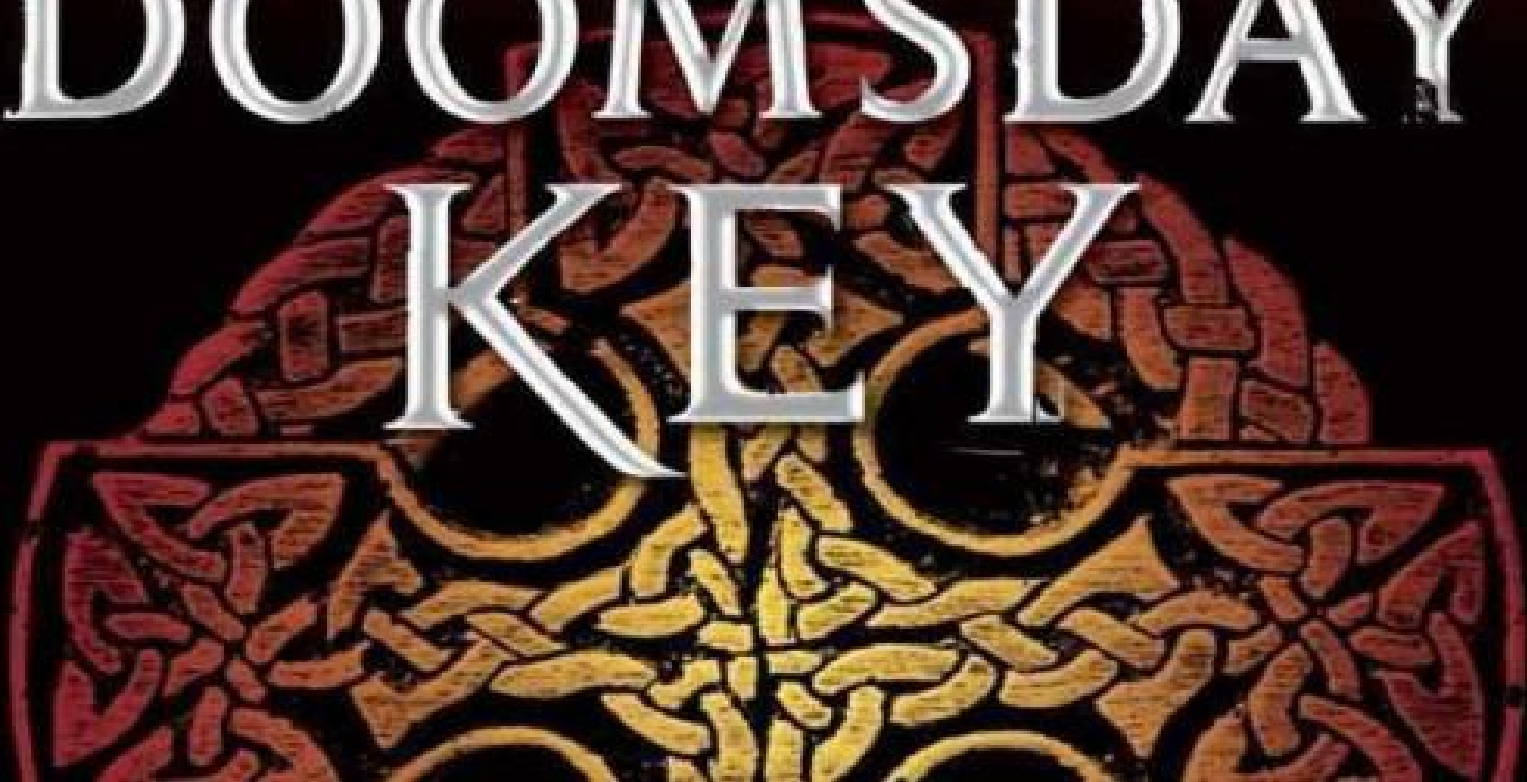


A NOVEL

# JAMES ROLLINS

*NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

THE  
DOOMSDAY  
KEY



**The Doomsday Key**  
**A  $\Sigma$  Sigma Force Novel**  
**James Rollins**

 HarperCollins e-books

**To Mom**  
**With all my love**

In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock among many tribulations; after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people.

—PROPHECY OF SAINT MALACHY, 1139

The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man.

—THOMAS MALTHUS, *AN ESSAY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF POPULATION*, 1798

The time to buy is when blood is running in the streets.

—BARON NATHAN ROTHSCHILD, WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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[First](#)

The Spiral and the Cross

[Viatus®](#)

[1](#)

Gunfire woke Jason Gorman from a bone-deep sleep. It took...

[2](#)

He needed more speed.

3

As Lieutenant Rachel Verona stepped out of the hospital and...

4

Monk bounced his baby girl on his knee. Penelope squealed,...

5

“The symbol’s not in the database of any known terrorist...”

6

Where was she?

7

Ivar Karlsen watched the storm building across the fjord. He...

8

They had less than a minute. The unexpected guests that...

[9](#)

Gray leaned hard over the handlebars. Rachel hugged tight to...

[10](#)

Painter readied for the battle to come. He sat at...

[11](#)

Ivar Karlsen pulled on the heavy oak door, its planks...

[Second](#)

Fire and Ice

[12](#)

It seemed impossible that murder could be traced back to...

[13](#)

The luncheon ended with a warning.

[14](#)

Gray eyed his transportation doubtfully.

[15](#)

Monk strode briskly across the research park. Under his heavy...

[16](#)

As the forest burned, Gray clutched the lead rope of...

[17](#)

Krista had not slept.

[Third](#)

Seeds of Destruction

[18](#)

The sun remained low in the sky as the private...

[19](#)

Gray rolled their SUV down the long hill toward the...

[20](#)

Monk sent a silent prayer of thanks to the engineers...

[21](#)

As Gray prepared to descend into the crypt, the true...

[22](#)

The warhead detonated on schedule.

[23](#)

Rachel almost dropped Seichan when she saw Gray fall from...

[24](#)

Monk lay flat across the roof of the Sno-Cat as...

[25](#)

Gray lounged in a steaming tub of hot water.

[26](#)

Krista paced the length of the ice-cold warehouse on the...

[Fourth](#)

The Dark Madonna

[27](#)

Painter watched the Svalbard Archipelago vanish behind them as the...

[28](#)

A library was an unlikely spot to plan a prison...

[29](#)

Gray knew they were in trouble.

[30](#)

Krista stalked across the cloister's garden. The day had turned...

[31](#)