

Explosive, Page-Turning Adventures: James Rollins Novels

James Rollins began his writing career in 1999 and has brought readers at least one book a year since his first thriller was published. His novels have been deemed perfect summer reads by reviewers in publications as diverse as *People*, *USA Today*, and *Publishers Weekly*.

The Bestselling Sigma Force Series

A division of DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), Sigma Force is a covert organization of highly skilled Special Forces operatives with expertise in two or more scientific fields. Each novel stands alone, yet all share a cast of recurring characters—and some unexpected appearances by characters from Jim's previous thrillers.

In *Sandstorm*, the search for a lost city buried beneath the Arabian desert brings together a former U.S. Navy SEAL, an international adventurer, and a researcher of antiquities who holds the key to this dangerous, intrigue-filled mystery. Lincoln Child noted that "Rollins is one of the most inventive storytellers writing today." *Sandstorm* was selected as one of the best Mystery/Thrillers of 2004 by *Readers Read*.

Map of Bones was named by *Publishers Weekly* as the successor to *The Da Vinci Code*. It reveals an ancient conspiracy to create a new world order out of the ashes of modern civilization. Gray Pierce, Monk Kokkalis and the Sigma team race to put an end to the threat once and for all. "This pulse-pounding thriller moves at Mach speed," writes *The Venetian Betrayal* author Steve Berry. "James Rollins is clearly at the top of his game."

In *Black Order*, Sigma Force learns that the nightmare of Nazi research did not end with World War II. Gray Pierce and the Sigma team race to expose a century-old plot that threatens to destroy the current world order and alter the destiny of humankind. This exhilarating and controversial novel was named one of the summer's "hottest reads" by *People*.

The Judas Strain is an ancient menace reborn to plague the modern world, and it is merely a harbinger of the doom that is to come. Unraveling its origins and searching for a cure, the Sigma team follows the trail of the most fabled explorer in history, Marco Polo. *The Judas Strain* never lets up its relentless, high-octane pace. "Rollins invests *The Judas Strain* with his characteristic command of detail, along with a creeping dread," writes the *Charleston Post and Courier*.

The last Oracle at Delphi died two thousand years ago. Or maybe she didn't. *The Last Oracle* combines historical and religious intrigue with edge-of-your-seat adventure as a fragmented Sigma team works at opposite ends of the world against a bioengineered threat that could bring about the extinction of humankind.

In *The Doomsday Key*, three bizarre murders—a Druidic cross burned into the flesh of each victim—thrust Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma Force into a race against time to solve the riddle of the ancient artifact known as the Doomsday Key. In a starred review, *Library Journal* says, “Rollins's prose explodes off the page in a twisty and compelling thriller...Swashbuckling adventure, elite team effort, and religious symbology all add up to another gripping and terrifying read....An amazing and brilliant technothriller.”

The Skeleton Key: A Short Story Exclusive rips Seichan out of the Sigma series for an adventure all her own—but can she survive? The beautiful and elusive assassin wakes in a hotel in Paris with a deadly electronic collar fastened to her throat. To survive, she must venture deep beneath the city of Paris to a dark necropolis. Caught between two enemies, she must fight for her life...while time ticks down toward a fiery apocalypse.

The Devil Colony dares to ask a frightening question: Could the founding of the United States be based on a lie? Painter Crowe and Gray Pierce join forces to penetrate a shadowy cabal that has been manipulating American history since the founding of the thirteen colonies. “Terrible secrets, the sweep of history, an epic canvas, breathless action...nobody—and I mean nobody—does this stuff better than Rollins,” says Lee Child, author of the *Jack Reacher* thrillers.

Tracker: A Short Story Exclusive introduces a new member of the Sigma Force team: Captain Tucker Wayne and his war dog, Kane. Off the streets of Budapest, the duo are drawn into a dark mystery tracing back to World War II and a lost treasure tied to the bones of the dead.

In the eighth Sigma Force thriller, *Bloodline*, Somali pirates kidnap a young pregnant American woman—the President’s daughter. Gray Pierce is enlisted to lead the rescue mission into the African jungle, but what should be a straightforward rescue turns into a fiery ambush and an act of betrayal. Gray and his team learn the hostage is a pawn in a dark conspiracy that goes back centuries, a scheme that lies within our genetic code. With time against them, Sigma Force must race to save an innocent unborn baby whose very existence raises questions about the nature of humanity, asking: *Could you live forever? Would you live forever?*

The Order of the Sanguines Series

In his first-ever collaboration, James Rollins joins forces with award-winning suspense novelist Rebecca Cantrell in *The Blood Gospel*, a gothic tale explosive in its revelation of a secret history. A trio of investigators—a military forensics expert, a Vatican priest, and an archaeologist—are thrust into a race to recover a tome holding the secrets to Christ’s divinity. But the enemy who hounds them is like no other, a force of ancient evil directed by a leader of impossible ambitions and incalculable cunning.

In *City of Screams: A Short Story Exclusive*, Sergeant Jordan Stone and his crack forensic team are called to investigate the horrific massacre of an archaeology team in

the war-torn ruins of Afghanistan. But the discovery of a survivor will shatter all the team knows about life and death.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

When thriller author Tess Gerritsen described *Amazonia* as a nonstop thrill-a-minute ride which was “just the book for Indiana Jones fans,” she predicted the future. Lucasfilm felt the logical choice to convert the fourth Indiana Jones blockbuster into novel form was James Rollins. Shortly after accepting the assignment, Jim found himself sequestered with David Koepp's fast-paced screenplay of the George Lucas/Jeff Nathanson original story, creating the book-length tale of everyone's favorite globe-trotting, treasure-hunting, wisecracking archaeologist.

Independent Adventure-Thrillers

Jim's first thriller, *Subterranean*, features a team of specialists embarking on an exploration toward the center of the earth. Here new discoveries uncover mysteries older than time and revelations that could change the world. Author John Saul wrote that *Subterranean* kept him “turning the pages well into the night.”

Excavation took readers out of *Subterranean*'s deep caves and up to the peaks of the Andes, only to plunge once again below the earth's surface to finish the arc of discovery begun centuries earlier. Seeking answers, the modern-day explorers find something wondrous—and terrifying—is seeking them. Douglas Preston called it “a compulsive read.”

With *Deep Fathom*, readers barely had enough time above the earth to catch their breaths before submerging below the sea on a desperate mission to save the world on the brink of a nuclear apocalypse.

Amazonia takes readers to yet another exotic landscape, this one the jungles of the Amazon, where a team of scientists and U.S. Army Rangers discover a reality that science can barely explain and an ancient, unspoken terror that can forever alter the world. Lincoln Child noted that “*Amazonia* grabs you by the throat from page one and refuses to let go until the very last page is turned. Rollins is one of the most inventive storytellers writing today.... Don't you dare miss this one!”

If *Amazonia* made readers sweat, Jim makes them shiver in *Ice Hunt*, set at the top of the world in an abandoned Soviet ice station full of classified secrets and experiments gone terribly wrong. As American researchers and soldiers face off with submarine-borne Russians determined to bury their chilling past, they are drawn into a horror none of them could ever imagine.

Adventures for Kids and Adults

Jim's first adventure for kids and adults, *Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow*,

was published in April 2009. As the novel opens, Jake receives a package in the mail. There is no return address and no sign where it came from. Inside are logbooks from his parents, both archaeologists, who disappeared three years earlier while on a dig in Mexico. Jake and his sister embark on a search that takes them across time and mysterious lands to discover the true fate of their parents.

In *Jake Ransom and the Howling Sphinx*, Jake and his sister battle the Skull King for a prize that will give its owner awesome power—a prize that's also a clue to the fate of Jake's parents. Filled with unexpected danger, challenging puzzles, and nonstop action, this sequel is a first-rate, fast-paced thrill ride.

Short Fiction

On request from editors, Jim has written works of short fiction for anthologies. His latest, "The Pit," appeared in *Warriors*, a cross-genre collection of short fiction edited by George R. R. Martin and Gardner Dozois. Side-by-side with pieces from top-name authors such as Diana Gabaldon, Tony Hillerman, and Neil Gaiman, Jim's heart-rending, gritty story features a complex, tragic, four-footed warrior fighting for survival and redemption in a world few people know or understand.

A James Rollins chapter appeared in the *7 Days* serialized novel in Glenn Beck's *Fusion Magazine*. Each issue features a different bestselling author writing a new chapter of the serial thriller. Glenn Beck's talk show is syndicated to more than 200 radio stations.

An earlier piece, "Kowalski's in Love," for James Patterson's anthology *Thriller (2006)*, featured a hard-boiled, indomitable seaman who reappears years—and books—later in the most unexpected place: *The Last Oracle*.