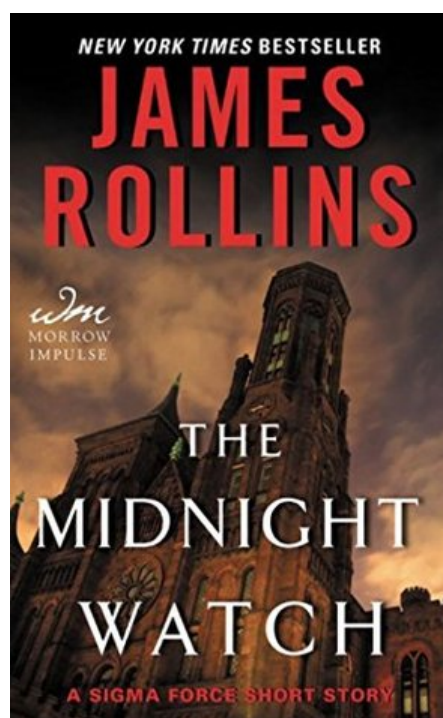




The Midnight Watch

James Rollins

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From *New York Times* bestselling author James Rollins comes a lightning-paced short story, in which a major attack on U.S. soil can only be stopped by...*The Midnight Watch*

In the dead of night, a faceless enemy hacks into the Smithsonian Institution's network of servers, but it is only the first strike masking a larger attack. To rescue a biologist trapped in the National Museum of Natural History and to discover the true intent behind an assault that grows bolder and bloodier by the minute, Sigma Force must unleash its most headstrong operative—Joe Kowalski—to do what he does best: lay waste to anything between him and his goal. From a daring rescue to a cross-city chase like no other, Kowalski will discover the shocking truth hidden in the most unexpected of places: the heart of the National Zoo.

Included with this short story is a sneak peek at *The Bone Labyrinth*, where events that unfold here explode into one of Sigma Force's greatest adventures of all time.

The Midnight Watch Details

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Author : James Rollins

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Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Adventure, Short Stories, Action

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From Reader Review The Midnight Watch for online ebook

Rizwan says

Whoa, that was a hell of a lot of fun in such short span! This is a short story that covered just an hour from the usual work day of our favorite Sigma Force, and it didn't skip any legwork to give us the full blast of energy and entertainment in so little space.

In the sudden (midnight) hour of need, director Painter Crowe had no other agents available (such as our regular heroes Grey Pierce or Monk Kokkalis), but only the one who from the first time he appeared in the pages of Sigma series to the very last time, had become a permanent and significant part of Sigma family (and books), but for some reason never ever took a central stage or even got a point-of-view perspective... until now: *Joe frekkin' Kowalski*. At last Rollins gave him a deservedly central role in his own mission, and Kowalski showed in flying colors what he can do given the chance, and then some! He was a personal favorite character of mine who I always thought was more than meets the eye as he tried to appear in front of everyone (including his teammates) as just simpleminded and thickheaded, but the readers long suspected to have a hidden twinkle of brains and cleverness as well as the usual brawn and muscles. This time Rollins finally unleashed him in full force, and oh my God I was easily having so much more fun in these handfull of pages than I had in all of the disappointing last full-length novel of the series! Action, gunfights, thrilling foot chase, some more car chase, nailbiting suspense, blistering pace, blood-pumping 'Hell YEAH!' moments... it had everything.

And Rollins, being the vintage Rollins who's in a whole other level than any other Action-Adventure authors of our time, never forgot to also add a layer of quiet character development and some much needed depths even in this short period to the character of Kowalski that made him more sympathetic, relatable, lovable, and most of all humane to the reader, all the while literally being on the run! At the end of this little tale, even though there were a couple of thick dangling threads in the current mystery that we didn't get to solve (but which I'm sure will spill directly into the next full length novel of the series *The Bone Labyrinth*), I can't help but feel immensely satisfied and also a twinge of genuine sadness for the heartbroken Kowalski, hoping that in the near future we'll get to enjoy a lot of more Kowalski as a central character in the series.

Painter rubbed his chin, appreciating the quick wits and skill involved in pulling off that takedown. He sensed that there remained unplumbed depths to that driver. He even allowed himself to consider an impossible proposition.

Maybe it's high time I gave Kowalski his own mission.

Amen to that brother!

Garth Vader says

Ugh please stop writing.

Albert says

The Midnight Watch is a terrific short story of the Sigma Force that sets the groundwork for the novel *The Bone Labyrinth*. What makes this short story so cool and worth the read is that it doesn't include most of the

normal cast of Sigma Force and instead concentrates on the often lesser used member Kowalski.

As always Rollins keeps the action and story tight and rolling along at breakneck speed.

A terrific short read!

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Orient says

The midnight watch with my beloved Sigma Force

Lizabeth Tucker says

When someone hacks into the Smithsonian computer system, Sigma's chief intelligence analyst Jason Carter quickly shuts it down, but not before a hefty number of files are grabbed. Jason discovers that the target was a Smithsonian research project called "Ancient DNA" and the files belong to Dr.Sara Gutierrez. While notifying Sara of the breach, Jason realizes that she is in danger. Director Crowe sends Jason and Joe Kowalski, his only immediately available agents, to her rescue.

I love Joe, so any time he makes an appearance, I'm thrilled, even if Painter isn't. And who wouldn't want to pet a tiger, if the opportunity arose? I've only pet and played with cougars, wolves, and coyotes, so I wouldn't turn that chance down. This is a setup for the next book in the series, so Rollins has provided a fast rescue and some immediate danger, but no answers as yet. And perhaps a greater appreciation for Kowalski by Painter! 4 out of 5.

Pierre Tassé says

A VERY short story. Not sure if it was worth the money. Rollins must be trying to introduce two items (it seems) with this story. I will find out as I progress to the next book in his series.

rebecca santiago says

Great thanks to James Rollins

Always a 5 star rating for sigma..this was a definite teaser...can't wait for the bone labyrinth...preordered and anticipating another great adventure!

Chip Daly says

Can't wait to see where this goes with Kowalski? Nice teaser to him getting his own assignment for Sigma in the future! Nice teaser at the end for The Bone Labyrinth as well. Really looking forward to that coming out!

Skip says

Basically, a few chapters teaser for his next book. Dull. Starring Joe Kowalski, Rollins failed to provide much more than an update on his failed romance, rather than more development of his character. C'mon, rebuilding a Jeep is not much insight. Don't pay for this and don't bother.

David Thacker says

My only problem is that it was too short.

Su Ann says

I just finished reading The Midnight Watch by New York Times bestselling author James Rollins. I'm calling this one number 10 1/2 in the Sigma Force series. This short story features Seaman Joe Kowalski. Joe hasn't flown solo since "Kowalski's In Love" (2012 - Thriller: Stories to Keep You Up All Night), his Brazilian vacation that turned into a hair-raising, grisly half hour struggle for survival. He may be a big, bumbling accident waiting to happen, but he gets the job done. With Kowalski, there seems to be chaos around every corner. The bad guys may suffer a few broken bones and a building or two might get blown up, but in the end, it's all par for the course. I don't think there's a brick of C4 out there that doesn't have Joe's name or fingerprints on it. (I also have a sneaking suspicion Joe is Jim's alter ego. They both have this single-minded fascination with blowing things up.) All I know is "the party doesn't start until Joe gets here!" He brings the entertainment with him. With Joe, every day is the Fourth of July! It's not easy taking 'larger than life' characters and making them human. Jim has a knack for exposing their humanity. According to the Sigma Guide, Kowalski's profile says "his brown eyes don't seem to hold hidden depths". I beg to differ. Over the course of these last 10 novels, we have witnessed a blossoming of Joe's personality that has exposed a very vulnerable giant of a man. This short story only confirms that aspect. Even the biggest and strongest of men can have the wind knocked out of them due to the emotions of a lost love. It also reminded me how much I have missed the Sigma Force team. I have missed the excitement. The car chases. The shootouts. The science! This tidbit of a short story had it all. The unknown enemy strikes at the heart of the Smithsonian's computer system. Hackers are after files containing information on ancient DNA. Director Painter Crowe sends in the only man he has available. Follow Kowalski as he tries to extract a trapped researcher from the National Zoo.

I really like these short stories that give us a revealing glimpse into the hidden personalities and lives of our favorite Sigma Force members. The first one, The Skeleton Key (2011), had Seichan fighting for her life in the underground catacombs of Paris, the City of Lights. The second one, Tracker (2012), introduced us to Captain Tucker Wayne and his war dog, Kane (occasional Sigma Force operatives). Their short story involves a rescue of a mysterious woman in Budapest. Here's hoping each Sigma character gets to move into

the spotlight and have their chance to show what they are capable of physically and emotionally and be allowed to shine as the star of their own short story.

As for the tantalizing sneak peek to The Bone Labyrinth . . . I WANT IT NOW! As much as it pains me, I will relax, take three deep breaths and persevere until December 15th. But, it is going to take every ounce of will power I've got!

Elizabeth says

In the dead of night, a faceless enemy hacks into the Smithsonian Institution's network of servers, but it is only the first strike masking a larger attack. To rescue a biologist trapped in the National Museum of Natural History and to discover the true intent behind an assault that grows bolder and bloodier by the minute, Sigma Force must unleash its most headstrong operative—Joe Kowalski—to do what he does best: lay waste to anything between him and his goal. From a daring rescue to a cross-city chase like no other, Kowalski will discover the shocking truth hidden in the most unexpected of places: the heart of the National Zoo.

What did I think of it

5 stars

But then again his books always five stars for me, there's something about his style that I just love and that why his one of my 2 all time favorites authors , can't wait to pick up the next book after this one which I have to get back into the series. if you haven't read anything by him then you need to check him out .

Nancy says

Finally Kowalski got his own story - even if it is a very short one. Granted that I am a Rollins fan and Kowalski is one of my favorites on the Sigma team, I totally enjoyed this little story. If you know the Washington DC area, especially the Smithsonian and National Zoo, this is fun because you can easily picture what is going on. Besides Kowalski is just a big lovable lug - a very manly man who gets the job done (although he often just blows up the obstacles in his path)and takes care of his friends. As hard as he is on the outside, he has a soft heart. I hope to see more of a role for him in the future. Thank you to James Rollins!

Steven says

Nice little mini-Sigma with some setup for the next book. ;)
