

ONE DAY LAYDOWN
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New York Times and *USA Today* bestselling author James Rollins asks,
“Was the United States of America Built on a Lie?”
in his newest edge-of-your-seat thriller

THE DEVIL COLONY

*“From the hidden Indian treasure, to the Fort Knox secrets, to the conspiracy at the beginning of the US, **THE DEVIL COLONY** gives you every reason why you’ll want to be a member of Sigma Force.” – Brad Meltzer*

“Terrible secrets, the sweep of history, an epic canvas, breathless action ... nobody - and I mean nobody - does this stuff better than Rollins.” – Lee Child

In his most controversial and eye-opening book to date, bestseller James Rollins delves in to the secrets and lies surrounding the founding of the United States of America. In **THE DEVIL COLONY** (William Morrow, ISBN 9780061784781, \$27.99, on sale June 21, 2011) SIGMA Force—the scientists and ex-special forces soldiers that form an elite unit funded by the Department of Defense’s DARPA division—becomes embroiled in a centuries-old puzzle, one coded in the nation’s most important founding documents.

Deep in the Rocky Mountains two Native American teenagers, using a map stolen from an elder, hunt for a cave that legend says is protected by the Great Spirit. Upon finding the location they make a gruesome discovery—hundreds of mummified bodies—all posed in what looks like a mass

suicide. But before the two can leave, one of the boys is murdered—by his grandfather—an elder Indian who then commits suicide. Legend says that whoever trespasses into the Great Spirit's cave is never allowed to leave or the world will come to an end. But the remaining boy escapes and unwittingly unlocks a curse that has been brewing underground for centuries.

The National Guard is quickly called in as the site stirs international attention and fervent controversy. Despite doubts as to the bodies' origins, the local Native American Heritage Commission lays claim to the prehistoric remains, along with the strange artifacts found in the same cavern: gold plates inscribed with an unfathomable script. But all is lost when, during a riot at the dig site, an explosion kills an anthropologist and buries the cave, all in plain view of television cameras. Video evidence points to a teenage firebrand who is part of a radical group of Native Americans. She escapes with a vital clue to the explosion and calls on the one person who might help: her uncle, Painter Crowe, director of SIGMA Force.

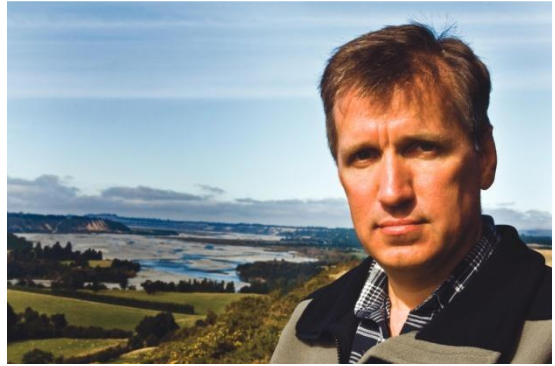
To protect his niece and uncover the truth, Painter ignites a war among the nation's most powerful intelligence agencies and doing so awakens a group more powerful than even he could ever imagine. Yet, an even greater threat looms as events in the Rocky Mountains have set in motion a frightening chain reaction, a global geological meltdown.

From the volcanic peaks of Iceland to the blistering deserts of the American Southwest, from the gold vaults of Fort Knox to the bubbling geysers of Yellowstone, Painter Crowe joins forces with Commander Gray Pierce to penetrate the shadowy heart of a dark faction, one that has been manipulating American history since the founding of the thirteen colonies.

THE DEVIL COLONY delves into questions about the truth hidden within the pages of the Book of Mormon, about a conspiracy of lies tied to this country's most important founding documents and how the truth of those lies was secretly locked into the Great Seal of the United States by founding fathers Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. **THE DEVIL COLONY** is not only a thrill-a-minute read, it is an essential one for any person living in America today.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: JAMES ROLLINS

James Rollins is the bestselling author of six Sigma Force thrillers (*Sandstorm*, *Map of Bones*, *Black Order*, *The Judas Strain*, *The Last Oracle* and *The Doomsday Key*), the novelization of Lucasfilm's blockbuster movie, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, and five individual adventure thrillers. His novels have been deemed perfect "summer reads" by reviewers in publications as diverse as *People magazine*, *USA Today*, and *Publisher's Weekly*.



Known for building high-octane adventures on a solid science foundation, Rollins juxtaposes the familiar with the exotic and then turbo-charges his tales with suspense. Always mindful of history's legacy, Rollins reveals how secrets, some hidden for centuries, can change the course of human events. His novels explore how advancing technology can affect society - not just the physical threats of unchecked advancements, but also the spiritual and moral challenges. "The true terror of technology is not the cogs and the wheels, but how it will change us," he explains.

The exotic locales of James Rollins' novels have emerged as a hybrid between imagination, research, and his extensive travels throughout the United States and Europe, as well as New Zealand, the South Pacific, China, Southeast Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America. In recent years, much of Rollins' travel has involved meeting readers in small and large groups, at writing and fan conferences, and even aboard seagoing "seminars."

James Rollins decided to become a writer as a boy immersed in the scientific adventures of Doc Savage, the wonders of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, and pulps featuring *The Shadow*, *The Spider*, and *The Avenger*. He honed his storytelling skills early, spinning elaborate tales that often were at heart of pranks played on his brothers and sisters.

Yet although his talent emerged and grew, writing was not Jim's original profession. Before he would set heroes and villains on harrowing adventures, he embarked on a career in veterinary medicine, graduating from the University of Missouri and establishing a successful veterinary clinic in Sacramento, California, where he still volunteers today. This hands-on knowledge of medicine and science helps shape the research and scientific speculation that set James Rollins books apart.

In 2005, Rollins joined with other luminaries in the genre to create International Thriller Writers, Inc., to recognize and promote the thriller genre, provide opportunities for mentoring, education, and collegiality among authors and industry professionals, and to grant awards for excellence in the genre. This past fall Jim and four other bestselling thriller writers took part in the USO's first authors' tour to a region of conflict—OPERATION THRILLER.

When Jim is not writing, touring or teaching seminars, he can be found spelunking, scuba diving, hiking, and traveling. Jim and his two- and four-legged family members live amid chew toys and paleontological treasures in Northern California.

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THE DEVIL COLONY

James Rollins on the Truth behind the Tale

THE DEVIL COLONY explores the surreptitious link between the Book of Mormon, the lost tribes of Israel and Native Americans and how those three groups tie to the founding of America. What was the starting point of this high-concept plot?

It started with an argument. I have several friends who are Mormons, and at a dinner, I overheard a heated discussion among them about a controversial and contested section of the Book of Mormon: specifically that the Native Americans are said to be descendants from one of the ten lost tribes of Israel. While on face value this seems like a wild claim, and genetics certainly seems to dismiss this possibility, I was intrigued—and it started a yearlong investigation into Native American history, Jewish lore, and the early founding of America. To my total surprise, gathering information from disparate sources, pieces began to fall together in a most startling fashion. Why hadn't anyone put these pieces together before? Not only were these resources valid and the facts gathered backed by solid research, but they came together so perfectly that the picture that finally came to light had to be true—astoundingly and disturbingly true. It alters all we understand about American history. I knew I had to tell this story.

You have said that many of the details in THE DEVIL COLONY are true and that anyone could have made these discoveries, but you are the first who has uncovered these hidden truths about the founding of America. What was the most eye-opening piece of research that you came across that allowed you to pull these amazing facts together?

I don't want to give too much away, but I will reveal one. Everyone has seen the Great Seal of America: an eagle with outstretched wings, holding an olive branch in one talon and a bundle of thirteen arrows in the other. But what do those two symbols mean: the olive branch and the arrows? War and peace? No. The true answer is startling and seldom mentioned. The symbol of the arrows traces back to a figure many historians believe to be a lost Founding Father, one hidden from history but memorialized in the Great Seal of America by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin.

Who is this lost Founding Father?

It is an Iroquois chief named Canasatego. He was a leader of the Onondaga nation, one of six Indian nations that eventually joined together to form the Iroquois Confederacy. Chief Canasatego met with the early colonists in 1744, including Benjamin Franklin, encouraging them to join together for the common good. At that gathering, Canasatego approached Franklin and gave him a gift: *a single feathered arrow*. When Franklin expressed confusion, Canasatego took back the arrow and broke it across his knee and let the pieces drop to the floor. Next he presented Franklin with a sheaf of *thirteen* arrows tied together. Canasatego attempted to break that bundle across his knee like before, but joined as one, they would not break. He presented that bundle to Franklin, the message plain to all. To survive and be strong, the thirteen colonies needed to join together, only then would the new nation be unbreakable. The eagle in the Great Seal holds that same bundle of thirteen arrows in his claw as a permanent—if somewhat secret—honor to the wise words of Chief Canasatego. And that's only the barest hint of the secret history revealed in *The Devil Colony*.

Speaking of Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson—while he never appears in this story—plays a significant role. Why Thomas Jefferson? What intrigues you about him?

Everyone knows Thomas Jefferson as the architect of the Declaration of Independence. Volumes have been written about the man over the past two centuries, but of all the founding fathers of America, he remains to this day wrapped in mystery and contradictions. He was both politician and scientist.

For instance, it was only in 2007 that a coded letter, buried in his papers, was finally cracked and deciphered. It was sent to Jefferson in 1801 by a colleague who shared a passion for secret codes. Jefferson was fascinated to the point of fixation on Native American culture and history. At his home in Monticello, he put together a collection of tribal artifacts that was said to rival museums of the day (a collection that mysteriously disappeared after his death). Many of these Indian relics were sent to him by Lewis and Clark during their famed expedition across America. But what many don't know is that Jefferson sent a secret message to Congress in 1803 concerning Lewis and Clark's expedition. It revealed the true hidden purpose behind the journey across the West.

In *The Devil Colony*, you'll learn that purpose—and so much more about the founding of America. And it has nothing to do with freemasons, Knights Templar, or crackpot theories. The truth is as illuminating as it is disturbing.

What in your SIGMA Force novels do you think has the deepest resonance with readers: the cutting edge scientific details, the breakneck adventure, or the threads of modern and ancient faith and/or spiritual beliefs woven throughout?

I hope all three. History raises many unanswered mysteries, questions into where we came from, who we are as a people. Science offers a peek at who we will become, where mankind will move next, and the dangers inherent in that venture. I love to merge the two together in a great adventure, to take readers on a journey that's as much inward as it is a wild and exciting thrill ride. A reviewer once wrote that I "don't write novels, so much as build roller coasters." I certainly hope that's true.

There are some pretty fantastic settings in THE DEVIL COLONY, all pretty much right here in the good ol' US of A. Was it nice to be able to set a book mainly in America? Were you able to visit the stunning locations in the book, such as the Arizona desert and the Rocky Mountains?

I had a great fun researching this novel set in my own backyard (so to speak). For the past decade, I've been fielding questions from readers about setting a Sigma novel within the United States. But I knew it had to be the perfect story, a novel thrilling enough to justify coming home. I've been searching for that story for about five years, and when I finally discovered it, the book still took me a full two years to write. It's one of the biggest and most shocking of my novels. It took me trekking across the country and back, from Washington, D.C. and Fort Knox out east, to Salt Lake City and Yellowstone National Park out west. I interviewed Mormon scholars, read scientific and historical abstract, and studied ancient petroglyphs. It is a story never told—but one that needs to be finally revealed after two hundred years of secrets.

Your books often include high-concept scientific theory. While not wanting to spill any secrets about the plot of THE DEVIL COLONY, what are some of the breaking-news scientific concepts laced through the pages of this book?

The science in this novel addresses the next big leap in scientific research and industry. It can be summarized in one word: Nanotechnology. In a nutshell, it means manufacturing at the atomic level, at a level of one billionth of a meter. The nanotech industry is exploding. It is estimated that this year alone \$70 billion worth of nanotech products will be sold in the U.S. alone: toothpaste, sunscreen, cake icing, teething rings, running socks, cosmetics, and medicines.

What's the downside of such a growth industry? These nanoparticles can cause illness, even death. UCLA scientists have found that nano-titanium oxide (found in children's sunscreens) can trigger damage to animals at the genetic level. Carbon nanotubes (found in thousands of everyday products) have been shown to accumulate in lungs and brains of rats. Also weird and unexpected things happen at this small level. Take aluminum foil. It's harmless enough and convenient for wrapping up leftovers, but break it down into nanoparticles, and it becomes explosive.

It's a new and wild frontier. There is presently no requirement for the labeling of nano-goods, no required safety studies of products containing nanoparticles. But there's an even darker side to this industry. This technology has a history that goes back further than the twentieth century—much further. *The Devil Colony* explores those dark roots of this "new" science.

In THE DEVIL COLONY you have created one of your most complex and depraved villains to date. He has a unique disease that almost makes him a scientific exploration himself. Where did his character stem from?

Rafael Saint Germaine came about because this story centers on old family secrets—and by *old*, I mean a family that can trace its roots to the Middle Ages. And in such aristocratic families—whose lineages are tightly bred—it is not uncommon to see genetic abnormalities crop up among their offspring: hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and other congenital and birth defects. Rafael suffers from *osteogenesis imperfecta*, also known as brittle bone disease, which is a defect in collagen production, leaving him thin-boned and prone to fractures. I wanted a character who compensates for his physical weakness by honing a sharp and cunning mind, one who can match wits with the best of the book's heroes. In the end, he is one of the most challenging villains of any of my books.

THE DEVIL COLONY is filled with information about the Book of Mormon; how did you research this topic and what drew you to this sometimes mysterious religion?

I've always been fascinated with those moments in time where religion and history merge, where mankind's path makes sudden turns. Being raised Roman Catholic, I was not that familiar with Mormonism, but a part of me always wanted to learn more. When I heard that dinnertime argument among a few of my Mormon friends, I knew this was a chance to educate myself and to begin an investigation that would lead me to such startling conclusions. I interviewed both devote Mormon and those who had abandoned the faith. I read articles by Mormon apologists and non-Mormon historians and geneticists. It's been a fascinating journey—and I believe that what I learned will shock many readers.

As a reader, it's a huge treat to re-connect with the Sigma Force team, all of whom are such beloved characters. As an author, is it a similar experience for you to write about them? Do you feel like you're visiting with dear friends?

Definitely. I've been living and breathing these characters for going on a decade. We've seen them grow, have children, face the challenge of balancing work with family, and deal with losses. While the Sigma team is chocked full of talented and dedicated people, they are still *people* with real-life challenges alongside the world-spanning adventures. In this book especially, those two worlds collide in a harrowing manner for one of my characters. To me, that's what makes these characters feel so alive in my heart. They are not a static team who run into adventure after adventure. Instead, they change, they mature, they get life-altering injuries—and yes, they also die. It's that fragility, that mortality, that breathes life into a character.

I understand you got back recently from the Persian Gulf as part of a USO tour.

I did. It was a great honor to be invited to participate in Operation Thriller. I got a chance to visit and thank the wounded warriors at Bethesda and Walter Reed military hospitals—then flew off to Kuwait and Iraq to visit bases throughout the Persian Gulf. I was able to experience a sliver of life out there: from wearing thirty-pound flak jackets while boarding C-130 transport planes to sharing stories with fire-fighting crews, explosive ordnance disposal units, and the teams that control unpiloted drones. And so much more. It was a life-altering experience, one I will cherish always.

What's next for James Rollins?

I've got a few surprises coming up. I've just finished a short novella, titled *The Skeleton Key*, that tells a story centered on an assassin who has appeared in several of my novels. This short story is an ebook exclusive, and it dovetails perfectly into *The Devil Colony*. I'm also currently working on the *third* book in my middle-school series, featuring boy-explorer, Jake Ransom, and of course, the next Sigma novel, which picks up right after this novel's shocking ending. And if that's not enough, I'm also finishing up a brand-new project, titled *The Blood Gospel*. So there is much more mayhem to come!