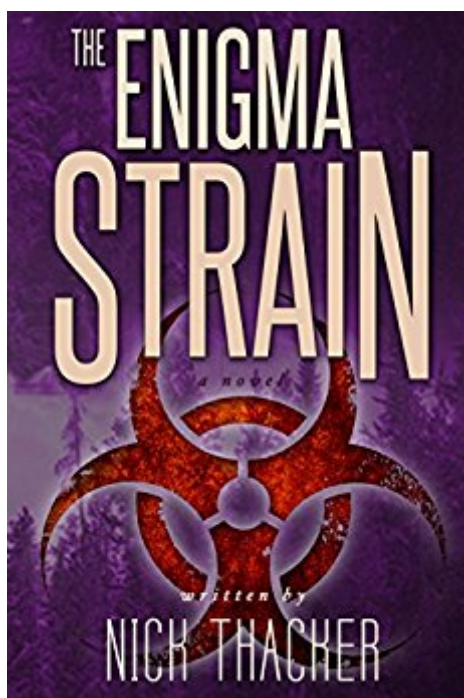


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The Enigma Strain (Harvey Bennett Thrillers Book 1)



Synopsis

Want three free books? Grab the Nick Thacker Starter Library by copy/pasting this link into your browser: nickthacker.com/free-books A Fatal Disaster | A Ticking Clock | You Can't Do It Alone | The poster child of quaint beauty and solitude, Yellowstone National Park was the last place Park Ranger Harvey Bennett would leave. Scarred from a past he can't seem to shake, Ben is more than content to spend his days in the forests of the beautiful national monument away from a busy life, away from people. But when a noxious chemical agent, a virus, is blasted into the air of Yellowstone Park with enough impact to kill, Ben is forced to face the realization that his reclusive existence is about to come to a screeching halt. With the shocking revelation that the single event may only be the beginning and time ticking away before the danger becomes even more real for thousands of people, Ben has no choice but to set aside his personal discomfort and team up with CDC official, Juliette Richardson to contain the disturbance before disaster strikes again. The real question though is simple | Is the virus an isolated event? Or is it part of something much more sinister? Can Harvey Bennett overcome his inner demons and discover the truth of what lies under the world's largest active volcano? Or will America fall to the hands of a terrorist organization? The Enigma Strain is a fast-paced Sci-Fi-Thriller that will have you clinging to the edge of your seat. If you like James Rollins, Dan Brown, Clive Cussler then you will love the whole Harvey Bennett Series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Harvey "Ben" Bennett is a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park. While out on a seemingly routine re-home of a bear that got a little too close for comfort, a bomb goes off in the park, killing his partner on the job. Bennett is soon thrust into an ongoing investigation into a new "bug" that is causing massive boils and rashes to form and quickly spread across its victims. He joins forces with CDC investigator Juliette Richardson as they try to figure out what is going on in Yellowstone and what is causing people to break out into these rashes, and then die. I haven't written many reviews of the Michael Crichton books I've read, but let me tell you that if Orwell was the first book I ever read. Jurassic Park and/or The Andromeda Strain by Crichton was the first book I ever fell in love with. This book has all the pacing, writing style, and love that I always felt in Crichton works. With that being said, I love a good bio-thriller. Anything where they dive deep into what the virus, or bacteria, or what-have-you and does it justice is usually a high rater in my book. Engima Stain just cruised up into 5 stars, the background of the disease was super interesting and I haven't read too many books that were about a similar idea. The first thing I did when I finished this book was call up my dad and tell him I had just gifted him a copy for his Kindle. He's a fast-paced thriller fan, and I knew that he was going to love this. Bennett's character was just, interesting. I found myself spending time trying to figure him out, what makes him tick, why is he afraid of flying "he just doesn't like it." The relationship between Ben and Juliette was a nice addition for me, it didn't feel forced or unnatural at all. Their characters, while seemingly quiet and stand-offish, were better when they were together. There were some twists in this that I didn't expect, and when a book can do that, I'm always impressed. The relationships (both growth and history) were really nice additions without making this book super long. Overall, Thacker has done it again. Blending the pacing and science of Crichton with his own unique twists, this book is sure to please many fans over many genres. I honestly think that was the first book that I ever looked at from Thacker, but for some reason never read it. I have since read many of his short stories and I am currently reading The Depths, and enjoying that thoroughly. View more reviews of Thacker's work and others at my blog: books.beergodblog DOT com

Yellowstone Ranger, Harvey Bennett and Julie Richardson from the Centers for Disease Control must find a way to develop a vaccine for a synthetic virus and prevent an epic volcano eruption that will annihilate the US. Ben is an unlikely hero and Julie's opposite personality creates synergism, which in turn creates interesting characters. The antagonists feel stereotypical but some of the secondary characters, such as Randy, are pleasant surprises. The technology side doesn't deflect from the main plot and nicely supports the storyline. The POV is confusing in this novel. One character's inner thoughts pop up in a sentence written from the other person's POV. Combined with continuity issues and typos, these technical problems do decrease readability in places. Overall Thacker does a good job describing his settings and ties the past to the present smoothly. Ben's backstory with his mother deserves more attention, because it's an integral part of his character delineation. Thacker's research is well done and the plot is believably and unique. Rather than sticking with a straight-line approach, adding the risk of a natural disaster mixed with a bio-medical factor was intriguing. The Enigma Strain is an entertaining read, and Ben and Julie are characters worth following. A solid round of editing would smooth out the technical errors. This book was reviewed in support of StoryCartel.

Warning: No real spoilers included, but some plot points are mentioned generally in this review. The book kept me interested. It did have some places where I thought something might have been left out: an injury referred to but never explained, for example. That brought me out of the story by thinking, "Wait! When did that happen?" Also, I just thought some interactions and choices were unbelievable. You find someone you care about who is dying and you decide to go out to eat at a diner? (Later, it was said that this person had passed, but it was never mentioned at the time. The story went from finding this person, directly to the main characters going out to eat. It struck me as odd.) You're part of the CDC, but you have no issue running around potentially spreading an infection everywhere? You know someone is highly contagious, but you deliberately touch them? You hear a big commotion in the other room regarding someone being sick and you don't check (even though it's your job) and hightail it out of there with a stranger for no particular reason? It was lots of little things like this that made it hard for me to truly get lost in the story.

It's. It has its annoying parts; characters saying "they know" something when they have no reason

to know it and basically they are just assuming. The romantic subplot wasn't really needed either, too many books and movies with it now and days. There are good things about this book tho. It was an interesting read, kinda kept you on the edge of your seat, and no cliffhanger

I read the other reviews and wondered if we read the same book. I found it very hard to get through this book. I was hoping the characters would catch the disease and die themselves - to end it. I thought they were all pretty shallow. I felt that I suffered more than those who contracted the disease. I am a prolific reader and have recently read some really exciting books, but this one was not. I would point out many specific things, but am afraid I would put out spoilers. Obviously, though, Mr. Thacker has some followers because he has good reviews and many other books - even about Ben and Julie. It is just that I don't think I would be one of them.

Story line could be good, but not well done. Cardboard characters who stop in the middle of life-and-death crises for calm explanations. It was hard to follow at some points, and the hospital escape was especially ridiculous. I debated between one star and two.

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