

## APENDICES

### A. BIOGRAPHY OF JAMES ROLLINS



James Rollins is the first 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.

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. Recent jaunts include book tours and stops across the country and several European nations to give talks, seminars, and media interviews.

In recent years, much of James' travel has involved meeting readers in small and large groups, at writing and fan conferences, and even aboard seagoing "seminars." James' mentoring and coaching skills have made him a sought after writing instructor and guest speaker for workshops, symposia, conventions, and other forums throughout the country.

His first novel, *Witch Fire* (1999), under the pen name James Clemens, through Terry Brooks' publisher. Brooks had been one of the judges for a writing contest at the Maui Writers' Conference in Maui, Hawaii, in which James had entered a manuscript he had recently completed. His action-adventure novels are *Subterranean* (1999), *Excavation* (2000), *Deep Fathom* (2001), *Amazonia* (2002), *Ice Hunt* (2003), *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (2008), *Altar of Eden* (2009), and SIGMA Force Series. He is the author of ten thrillers in the bestselling Sigma Force series: *Sandstorm* (2004), *Map of Bones* (2005), *Black Order* (2006), *The Judas Strain* (2007), *The Last Oracle* (2008), *The Doomsday Key* (2009), *The Devil Colony* (2011), *The Skeleton* (2011), *Tracker* (2012), *Bloodline* (2012), *The Eye of God* (2013), *The 6th Extinction* (2014), and *The Midnight Watch* (2015); six individual adventure thrillers; two middle grade adventures in the Jake Ransom series: *Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow* and *Jake Ransom and the Howling Sphinx*; co-authored work with Grant Blackwood in two bestselling Tucker Wayne series adventures: *The Kill Switch* and *Wark Hawk*; co-authored work with Rebecca Cantrell in the bestselling Sanguines series: *City of Scream* (2012), *The Blood*

Gospel (2013), Blood Brothers (2013), Innocent Blood (2013), and Blood Infernal (2015).

James Rollins is a pen name of James Paul Czajkowski. He was born on August 20, 1961 in Chicago. He has three brothers and three sisters. He is an American veterinarian, he was raised in the Midwest and rural Canada. He graduated with a doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Missouri and went on to establish his own veterinary practice in Sacramento, California. An amateur spelunker and a PADI-certified scuba enthusiast, he'll often be found either underground or underwater and he is writer of action-adventure/thriller, mystery, and techno-thriller novels who gave up his veterinary practice in Sacramento, California to be a full-time author. Rollins' experiences and expertise as an amateur spelunker and a certified scuba diver have provided content for some of his novels, which are often set in underground or underwater locations. Under the pen name James Clemens, he has also published fantasy novels, such as Wit'ch Fire, Wit'ch Storm, Wit'ch War, Wit'ch Gate, Wit'ch Star, Shadowfall (2005) and Hinterland (2006).

His father worked for Libby's canning plant, his mother was a housewife and mother of seven, and he lived what he likened to a *Brady Bunch* lifestyle. He attended Parkway South Junior High School and then graduated from Parkway West Senior High School in Ballwin, Missouri, in 1979. His undergraduate work focused on evolutionary biology. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia in

1985 with a doctorate in veterinary medicine (D. V. M). Soon afterward, he moved to Sacramento, California, where he established his veterinary practice, licensed July 24, 1985.

He also the founder of Authors United, a group of bestselling authors dedicated to raising funds and awareness for USA Cares. This nonprofit organization seeks to help soldiers and their families through job placement, housing assistance, and emergency aid. Their mission is simple: restore financial stability and self-sufficiency, while instilling a renewed sense of hope among the brave men and women who have put their lives on the line for our freedom.

## **SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL**

Following the fall of Baghdad, two Iraqi boys stumble upon armed men looting the city zoo. The floodgates have been opened for the smuggling of hundreds of exotic birds, mammals, and reptiles to Western nations, but this crime hides a deeper secret. Amid a hail of bullets, an underground secret weapons lab is ransacked—and something even more horrific is set free.

Seven years later, Louisiana state veterinarian Lorna Polk stumbles upon a fishing trawler shipwrecked on a barrier island. The crew is missing or dead, but the boat holds a frightening cargo: a caged group of exotic animals, clearly part of a black market smuggling ring.

Yet, something is wrong with these beasts, disturbing deformities that make no sense: a parrot with no feathers, a pair of Capuchin monkeys conjoined at the hip, a jaguar cub with the dentition of a saber-tooth tiger. They also all share one uncanny trait—a disturbingly heightened intelligence.

To uncover the truth about the origin of this strange cargo and the terrorist threat it poses, Lorna must team up with a man who shares a dark and bloody past with her, now an agent of the U.S. Border Patrol, Jack Menard.

Together, the two must hunt for a beast that escaped the shipwreck while uncovering a mystery tied to fractal science and genetic engineering, all to expose a horrifying secret that traces back to mankind's earliest roots.

On the other hand, much of the book is filled with endless gun battles and sieges fought by a host of rather stereotypical characters on both sides (especially the Cajun bunch featured so prominently in the story).