

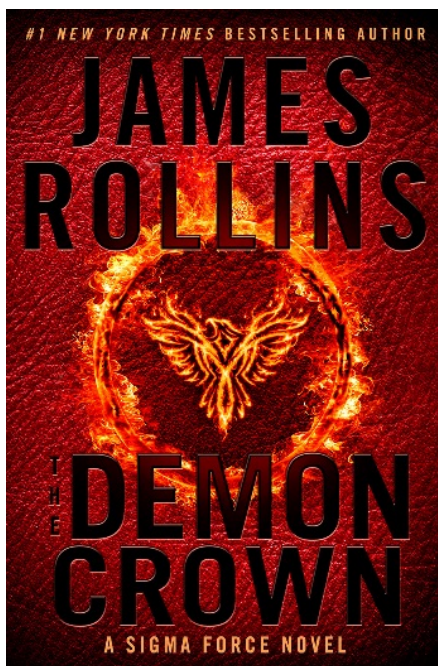


WILLIAM MORROW
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#1 New York Times bestselling author James Rollins combines factual historic intrigue surrounding the Smithsonian Castle and innovative scientific concepts regarding the 'dark matter of life' to deliver his most terrifying entry into the highly acclaimed Sigma Force series



THE DEMON CROWN

ON SALE DECEMBER 5, 2017

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 a primordial threat from decimating life as we know it.

Combining elements of scientific speculation, military suspense, threats of global destruction, and the sheer wonder of a truly unexplored realm, **THE DEMON CROWN** (William Morrow hardcover, ISBN 9780062381736, \$28.99, on sale December 5, 2017) has all the trademark aspects that make a quintessential Sigma thriller while possessing an individuality and inventiveness all its own. Clancy put military thrillers on the map; Turow did the same for legal thrillers; Robin Cook was the pioneer of medical thrillers; Crichton, the creator of speculative science thrillers; and Dan Brown, took religious, code breaking

thrillers to soaring heights. All incredibly innovative, creative writers, but what they did was set the stage for one author, who combines elements of many of these genres into groundbreaking, unparalleled masterpieces of fiction: **JAMES ROLLINS**.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Rollins doesn't try to rip his plots from breaking news—he often predicts it. While his works are all firmly grounded in the authenticity of human struggle, and based on dogged, meticulous research into cutting-edge science and unsolved historical mysteries, he takes you beyond the confines of current events and challenges readers to stretch the limits of their imagination, to embrace healthy skepticism about historical fact and speculate on where the future may be headed.

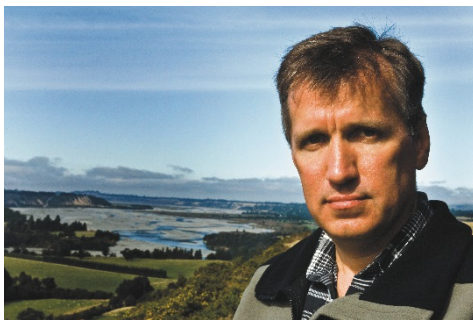
In the newest blockbuster thriller from *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author James Rollins, **THE DEMON CROWN**, a terrifying secret dating back to the Civil War is unearthed beneath the National Mall. It is a cache of bones preserved in amber and buried more than a century ago by a cabal of scientists to protect humankind. The scientists, led by Alexander Graham Bell, who helped found the Smithsonian Institution, were safeguarding a wonder like no other: the very secret of life after death. But this prize is linked to a horror from the ancient past, a horror that has remained dormant yet all too frighteningly alive in the marrow of those bones—and has now been freed again to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting world.

From a crystalline lab atop Mount Fuji to a verdant island off the Hawaiian Islands teeming with the “dark matter of life,” Sigma Force must unlock a deadly mystery that winds back eons, to the very origins of life on Earth. But with each discovery Sigma Force makes, the menace they hunt is spreading, changing, growing, adapting—surviving every attempt to stop it from reconquering a world it once ruled.

With time running out, Commander Grayson Pierce will be forced to make an impossible choice. To eradicate this ancient threat and save humankind's future he will have to team up with Sigma's greatest enemy—the newly resurrected Guild—even if it means sacrificing one of his own.

THE DEMON CROWN interlaces simultaneous plotlines that come together to exhume a threat that will decimate humankind. Sigma must travel to disparate locations around the globe to find the key to eliminating the menace. Rollins delivers an edge of your seat, breath in your throat, heart pounding new thriller that provides a fresh, provocative way of looking at the biggest peril to the future of the world.

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Author Bio: **JAMES ROLLINS** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of international thrillers, translated into more than forty languages. His Sigma series has been lauded as one of the “top crowd pleasers” (*New York Times*) and one of the “hottest summer reads” (*People Magazine*). In each novel, acclaimed for its originality, Rollins unveils unseen worlds, scientific breakthroughs, and historical secrets--and he does it all at breakneck speed and with stunning insight.

TALKING POINTS FOR THE DEMON CROWN:

THE TRUE KILLER OF THE DINOSAURS (hint: it wasn't a comet): We are not living in the Age of Man, but rather—as has been true for over 400 million years—we are living in the Age of Insects. In fact, it is now hypothesized that insects contributed—if not led—to the extinction of the dinosaurs. And this begs the question concerning the insects' latest competitors for the earth's dwindling natural resources: Could humans be their next target?

THE SECRET TO LIFE AFTER DEATH—LAZARUS MICROBES and TARDIGRADES: National Geographic recently featured an article about tardigrades titled “These 'Indestructible' Animals Would Survive a Planet-Wide Apocalypse.” Similarly, in the May 20, 2017, issue of *New Scientist*, an article entitled “Wakey, Wakey” by Colin Barras recounts the astounding ability of Lazarus microbes to survive for hundreds of millions of years in salt crystals, their lives suspended in “a twilight zone between life and death.” It's also been well documented that many species “borrow” advantageous code from others, especially following viral or bacterial infections. So, considering the advantages locked up in the DNA of Lazarus microbes and tardigrades, who can say if such miraculous traits aren't already being “borrowed” by some ambitious species?

JAMES SMITHSON, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL AND THE PRIMORDIAL THREAT: James Smithson is the British chemist and geologist who founded our nation's greatest institution of knowledge, the Smithsonian Institute. He was an esteemed member of the British Royal Society, and he traveled throughout Europe collecting a vast mineral collection that was bequeathed to the United States. While most of Smithson's collection was destroyed, a key piece was hidden and only Alexander Graham Bell could uncover the artifact that possesses a prehistoric power to destroy mankind.

COMING SOON!!

GHOST SHIP by James Rollins

(William Morrow Impulse, e-book, original short story, ISBN 13: 9780062847713, \$3.99, on sale 10/24/2017)

JAMES ROLLINS will appear in the following venues to promote

THE DEMON CROWN

Please check <http://jamesrollins.com/appearances/> for additional appearances

Tour Markets Include:

Phoenix, Houston, Dallas, Cleveland, Chicago, Fort Knox, Chicago, Denver,
Fort Collins, St. Louis, Minneapolis, San Diego and Sacramento

Monday, December 04, 2017 @ 7:00 PM MST
POISONED PEN
4014 N Goldwater, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Tuesday, December 05, 2017 @ 6:30 PM CST
MURDER BY THE BOOK
2342 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77005

Wednesday, December 06, 2017 @ 7:00 PM CST
BARNES & NOBLE
7700 W Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75225

Thursday, December 07, 2017 @ 7:00 PM EST
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
1876 South Green Road, South Euclid, OH 44121

Friday, December 08, 2017 @ 12:00 PM CST
WARREN NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
224 N O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL 60031

@ 6:00 PM CST
BARNES & NOBLE DEPAUL CENTER
1 E Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

Saturday, December 09, 2017 @ 1:00 PM EST
BARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT FORT KNOX
62 W Spearhead Division Av, Fort Knox, KY 40121

Sunday, December 10, 2017 @ 5:00 PM CST
VOLUMES BOOKCAFE w/ Jamie Freveletti
1474 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL 60622

Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 11:30 AM
The Standard Club
320 South Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604

Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 7:00 PM CST
ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOP
123 W. Jefferson Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 @ 3:00 PM CST
OLD TOWN LIBRARY W/ OLD FIREHOUSE BOOKS
201 Peterson ST, Fort Collins, CO 80524

@ 7:00 PM CST
TATTERED COVER BOOKSTORE
2526 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 @ 7:00 PM CST
ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY
1640 S Lindbergh Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63131

Thursday, December 14, 2017 @ 7:00 PM CST
BARNES & NOBLE, INC.
3225 W 69th Street, Edina, MN 55435

Monday, December 18, 2017 @ 7:00 PM PST
BARNES & NOBLE, INC.
1256 Galleria Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 @ 7:00 PM PST
MYSTERIOUS GALAXY
5943 Balboa Ave, San Diego, CA 92111

10 Questions with *James Rollins* **for THE DEMON CROWN**

(1) THE DEMON CROWN is the 13th Sigma Force novel. Can you tell us a little about the heroes of your stories?

Sigma Force is a team of former special forces soldiers who have been drummed out of the service for various reasons. But because of special aptitudes and abilities, they've been recruited in secret by DARPA—the Defense Department's research-and-development agency—and retrained in various scientific disciplines to act as field agents for DARPA. Their mission is to protect the globe against various emerging threats. Basically, they're scientists with guns.

(2) What threat does Sigma Force face in this newest thriller, THE DEMON CROWN?

To quote my editor: This book is Sigma's most frightening adventure to date. And I don't disagree. The novel starts when a group of scientists stumbles across an island off the coast of Brazil, where all life has been eradicated, consumed and possessed by a species beyond imagination. Before they can report their discovery, the scientists are attacked and killed. Save one, an entomologist, an expert on venomous creatures. This one event soon blows up into a global threat, when the same species is unleashed across the Hawaiian Islands. As people die by the hundreds, it appears the only way to halt the organism's spread is to nuke those islands. To prevent that from happening, Sigma Force must discover the terrifying origin of the species—and find a way to destroy it. But already the organism is changing, growing, spreading—adapting and surviving every attempt to stop it. So, yes, it is indeed a frightening story—especially so because how real this threat actually is. Even Homeland Security maintains the threat raised in this novel to be a top priority.

(3) What threat in THE DEMON CROWN could keep Homeland Security up at night?

Specifically, the threat posed by invasive species, those foreign invaders to our shores. We've already seen how the Everglades are being overrun by pythons that are wiping out our native bird populations. Then there are Asian carp in our lakes and rivers doing the same to native fish. And it's not just here in the States. Other examples of invasive species are plentiful and global. Most of these cases are from due to accidental contaminations. What worries Homeland Security is that some hostile power might weaponize such a species and use it as means of waging war. Especially as such a threat is nearly impossible to defend against. It's just such a frightening scenario that I explore in **THE DEMON CROWN**.

(4) Being the 13th novel in this exciting Sigma Force series, does a new reader have to have the earlier stories?

Not at all. I tailor each story so a new reader could jump into the series at any point. In fact, only a small fraction of my readership has read my series in order. So, anyone interested in this unique set of heroes and the troubles they face, **THE DEMON CROWN** is a perfect place to jump on in.

(5) After writing so many stories with Sigma Force, do you have trouble coming up with fresh ideas?

I actually have the opposite problem. I have so many thoughts and ideas for future books that I wish I could clone myself so I can get them out of my head. As to the origin for all those ideas, I always have my antennae up for three things: a piece of history that ends in a question mark, a tantalizing bit science that makes me wonder “what if?”, and finally some intriguing locale where those first two could collide. I collect all those tidbits on a daily basis, from newsfeeds, from magazines, or simply from asking someone “tell me something about this place that no one else knows about.” It’s the latter method that generates the best story ideas.

(6) Speaking of those scientific “what ifs?”: You love to include intriguing concepts in your books. What can readers expect to discover in your newest novel?

This novel serves as a cautionary reminder that we are not living in the Age of Man, but rather—as has been true for over 400 million years—we are living in the Age of Insects. In fact, it is now hypothesized that insects contributed—if not led—to the extinction of the dinosaurs. How? You’ll have to read the book for the shocking answer. But of course, this then begs the question concerning the insects’ latest competitors for the earth’s dwindling natural resources: Could we be their next target?

(7) You also fold fascinating bits of history into your stories. In this case, you deal with the mysteries surrounding the founding of the Smithsonian Institution in D.C. What made you choose to include this bit of history?

Mostly because so little is truly known about the man who founded the Smithsonian. James Smithson was a British chemist who never set foot in America, yet left his fortune to our young nation in order to establish this institution that would carry his name. He did so without warning or explanation. Then shortly after the founding of the Smithsonian, its first building—the Smithsonian Castle—was nearly destroyed by a fire during the Civil War. Most of Smithson’s books and journals, along with his vast mineral collection, were destroyed, all but erasing his heritage. Then even more intriguingly, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, defied the regents of the Smithsonian to sail to Europe. On New Year’s Eve in 1903, under the cover of a snowstorm, he stole the bones of James Smithson from a graveyard in Italy and returned them to the States, where those bones reside today in the Smithsonian Castle. To me, Alexander Graham Bell could’ve been a member of Sigma Force. Here we have a scientist and inventor who was not above a little skullduggery...in this case, literally. In fact, many true-to-life mysteries surrounding those stolen bones are critical to the story.

(8) A recurring theme in your novels seem to be the advancement of technology and how it affects us. What are your personal views on this advancement?

As a veterinarian myself, I’ve always loved science, medicine, and technology, especially anything that’s cutting edge and new. In my books, it’s not so much the cogs and wheels of that new bit of science that intrigues me as it is where that technology might be heading and how it might affect or lives—good or bad. The rapid advancement of such technologies often challenges the moral compasses of society and to have that mirrored by my characters during their adventures adds that touch of relevancy to a novel. In **THE DEMON CROWN**, the book tackles issues involving not only invasive species, but also climate change, and the newest revelation by scientists concerning what truly wiped out the dinosaurs. Shockingly, it’s not what anyone imagined—and that threat still exists today.

(9) How do you go about researching your books and how much time is spent on it?

I certainly do love to dig deep into the subject matters I write about. I love it so much I've learned over the years that I have to rein myself in a bit. I limit my main block of research on a novel to 90 days. On the 91st day, I have to begin writing. That all said, I'm also a bit of a lazy researcher. I prefer to interview people and pick their brains versus drily reading some history lesson or scientific treatise. Rather than having to earn a degree on a certain subject, I'd rather query people who have already earned those PhDs. Such a method often uncovers tantalizing details that I would've never found in a book, article, or Internet search. For *The Demon Crown*, I contacted scientists in various fields, but also the management team of a Polish salt mine—where, of course, much mayhem abounds in my novel.

(10) You are also active in your support of American veterans. Could you tell us a little bit about your efforts?

Sure. My support for veterans first came about after I participated in a USO tour of authors to Iraq and Kuwait in the winter of 2010. Upon coming home, I knew I wanted to do more. First, I worked with USA Cares, which raises emergency funds for vets in need, then most recently I joined US 4 Warriors as an advisory board member. The new charity started as a grassroots effort in San Diego and has since expanded nationwide. Besides helping to promote the social welfare of vets in a wide spectrum of activities, the latest endeavor also involves helping veterans tell their stories...and get published! So as a writer, I'm especially exciting as US 4 Warriors expands into this adventure.