since I didn't finish it. I just want to warn people like me who need a fast paced thriller that this one may not be for you.

I'm a firm believer in not reviewing if I can't say anything nice... so here's the nice: there were some great descriptions of authentic Italian food in *Map of Bones*. Other than that it was so boring I couldn't finish it. Normally I would jump on a reviewer who didn't finish a book before reviewing but after reading the same scene, slightly rewritten, three times over I had to stop reading. It was driving me bonkers. Surely there must be another setting for a thriller besides the Vatican. Been there, done that.

Not a bad easy read, but it tends to be repetitive. Put the protagonists in a seemingly impossible to escape situation, which they then escape. Then, set up the next seemingly impossible to escape situation, which they then escape. Wash, rinse, repeat. I like a good action story, and this has plenty, but prefer better developed characters and dialogue.

Three Sigma Force Soldiers, a priest from the Vatican, and an Italian policewoman, who is the priest's niece, set out to solve a Vatican puzzle. They are in constant danger by The Red Dragon Organization who are searching for the same knowledge. Who are the traitors who help The Red Dragons?

Molassas is slow and so is this.

Johnny Quest meets the *Da Vinci Code*! The plot is far-fetched speculation tied together by the slimmest of threads. "But how can we be sure?" Gray said. "Maybe we're reading too much into it." (p.294). The entire book consists of characters who read too much into everything but end up saving Planet Earth, anyway. Wish I could be more positive but by the end of this I just wanted it to be over.

Upon first looking at this book's description on you might think that it is nothing more than another *Da Vinci Code* rip-off however if you are a fan of *Sandstorm* then you will understand that this is not the case. This taut thriller about a conspiracy of (yet another) secret religious sect of the Catholic

Church delivers all the punch of a well-plotted novel. Grayson Pierce, an operative for the U.S. top secret Sigma Force, is called to command a group of two other agents, Monk and Kat, to investigate the mysterious massacre of church goers in Cologne, Germany and the theft of the cathedral's relics, the bones of the Magi. They are assigned to work with an intel group from the Vatican, Monsignor Vigor Verona and his niece Rachel, a lieutenant in the Carabinieri Corps. The five quickly discover that the deaths in Cologne were carried out by the Imperial Dragon Court, a secret society dating back to the Middle Ages, and that the theft of relics in that church was just the beginning. Through Vigor's vast knowledge of church symbolism, history, and architecture, and the others' combined education in chemistry, physics, and engineering, they begin to solve the mystery that could lead to Armageddon. Their lives are threatened at every turn as they race the ruthless members of the Dragon Court to uncover the next clue. Dan Brown popularized the literary premise of a complex religious conspiracy by a secret sect with The Da Vinci Code. James Rollins's book is just as great as The Da Vinci Code because of its smooth writing and plotting and better integrated historical details. Rollins's approach allows for a breathtakingly fast pace and incredible suspense. Sometimes the connections between the past and the riddle at hand are tenuous, although the information itself is usually fascinating. Rollins moves convincingly from one point of view to another, using all to satisfying effect, and he does great when trying to stir up the emotional connections between characters. The action easily keeps the reader down into the story. The truly intriguing aspect of this novel is that every character believes that Biblical Armageddon will occur if the Dragon Court solves the final riddle. Although the clues are solved using science, they lead to what is ultimately a supernatural mystery. Map of Bones is "the first in the exciting new Sigma adventure series" so it should be interesting to see how Rollins follows up this series debut. I'm sure he will deepen the characterization of his Sigma Force even more as his readers start to identify with them throughout the series, and his excellent storytelling ability will serve him well. This novel makes fantastic escapist reading and yet delivers some intellectual depth to distinguish it from many other thrillers. If you are a fan of Dan Brown then I highly recommend this for readers looking for a good thriller.

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