



The Genesis Secret

Tom Knox

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A gripping high-concept thriller for fans of Dan Brown and Sam Bourne.

In the sunburnt deserts of eastern Turkey, archaeologists are unearthing a stone temple, the world's most ancient building. When Journalist Rob Luttrell is sent to report on the dig, he is intrigued to learn that someone deliberately buried the site 10,000 years ago. Why?

Meanwhile, in London, a bizarre attack is baffling the police. When a weird killing takes place on the Isle of Man, followed by another in rural Dorset, DC Mark Forrester begins to discern a curious pattern in these apparently random murders.

What weaves together these two stories is the Genesis Secret: a revelation so shocking it may threaten the social structure of the world. Only one man knows the secret, and he is intent on destroying the evidence before it can be uncovered.

Spanning the globe from the ruined castles of Ireland to the desolate wastes of Kurdistan, Tom Knox's intense and compelling thriller weaves together genuine historical evidence, scientific insights and Biblical mysteries into an electrifying tale that grips the reader mercilessly from beginning to end.

The Genesis Secret Details

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Author : Tom Knox

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From Reader Review The Genesis Secret for online ebook

K. says

Plot summary: Archaeologists in Turkey have just discovered a stone temple dating to 10,000BCE. But there is evidence that the temple was deliberately buried ten thousand years ago. Journalist Rob Luttrell is sent to report on the excavation, and gradually uncovers a shocking secret and a string of gruesome murders.

Thoughts: UGH. This book just never ended. It took a REALLY long time to get to the point. Prior to that, it was just a bunch of loose threads with very little sense of cohesion. Some of the sentence structure was really odd, especially in regards to punctuation. I'm sure it was all grammatically correct, it just didn't flow very well. Example: "As he sluiced the sleep from his face and hair, he thought about Christine: how it had happened. Them; the two of them; him and her." I mean, I love a semi-colon as much as the next girl, but really???

My main problem was the level of detail in regards to the murders, which generally (view spoiler). I'm sorry, but I don't want to read about how if you flay someone's skin off a bit at a time, you can keep them alive for hours. Or hear about all the straggly tendons and veins and stuff hanging out of the bottom of a severed head. Also, if dead babies make you sad, you should definitely steer clear of this book. There's a LOT of stuff about child sacrifice, as well as ancient jars filled with gloopy dead babies.

Other problems I had with it?

- Christine flashes her archaeology credentials to get something on a plane. Uh, I have an archaeology degree and worked on a bunch of digs. There's no such thing as archaeology credentials, short of hauling your degree around with you.
- Lizzie, Rob's 5 year old daughter, alternates between seeming like a toddler and seeming like a much older child. Also, she's kidnapped, witnesses several deaths (including one where the person's intestines are taken out and boiled in front of them), and is nearly killed by a psychotic madman, and yet in the end? "She seems to have, basically, forgotten it all. A little frightened of the dark. Think that was the hood."
- It's kind of obvious from the get go that a relationship is going to develop between Rob and Christine. But it goes from them being friends in one chapter to ten days later and they're sleeping together in the next, which was a) confusing, because the "ten days later" part came in at the bottom of the page, and b) stilted. There was no demonstrated change to the relationship or character development. It was just *BAM* they're sleeping together now.

So yeah. No. If you want an action adventure story with some kind of archaeology element, go read James Rollins or Will Adams or David Gibbins or Matthew Reilly instead.

Karen says

There are two stories going on at the same time and will end up intertwining as the plot thickens. Rob Luttrell, British reporter survived a suicide bomber's attack in Iraq. Still recovering from the horrific ordeal, his editor gives him a safe assignment or so he thought. He is to interview Franz Breitner, a German archeologist at the dig in the Kurdish sector of Turkey. Gobekli Tepe may be the oldest structure ever found, dating back twelve thousands years. Rob finds that the locals are less than please over this discovery and have gone to great lengths to curse Franz and his work. Rob becomes romantically involved with Christine

Meyer, the anthropologist at the site. When Franz is killed in a freak accident, Rob and Christine investigate to find out why someone would want him dead. What they unearth is shocking. Could Gobekli Tepe be the Garden of Eden and if so why had it been deliberately buried? Rob doesn't have all the answers, but he sends his editor the article, not realizing his written words would put his young daughter and Christine in danger. In the British Isles, there have been a series of brutal murders at sites linked with the Hellfire Club. This club was an elite social society known for its decadence and debauchery. The killers are upper-class college students with a psychopathic leader who stays one step ahead of the authorities. The leader wants something that the Yezidi (one of the ancient cult of religions known as the Cult of Angels) have kept secret. He believes this item was given to a member of the Hellfire Club centuries before and he believes Rob knows where it is.

The storyline is fast-paced and will keep you turning the pages to find out what will happen next. The history about Gobekli Tepe, Canaanites, the Yezidi and the Hellfire Club are cleverly woven into this macabre and sinister tale. Just to be warned, the torture practices of ancient societies that these killers used are described in horrifying detail.

For those who love a good thriller and enjoyed books such as Angels and Demons by Dan Brown would also enjoy this book as well. If you're interested knowing more about the historical facts in The Genesis Secret, the author has pictures and descriptions of these places on his website. Quite interesting.

<http://www.thegenesissecret.com/about...>

Reviewed for PNR Paranormal Reviews

Sarah says

If you're looking for a book about a guy who agonizes over leaving his family as he trips about the world getting into trouble and picking up minor clues, friends, and a hot woman at archeological digs, punctuated by unbelievably squicky torture-murder scenes and interference from the usual protector/authorities, revealing essentially nothing until an Agatha Christie/Dan Brown-like 10-page monologue in the next to the last chapter explaining the entire mystery with some incredibly wild leaps in logic surrounding very key points, with no hope of ever proving it since most of the evidence has been destroyed, and ending with a happy-ending coda (minus those poor tortured souls) that, considering the narrator has just blown the entire world's belief systems apart at the seams and supplanted them with a morbid inevitability regarding our leadership, seems disingenuous at best, then, great, you will love The Genesis Secret. I would have given it 1 star, but I gave it an extra star for creative murders.

* WHY is it obvious that because of the skulls/history, the Yezedi worship a peacock? Why would they worship anything, since only they know the truth?

* The significance of the jarred sacrifices in the desert is not really revealed.

* It is highly unlikely that people would just allow all the evidence to wash away and not send divers after it. I mean, really. We are all to suffer in ignorance now because of the superstitious beliefs of the Yezedi?

* All these genius archeologists couldn't put the picture together, but a journalist could?

* If she's such a great archeologist, why on earth wouldn't she have documented the dig SOMEHOW and also not just cracked open a very ancient jar, already knowing what was in there? And really, the stuff was just, what, a foot down? And they just happened to randomly find the right spot in a mile area with no other equipment?

* So, if only we had resisted breeding with the superhumans, we would all be living in harmony with slightly dim but peaceful leaders?

And the best part of all:

Only a man would write a book in which the male protagonist sends his gorgeous and brilliant blonde French girlfriend home to meet his ex-wife alone and have the ex-wife love her instantaneously, trust her with her only child, and then not go on a murderous rampage when the girlfriend escapes alive while the child remains in danger, which she was in, thanks to the girlfriend. HAHHAHAHA. Right.

Christine says

Wow - I feel positively drained from reading this book - mostly in a good way. It was a great page-turner in which a British reporter's trip to research and write about an ancient archeological site in Kurdish Turkey gets complicated, at the same time a Scotland Yard detective tries to solve a series of brutal ritual killings occurring in the British Isles. The two stories eventually intertwine into one story. Be warned - this is not for the faint of heart. I was a bit skeptical about this book after reading the huge number of bad reviews on goodreads and amazon. In the end, I think it delivered a solid, interesting, thought-provoking story with definite hints of DaVinci Code and Katherine Neville's The Eight. I've read quite a lot in the forensic/murder mystery genre and this has the most difficult-to-read violence I've ever encountered. But for all those who thought it was terrible simply because of the very graphic violence, you completely missed the point. The violence is recreating historically accurate methods of human sacrifice from ancient cultures all over the world. Yes, it's disturbing, but it happened - and this is part of the whole crux of the story's conclusion.

Joyreader says

Terrible!!!! Can I please, please, please have those hours back?

The only reason I finished this book was remembering what Stephen King said in his book, On Writing, that you can learn more about writing from bad books than good books sometimes and I wanted to be able to think about why it was so bad. And it was baaaaaaaaaaaaad.

Really wish I hadn't finished it because it was gruesome, grisly, and gratuitously horrifying!

Things that went wrong:

- 1) Neutral to unlikable main character. Seems like an idiot. Doesn't put his family first. Has little personality. He's a generic journalist. Yawn-fest.
- 2) Sagging middle of the book. Got boring and had to push through.
- 3) Characters making leaps of logic and connection that made absolutely no sense in order to advance the plot.
- 4) REALLY, REALLY awful torture/murder scenes that will leave you feeling yucky. I never want to be in the POV of the person being tortured and murdered. And if I was, at least make it realistic to the amount of pain they'd be in. Trust me, you'll feel sick and sorry for having read some of these scenes.
- 5) Speaking of unrealistic-this author must not have kids. He is SOOOO clueless about how people with

children would really act. His ex-wife would NOT be happy his very new girlfriend showed up on his doorstep and wants to spend time with their daughter. She would be angry and protective of her daughter, not become chums with her. His daughter doesn't act right. He doesn't act in a very fatherly way and doesn't seem to put his daughter first.

6) Speaking of unrealistic part 2-one of the characters isn't traumatized by the end of the book. How could this be???? Unrealistic part 3-why does the character Christine even fall for the main character? She's too smart for him and he's not very redeeming!

7) The main character NEVER does anything to save himself. In fact, by being an idiot, he endangered everyone else. He doesn't figure things out, he doesn't act like a hero. He just stumbles around stupidly putting himself into dangerous situations and always and I mean every single time, getting saved by someone else. The police, a Kurd, his girlfriend, the police again, etc. Argggghhh! He is good at checking his email and staring at his phone.

8) Lame, lame, lame "secret" at the end which is given to us in a massive info dump. Page after page of text in quotations (who talks like that?) with the main character monologue-ing. And monologueing to the person who actually saves him. Oooo, you figured out the puzzle dude. Who cares? The action/climactic scene is over. The puzzle was stupid and the other guy had to save you.

Unless you want to analyze the ways that books go wrong, (and I think I hit most of them here already for this book) do yourself a favor and RUN away from this book.

I agree with another reviewer. Pick up a James Rollins book if you want fun action/adventure.

Mia says

Cardboard characters, slow moving plot, and seriously gruesome murders combine to make a pretty crappy novel.

Chessen says

The well written archeological detail was well worth the time and cost! I read the good, the bad, and the ugly from reviews before reading The Genesis Secret. I am not usually one to read graphic thrillers with pages of descriptive, gruesome torture. And I didn't with this book either. Thankfully, Tom Knox made the blood and guts an optional feature of the book. I was able to skip over the bits that hurt my sensibilities without missing any enjoyment. (Rather, preserving it in my case.) The solution to the deranged killer's motives is no less outrageous than a Dan Brown thriller, and as with Brown, the ride is really worth it. The novel is well paced, informative (without being a lecture), and the author's experience in good, old-fashioned journalism shines through in the style and tone! If you are fascinated by archeology and anthropology (particularly in Mesopotamia) and love a good fictional puzzle, then I highly recommend The Genesis Secret.

Lowell Usedo says

Written in a similiar manner as the Dan Brown books, The Genesis Secret is vague about what is real and what is fiction. At the beginning of the book is the disclaimer "The Genesis Secret is a work of fiction. However, most of the religious, historical, and archaeological references are entirely factual and accurate."

This book is a thriller set in various locations in Kurdistan, Iraq, England and Ireland. The main focus is the connection between ancient religions, the origin of mankind as told in Genesis, and modern day secret Satanic occultic groups. The starting point is the site of Gobekli Tepe. You can find information about Gobekli Tepe online, but its basically an archeological temple site that predates every other similiar site in the world. What is fascinating is how advanced Gobekli Tepe is in relation to its age. It has sculptures and reliefs. There is artistry coming from an age that predates the invention of the wheel. The purpose of the temple is also a mystery and so the author creates a fictional story explaining the origin of man.

One of the key points of the story has to do with Human Sacrifice and the relationship between man's intelligence and his capacity for violence. First, I will talk about the capacity for violence. The book makes the assumption that the higher IQ a particular race or group of people have, the higher the propensity for violence they will have. The book uses Hitler, Pol Pot, Napoleon, and various other well-educated and intelligent individuals as examples. I will disagree with this point and instead say that intelligence has nothing to do with morality. A person with low intelligence can be just as violent as a person with high intelligence. The only difference between the two is the ability to plan and execute their actions intelligently with full effect. Hitler was able to influence the highly intelligent German people to look the other way while he and his army executed millions of Jews. We tend to think that because we are a higly advanced civilization with scientific and technological discoveries that we have learned some sort of basic morality, but I don't believe that to be true. As a Christian, I believe that morality comes only from following the laws of God.

Human sacrifice is another prominent theme in the book. Many different methods of human sacrifices from many different civilizations are discussed. It is said that human sacrifices are made to please gods. An example is the God of Abraham. It is said that Abraham is the founder of 3 major religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This is not true. Abraham is not the founder of Christianity. Christianity is based on Jesus Christ who came thousands of years after Abraham. Abraham is also not the founder of Islam. Islam more directly comes from Abraham's son, Ishmael, who was banished to the desert along with his mother. The book says the Abraham was "obsessed with sacrifice" and that he was "ready to sacrifice his son". It then makes the mistake of claiming that all 3 major religions are sacrificial religions based on this statement. This also is not true. Abraham was not obsessed with sacrifice, and he was ready to sacrifice his son, but he never actually did it. Abraham never committed any human sacrifices. Instead, he sacrificed sheep as a symbol of purification from sin.

Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, but He never asked for anyone to offer themselves as a human sacrifice nor to kill anyone else. Instead, Jesus asks us to be LIVING sacrifices. He asks us to turn away from the cares of the world and OBEY the LAWS of God.

The whole purpose of the finding the so-called true origin of man is simply to undermine the truth of the Living God found in the Bible. Men, especially rich and powerful men, have always wanted to find their different "truth" to obey because they hate the laws of God. God teaches to love, forgive, and to obey Him, but men want to do as they please. Aleister Crowley, the famous Satanist, says "Do as thou wilt" or "Do whatever you want." Man wants to do whatever he wants, which means that he wants to disobey God's laws and follow his own selfish desires. That is the reason why there are so many secret societies like freemasons. They want to do as they please, break the laws of God, and pretend like they are following a so-called "truth" These are the lies and deceptions of Satan, and it is the agenda of this book.

Mormonhermitmom says

I almost hesitate to post about this one, but better to forewarn others right?

The novel started out well. A journalist investigating an archeological site in Kurdish Turkey, finds that there is more to interest him in Gobleki than he thought he would find. Simultaneously, in England, a series of grisly murders have London investigators scratching to find any leads at all to the killers. In a bit of a stretch of logic, the bizarre deaths in both countries are weirdly linked, and the end comes down to a race against the clock and the fiendish murderer with a bent to human sacrifice.

I've read grisly crime scenes before, but in this book there is actually a scene where the reader watches as a victim is brutally murdered in a Viking sacrifice ritual. It was over the top for me and just too much. I wouldn't recommend the book to anyone who has an ounce of humanity in them. I don't really need to know the details of how past "civilizations" sacrificed their children.

Parents, do yourselves a favor and don't let the kids/teenagers read this if they bring it home from the library. Blech!

Robin says

This one flip-flopped between a journalist at the Gobekli Tepe site and a detective in the UK investigating a series of brutal and strange murders (or attempted murders). Good writing style with a great concept, though I didn't like the eventual direction it took (don't want to go into detail and spoil it). There were a lot of gory details - it felt like a horror in the second half, some of it on par with the "Saw" movies. I had to skip over some of those parts. Not to mention the laborously long rantings of a psychotic. The characters were believable at first but then started doing things that seemed contrived just for the sake of the plot. Overall, it was really good until about half way through and then started going downhill. Way downhill. By the end, I no longer really cared what the Genesis Secret was. Shame because it had real potential.

Katie Kenig says

Cleverly told, this tale of a detective from Scotland Yard and a reporter from London weaves together science and adventure in a heady mix. There are some truly gruesome moments - historically, humans have been inventively and disarmingly cruel to one another, as both the detective and the scientist discover when the leader of a gang of not-quite-thugs (more like literate, intelligent college kids) begin re-enacting human sacrifice as it has been practiced in various cultures throughout the ages. Meanwhile, a well-known archaeologist is murdered at his dig site, a site that the reporter was doing a story on, as it may have held evidence of the very earliest human civilization.

This book reminded me of a cross between "The Historian" by Elizabeth Kostova (one of my favourite all-time books, so that's a compliment there) and Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code" which I found enjoyable, but wasn't a huge hit with me. Throw in a female Indiana Jones type who becomes a sidekick (and fiancée) to the journalist and you have a well-rounded story that will keep you up late reading. There are some

extremely gruesome scenes, which can be skimmed past without losing plot points if you have a weak stomach (or heart, like me.... wow humans were historically cruel.)

Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

This is going to be a hard book to review. Overall it was an enjoyable book but I thought it felt short to my expectations half way there. And the ending was abysmal. The author really wanted to wrap things up and make all alive characters to live happily ever after. So unlike... life.

Praises

The Pace - The book really flows from chapter to chapter and the tale until the last 100 pages we follow two different characters. Our main protagonist and the DCI Forrester.

History - So much history and archaeology in this book that really made me search the net about it. I really enjoy all the detailed information (I read in the net that the german diggers on the site that this book take place were a bit sad because Tom Knox stretch the fiction). Nevertheless to me a book is a discovery. Everything they say about a culture I search to see if it is true or fiction. I learn a lot.

The lore - Most of the times the interpretation of the bible fails to achieve anything besides pure fiction and you dismiss it as a Dan Brown wannabe. (Not that I love him). Tom Knox made this novel about Genesis. How humankind is the way it is. Why they left the Hunter-Gatherer society to farming. Why humankind is so propense to violence and sacrifices. Why the similarities between several cultures that are quite apart. The Gigantopithecus relation and hominin. Enfin. Really enjoy it all.

The gore - The depictions of some of the killings are really good. It made me uncomfortable. Yes indeed. If I wanted rainbows and pussycats I would read a romance novel. The reason we read thrillers is for a fast paced book with a lot of tension.

Criticism

Main Character Luttrell - He is quite frankly a guy that just do things. Why would the Yezidi tell him all the secrets? That just stupid. A religion that supposedly don't mix with other cultures and keep their secrets, well, secret. Why share it with a journalist? That's stupid.

Loveable Christine - That's a ridiculous good girl. She is almost perfect without flaws. The love with Lutrell just springs up from nowhere. Now a spoiler (view spoiler)

Main Antagonist - What a heck was that??? He was the bad guy? So he knows he is a super intelligent psychothick and he talks and talks and talks... He has all characteristics of a comic evil mastermind.

We don't know if he has a cat but... you get the picture. At least he killed some people in some interesting ways...

The Child - (view spoiler)

Police Forrester - His child had die (and when know it in the beginning) but it has no influence whatsoever in the tale. But in my opinion he was a better protagonist than Lutrell (even if Lutrell had twice the amount of chapters than Forrester).

The Ending - (view spoiler)

Final Thoughts

The real question of this book remains. Why was a massive temple built, several thousand years before "civilization" was born, and then covered it up with rocks? Why humankind left the hunter-gathered way to follow a more arduous, less rewarding, time consuming way (farming)? These two questions are quite good Tom Knox. Why why why?

Advisable

To someone who wants to read about archaeology and history. For a fan of thrillers... hmm maybe to a thriller aficionado.

kostas vamvoukakis says

τ?τοιος ιστορικ?ς αχταρμ?ς δεν μου ?χει ξανατυχει....καλ? και γρ?γορη περιπ?τεια αλλ?
?λεος...?χει μπλ?ξει στην ιστορ?α οτιδ?ποτε....ρεπορτερ ε?ναι ο τ?πος και ?χι συγγραφ?ας....και
φα?νεται....πολ? ?μως....πολ? μ?τριο αποτ?λεσμα

Joyce says

Along the same lines as Dan Brown, but honestly:

- 1) The writing isn't as tight or compelling
- 2) The characters aren't as fleshed out
- 3) Sheesh. I think this guy has fetishes/racist undertones and writes about them under the guise of the antagonist.
- 4) At the end he literally says, "Here's the Genesis Secret:..." Am I insulted? Surprised? Cheated (for reading the 95% of the book)?
- 5) Couldn't get over the treatment of the daughter as a prop. Sorry, but am offended.

Just not thrilled.

Jeffrey Taylor says

The novel made a dramatic change of perspective starting with chapter 37. Up to this point the horror was presented at third hand but in this chapter Knox takes the reader to the commission of the crime and sees the sacrifice at first hand. At first I thought this was just gratuitous violence but later I came to understand the point. The reader had to experience the horror of the sacrifice and the way in which the sacrifice took place to understand and become willing to accept the story's explication of the roll of a non-human element being introduced to the genetic mix that we now find in ourselves. The willingness to self-sacrifice, competing with the desire to kill with cold precision and no mercy is the type of conflict of motives we find in human

nature. This involved more than the standard story of psychotic behavior; this reases the question of our genetic roots and where this conflict came from.

When I came to chapter 39 and the interview with Janice Edwards I wondered what it was doing there. Why was Forrester interested in the inheritable quality of the penchant for extreme violence? The discussion was interesting but just seemed to be inserted as though it had been written for another story and was just pasted into this one.

I was expecting Isabel to turn up dead but not at Cloncurry's hands. I didn't see how she would be more successful in penetrating what seemed like an inbred, cult type religion than Rob had been and I did expect that she was highly motivated. She did not seem to be a person who could easily accept failure.

When I first learned that Christine was alive, I was pissed at Knox. It seemed he had just pulled her survival out of the hat as a gesture to the reader, a sort of reduction of the fear factor in expiation to the gods of publishing and timid readership. But as the final stage developed, the last Shakespearian act in which everybody dies, Knox needed her connection to Cloncurry's gang to get the principal players on the road to Baghdad, so to speak, and back to the source of darkness. Knox needed her alive to connect the dots to both the points of dramatic action and to the final explanations of the historic motives for the final development of his plot. It was really a brilliant story and a brilliant development of speculative analysis of our genetic development as a species.

I came to admire the final chapter with the marriage of Christine and Rob. The inclusion of the Greek Orthodox priest, the bouzouki players, the garden setting of the Princes Islands with its tamarack trees and the invitation to Kiribali not only seemed to dissipate his sinister behavior but also the dark aspect of place. Kiribali's interaction with the other wedding guests seemed to transform him into a demi- if not a super, hero.

I thought this a master work despite that some of the violence kept me awake at night like an adolescent after viewing a horror move on Halloween night.

Tom Knox
