



King's Curse

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New York graffiti artists are leaving their marks everywhere. Even on museum exhibit Uctut, the massive stone idol of the Actatl tribe, who had secretly survived since Cortes and his conquistadors. They are avenging the insult by killing museum trustees and a congressman - by the ancient ritual of cutting out their hearts! Remo and Chiun are entering the fray with ancient Sinanju, and Actatls biting the dust as the tribe musters to do battle with CURE. Meanwhile, Remo is acquiring two camp followers. One can't keep her mouth shut, the other can't keep her clothes on . . . the odds are sure loaded against CURE.

King's Curse Details

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Author : Warren Murphy , Richard Sapir

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From Reader Review King's Curse for online ebook

Timothy Boyd says

One of the big men's adventure series from the 70's than ran an impressive 145 books. The series while an adventure/action story is also full of satire toward much of the mainstream fads and icons of the time. An interesting main character and the sarcastic mentor makes this a funny action/adventure read. The team must fight against a Central American tribe killing anyone that they think stole their artifacts. Recommended

Steven says

I have to admit the Destroyer novels are a guilty pleasure and this one, with a forgotten Latin American civilization, hits one of my buttons.

Bryan457 says

An ancient South American tribe, the Actatl, survived where the Maya, Aztec, and Toltec did not. Enraged over the desecration of their huge stone idol, Uctut, in a New York museum, the Actatl leaders demand revenge on the despoiler and on the country which gave rise to him. Their god can only be appeased by the hearts of human sacrifices. One of their first victims is a congressman who was part of an investigation into some records that could lead to CURE. Action is stepped up on the investigation, which brings Remo into the situation in hopes of saving CURE.

This is the first "lost civilization" book of the series; I really enjoy the whole "lost civilization" theme. There was a lot of Remo and Chiun going at each other, very funny. This is a fun book

Favorite tidbits: Smith gets to see Remo and Chiun in action for the first time and is impressed and frightened by the things they can do.

Warning, sex and graphic gory violence.

S. Wilson says

His name was Remo, and he was disbelieving his ears.

This is one of the lighter entries in the Destroyer series, another one in which the major "threat" is silly or ludicrous in nature. From the opening chapter that sets up the origins of the mysterious Actatl tribe, saved from extinction by a king that rejected his culture's worship of the stone god Uctut, the concept is met with a healthy dose of ridicule that carries throughout the novel. CURE finds itself accidentally involved into the investigation of ritualistic murders (they cut out their hearts) perpetrated by the reclusive cult in retaliation for graffiti sprayed on the museum display of Uctut's statue, and so Chiun and Remo find themselves both chasing and being pursued by ineffective high priests half-naked in yellow feathered robes. There is little in this adventure that is not comic relief, including the newly crowned king of the Uctut, and the two women that become unwilling sidekicks to the CURE assassins, a mouthy museum assistant director, and the tennis-

obsessed daughter (Chiun gives her some lessons) of one of the Uctut's murder victims. If there's any real moral or lesson from King's Curse, it's that ancient religions are silly, especially when they involve killing people in Big Bird costumes and worshiping rocks.

While the Destroyer can't really be considered a satire of men's adventure novels, the series does play with some of the more common conventions of the genre. One of these is the dismissive attitude towards the overt sexuality on display. From James Bond on down, one common factor in nearly all men's adventure series is the propensity of the leading male hero to sleep with as many attractive women as possible, be they victims, villains, or accomplices. As is set up early in the Destroyer series, however, Remo's rigorous training and mastery of advanced sexual techniques has greatly diminished his sex drive and attraction towards (most) women. So while he does occasionally fall for women or engage them sexually to gain leverage, he mostly avoids the sex-driven male hero stereotype, ignoring or actively avoiding the numerous buxom beauties constantly throwing themselves at him; not due to morality or ethics, but out of boredom. King's Curse is a perfect example of this, as Chiun and Remo are accompanied throughout the majority of the novel by two attractive women, and Remo spends most of his time insulting them, tying them up, gagging them, and even locking them in closets.

Miralinda says

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Joshua says

Dr. Harold Smith's CURE organization is threatened by a secret society with ancient origins. This secret society enacts a series of human sacrifices, intending to overthrow the government of the United States. Only Remo and Chiun can save the day.

Jeff Chase says

This one almost seemed like two related stories, but both were enjoyable. Nice to see Chiun actually showing concern for Remo, and it was especially fun to see that Smitty still has some moves.
