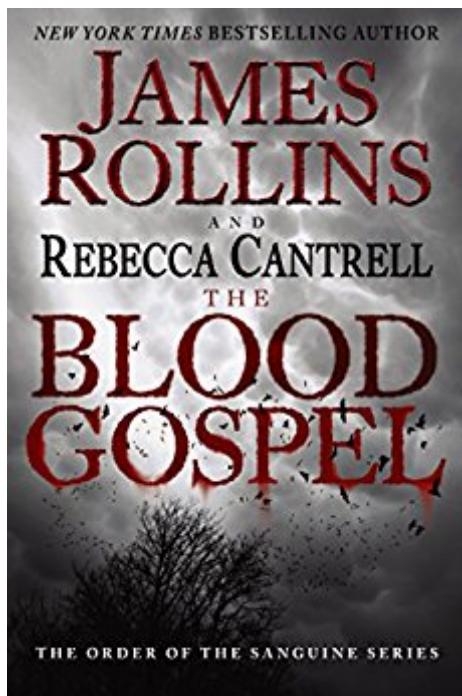


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The Blood Gospel: The Order Of The Sanguines Series



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling authors James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell combine their talents in a gothic tale about an ancient order and the hunt for a miraculous book known only as . . . The Blood Gospel. An earthquake in Masada, Israel, kills hundreds and reveals a tomb buried in the heart of the mountain. A trio of investigators--Sergeant Jordan Stone, a military forensic expert; Father Rhun Korza, a Vatican priest; and Dr. Erin Granger, a brilliant but disillusioned archaeologist--are sent to explore the macabre discovery, a subterranean temple holding the crucified body of a mummified girl. But a brutal attack at the site sets the three on the run, thrusting them into a race to recover what was once preserved in the tomb's sarcophagus: a book rumored to have been written by Christ's own hand, a tome that is said to hold the secrets to His divinity. The enemy who hounds them is like no other, a force of ancient evil directed by a leader of impossible ambitions and incalculable cunning. From crumbling tombs to splendorous churches, Erin and her two companions must confront a past that traces back thousands of years, to a time when ungodly beasts hunted the dark spaces of the world, to a moment in history when Christ made a miraculous offer, a pact of salvation for those who were damned for eternity. Here is a novel that is explosive in its revelation of a secret history. Why do Catholic priests wear pectoral crosses? Why are they sworn to celibacy? Why do the monks hide their countenances under hoods? And why does Catholicism insist that the consecration of wine during Mass results in its transformation to Christ's own blood? The answers to all go back to a secret sect within the Vatican, one whispered as rumor but whose very existence was painted for all to see by Rembrandt himself, a shadowy order known simply as the Sanguines. In the end, be warned: some books should never be found, never opened--until now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book. I have ended up reading both books in this series, as well as one of the two short stories associated with it- the other one is next on my list! It took me just a bit to get into this book, as it keeps introducing mystery story aspects that I couldn't quite figure out how they were going to relate to the story, but a few chapters in, it became very clear that it WAS all going to fit together to make one heck of a story. The characters slowly develop through both this book, and the next, right along with the story. It's as much archaeological thriller as it is a vampire story, or secret religious organization story, and since I enjoy all those storylines, I guess I couldn't help but fall in love with this fantasy world in which Christianity is more than we ever thought. It's not blasphemous at all, not in my opinion. Though it plays a bit with the New Testament, Christ is even more a savior than ever. The books and short stories are:----Short Story - City of Screams (Introduces Sergeant Jordon Stone, a main character in both books, and his military team)1 The Blood Gospel----Short Story - Blood Brothers (Introduces a new character that is in book 2, Christian)2. Innocent Blood I found the world of the Blood Gospel a bit addicting. It had good resolution, but I wanted to go back to the secret world so much that I could not hardly wait to start the second book.

Wow! This book totally blew me away! I've always been a James Rollins fan, since the day I discovered him (ie needed a book for a LONG cross-country drive in a moving van, randomly picked up Map of Bones paperback off the shelf at Target and BAM! LOVE!). He's got great characters, stories spanning centuries and continents, and the fate of the world in the hands of a small group of heroes. I think my favorite part about this book is that James Rollins really stepped out of his "norm" for his adults books. It's not fantasy, like he writes under his other pen name James Clemens, and it's not historical-adventure-techno-secret agent-thriller like his Sigma series and standalones. It's so much more than that. It's like the genius of those with a whole new supernatural element mixed

in. For his first ever written collaboration, it seems like a partnership made in Heaven. Rebecca Cantrell and Rollins' writings mesh so well together, you'd never recognize that this was book was written by two authors. The story is masterful -- a "save the world" epic, driven by prophecy, religion, and honor. The characters are likeable, believable, and relatable -- even those who are more than human. Cantrell and Rollins have created a fantastical new world of adventure and populated it with a wide array of new heroes and villains -- and it will suck you in and leave you breathless as you jump from continent to continent. You'll not want to put this book down until you get to the last page. And when you do get to the last page, REJOICE! It's going to be a SERIES! :)

I'm fairly new to James Rollins having only read one other book by him, but *Blood Gospel* is a page turner. The collaboration between Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell was seamless. I tried to figure out who was writing when, but I couldn't tell. Just one rip-roaring-science-meets-mythology suspenseful novel. The story starts off with a bang. A group of men imprison a young girl in a cave thousands of years ago, and we don't learn the answer to why, until well into the book. It's a great set up and Rollins/Cantrell use it well as their story hums along at a fast pace. Most everyone knows the story of the mass suicide of Jews during the Roman siege of Masada, and Rollins/Cantrell use it well to give their story firm direction. This is the story of Dr. Erin Granger, an archeologist working on a dig in Caesarea, Israel. An earthquake at Masada brings her, an Army Ranger, and a strange priest to a cave that the earthquake has opened. From there the intrigue sets in and never lets up until the last page of the novel. Who were the men who buried the young girl in the cave so many years ago? Are vampires real and where did they get their start? *Blood Gospel* answers these questions in a surprising, and seemingly logical way. I do confess that I Googled one of the characters to see the true history of this woman and was surprised to see how the authors weaved her real life story into the novel creating a plausible explanation for one of the most notorious women in our history. This is the *Twilight* Saga for grownups. There's a love story, mild, and very sensual adult content, lots of mythology, and two very different hunks competing for Erin Granger's affections. I love how Granger holds her own with the boys, using her brain as well as sheer guts. I fell in love with both the soldier and the priest, and so does Erin, though they are opposite sorts of men. This novel screams out for a sequel so we can see what happens to all of the characters now that they've opened a Pandora's box of trouble. I will be looking forward to reading more of these intriguing characters.

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