



Crusader Gold

David Gibbins

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From the fall of the Roman Empire to the last days of Nazi power, marine archaeologist Jack Howard and his team of adventurers are hot on the trail of history's most elusive and desired treasure: the lost golden menorah of Jerusalem. And what they discover could change the world forever....

Deep beneath the windswept waters near Istanbul, Jack and his crack team of experts have uncovered a surprising clue to the location of the fabled treasure plundered during the Crusades. Meanwhile, in a dusty cathedral library, someone unearths a long-forgotten medieval map. Together the two discoveries will solve an ancient mystery—and spark a race to stop a present-day conspiracy of staggering proportions.

From diving into the core of an arctic iceberg to the last stand of a Viking warship to an extraordinary revelation deep in the jungles of Central America, Jack is headed straight into a globe-spanning clash of civilizations, into an astounding underground labyrinth steeped in blood and horrors—and to a confrontation with a killer on a shattering crusade of his own.

From the Paperback edition.

Crusader Gold Details

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Author : David Gibbins

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From Reader Review Crusader Gold for online ebook

Jeff Dickison says

This is the third book in this series that I have read and it is by far the best of the three. A fast paced tale of archaeological mystery concerning the Vikings and their wanderings. Recommended.

Helen says

I had already read 'Atlantis' and a later book in this series, 'Tiger Warrior' so was quite pleased when I found a copy of 'Crusader Gold' at a book sale.

I thought it was good that it had a map at the front which helped me to get a better sense of all the different locations in the book. The plot does jump around a bit to lots of different locations but it is still fairly easy to follow the storyline and it does not really distract the reader from the text. All the characters are quite well developed and believable and it was nice that we revisited the characters from the other books.

The author's note at the end was very interesting and informative. I liked learning about the Menorah and that the only known image of it is on the Arch of Titus in Rome. I thought it was cool that there actually was a secret chamber discovered there as well. It is great that a lot is based on the author's own experiences on archaeological sites and of diving in caverns and passageways. It made these sections feel more real and believable, although this knowledge did make some bits sound a bit overly technical which might be off-putting for some readers.

Unfortunately it did get slightly repetitive in a few places and I did find a typo on page 316 (it says 'avioded' the Gulf Stream instead of avoided so I did enjoy this slightly less than the other books I've read but I will still definitely look out for more books in this series.

Jeremy says

This is David Gibbins' second book - the first, Atlantis, I have not read - and it shows. The style is there and the great storytelling is there but it does feel a bit like he is feeling his way into this writer thing. I wasn't too impressed in the diving inside an iceberg bit, probably because I am not a diver and so the jargon (and other descriptions) were quite lost on me. The "almost" being frozen inside the berg was a bit difficult to swallow and the way they get out of the impossible, and let's face it massively improbable, situation was a stretch too far. He tried to cram too much descriptive writing into this bit and it all got a bit confusing. I think Gibbins must have read the Tom Knox book as he includes some descriptions of ritual sacrifice which, thank goodness he does not elaborate the way Knox did but did he need them?

Deftly combining 1066 (and all that), Constantinople, the Maya and the 3rd Reich, oh and the bloody Vikings and the menorah. That's a tall order.

I particularly like the passages at the back of the book which explain the true elements of the story and describe how he wove them together to create an hypothesis which entirely plausible. Shame the writing was

a bit clunky. The Last Gospel is way better.

Stephen says

This has been a great read. I'm rereading the series because I missed a few books in the sequence and want to go from beginning to end. I'm loving this series, but there is one extremely minor gripe that I need to put out there since I have read Arthur since I was a teen. Gibbins has made a confusing statement. He references The Death of Arthur on page 236 and credits Alfred Lord Tennyson. He uses the French Morte d'Arthur. The problem is that The Death of Arthur comes from Tennyson's Idylls of the King set of poems. Any reader of the Arthur Romances will link Morte d'Arthur with Sir Thomas Mallory's Le Morte d'Arthur.

Bettie? says

Bettie's Books

Julie O'Leary says

Fast moving and exciting in most parts - it was definitely as described - Indiana Jones meets Cove Cussler. However I was disappointed with the anticlimactic end and that's all I'm going to say so as not to be a spoiler! Meanwhile the authors note at the end of the novel separated historical fact from historical fiction and was very interesting to read. This novel provided elucidation on the Viking explorers of whom I previously didn't know to much.

Glenn says

A long, convoluted, confusing story of marine archaeologists and scientists who just stand around and explain things to each other in every chapter. There isn't any character development and though the pace increased in the final act of the book, because the villain FINALLY showed up, by then I didn't care. Any action that does occur is told in confusing narrative or uses technical jargon and even then I didn't understand how or why the main characters were in peril because I didn't understand what was happening to them.

Chrissa Vasileiou says

4.5 με 5 αστέρια, τελικά 5αρι ολοστρόγγυλο. Βασικά, το βιβλίο αξίζει περισσότερο για 4 (και αν είσαι σε πολύ καλό mood, εμένα μωός με πιασε στο ευαίσθητο σημείο μου...)

Διαβάζοντας αρχικά για θησαυρούς Σταυροφόρων, μένρες και Ιουδαίους η αλήθεια είναι πως σκόφτηκα πως δεν θα τα πούμε καλά. Ούτε με την θρησκεία το έχω, ούτε με την αναζήτηση του Χαμένου Δισκοπτηρού, ούτε μπορώ να πω πως αυτός ο κλάδος της

Ιστορ?ας/Αρχαιολογ?ας/Λαογραφ?ας με συγκινε? ιδια?τερα. Οπ?τε, π?ρα βαθι? αν?σα και το ξεκ?νησα, μην περιμ?νοντας να με πολυκερδ?σει.

Κι ?μως! Ο David Gibbins, με μια π?να π?τε ?κρως ενθουσι?δη και π?τε αρκο?ντως κατατονικ?, τα κατ?φερε! Εν? ο κ?ριος στ?χος ε?ναι η ανακ?λυψη της θρυλικ?ς μεν?ρα, η ζω? κ?νει κ?κλους και φ?ρνει την ομ?δα σε μ?ρη που ο?τε οι ?διοι δεν περ?μεναν να βρεθο?ν! Απ? τα νερ? του Κερ?τιου Κ?λπου ταξιδε?ουν σ' εκε?να της Αρκτικ?ς και κατ?πιν στα τροπικ? νερ? της Καρα?βικ?ς. Η αφ?γηση πολλ?ς φορ?ς μπορε? να φαντ?ζει 'αδιαν?ητη', εγ? ?μως νομ?ζω πως δ?νει μια χαρ? και δεν ξεν?ζει τον αναγν?στη. Π?ρα απ? τα "επ?σημα" στοιχε?α που ?χουν προκ?νει απ? ?ρευνες και τα οπο?α με μαεστρ?α εντ?σσει ο Gibbins στην πλοκ? του, το κομμ?τι της καθαρ?ς φαντασ?ας επ?σης δικαιολογε? αρκο?ντως τις εξελ?ξεις και δεν υπ?ρχει πουθεν? κοιλι? ? καταστ?σεις που φαντ?ζουν υπερβολικ?ς ? ψε?τικες.

Προσωπικ?, αυτ? που με συγκ?νησε -πρ?γμα που δεν μου συμβα?νει και πολ? συχν?- και με ?κανε να καταλ?ξω στο 5αρι ?ταν το γεγον?ς πως (view spoiler) Πραγματικ?, ο τρ?πος που περιγρ?φει τα παραπ?νω γεγον?τα ο συγγραφ?ας με συγκ?νησε και με συγκλ?νισε - δεν ξ?ρω αν το ?κανε καθαρ? για επ?κληση στο αναγνωστικ? συνα?σθημα, ?μως στην περ?πτωσ? μου το κατ?φερε. Μπ?κα στη θ?ση αυτ?ν των ανθρ?πων, προσπ?θησα να φανταστ? το τι σκ?φτονταν και π?ς ?νιωθαν, και ταρακουν?θηκα. Κι ?τσι η μεν?ρα ?ρθε σε εντελ?ς δε?τερη μο?ρα!

Συνεχ?ζω με το τρ?το βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς, κρατ?ντας τις καλ?τερες αναμν?σεις απ? αυτ? εδ?. Επαναλαμβ?νω, δεν ε?ναι το απα?γασμα της λογοτεχν?ας που αξ?ζει αβ?ρτα 4αρια και 5αρια, αλλ? πολλ?ς φορ?ς ?να βιβλ?ο ξυπν?ει απρ?σμενα κι αναπ?ντεχα πολλ? συναισθ?ματα μ?σα μας. Και, μιας κι αυτ? ε?ναι ?να απ? τα κ?ρια ζητο?μενα εν?ς αναγν?στη, νομ?ζω πως πρ?πει να επιβραβε?εται!

Cindy says

Lots of history for buffs of same. Narrated well by James Langton. ©2014

Soho_Black says

If I were a smarter man, or had more self-control, this is a book I would never have read. Having found Gibbins' debut novel "Atlantis" to be little more than a weaker version of a Clive Cussler novel I was in no hurry to read another. But then my wife decided to borrow his second novel, "Crusader Gold", from our local library and, finding "Atlantis" a quick if uninspiring read, I decided I probably had time to read this before it was due to be returned.

"Crusader Gold" is the story of a golden menorah, stolen from Jerusalem by the Romans and then later stolen from the Romans by Vikings who had taken part in the Crusades, hence the novel's title. Suddenly, just as Jack Howard has found evidence in Istanbul harbour backing up reports from the time, other discoveries in the Arctic ice and behind a bricked up staircase in an English library seem to point towards the ultimate destination of the menorah, which hasn't been seen for nearly 900 years.

As is usual when a discovery is made, others who have been searching for the same thing suddenly appear on

the scene. With a treasure originally held in Jewish hands, it comes as no surprise that some of those chasing it are of Nazi sympathies. It is also no real surprise that sometimes Jack Howard and his team seem to be ahead of the game, only to find themselves chasing very soon afterwards.

Fortunately, this book is better written than the previous one. All the characters have their roles to play and there is no-one who seems to appear for no reason that to fill a plot hole. Admittedly, none of the characters have great depth, but coming back to Jack and Costas for a second time and understanding the references to their past does add a little extra that was missing last time around.

I did find the story a little less compelling than before, however. Maybe it was due to the legends of the Lost City of Atlantis having taken on an almost mythical quality, which the story of the theft of the menorah and the ancient Viking kings have not. This meant I felt less connected to the story than I had done before, even without the over-reliance on strange pieces of technology to get the out of many a tight spot.

Ultimately, "Crusader Gold" is a better book than "Atlantis", but only barely. The plot stretched disbelief less thinly here than in the earlier novel, but some of the opposing forces do seem to be there solely to add padding and make the story more interesting than it would have been without them, as the history behind the story had fewer hooks to hang a story on.

This review may also appear, in whole or in part, under my name at any or all of www.ciao.co.uk, www.goodreads.com and www.amazon.co.uk

Johanna says

I haven't read David Gibbins first book about Atlantis but I felt intrigued by the 'Crusader's Gold' so much I bought it on this years' book sale. I'm a great fan of historical fiction and I like the idea how authors can take the time to read up on, and none the less actually produce an interesting story of historical facts (not that facts on their own can't be interesting).

Half way through this book; however, it occurred to me that I felt it somewhat a mix of 'The Da Vinci Code' and 'Hellboy'.. if that is a good thing, I don't know. But I must say David Gibbins managed to bring a lot of different history into this book - which might not be all good - sometimes I felt it to be just a little too much to weave nazism, ancient rome, crusaders, catholic church, vikings, native americans, and maya into one book of merely 350 pages.

Sandra says

#Review of Lost Temple: #Thriller #readers, in Tom Harper's novel, Lost Temple, the main story takes place in 1947 with the primary objective of recovering Achilles's shield. The shield is supposedly made of a rare metal, Element 61, Prometheum, which the Brits, the Yanks, and the Russians all want. The main objective of the author appears to be to share insights into archaeological facts and mysteries. The former being the translation of Linear B from an ancient tablet, which occurred in 1952. The latter being whether the Temple where Achilles was buried, along with his shield, actually existed. The facts and the mysteries were the fun part for me. The writing not so much. The pacing was uneven and the characters were, more or less,

uninteresting, except for Reed, the Oxford professor. (less)

Marla says

First book I checked out online via my kindle, I'm really liking the online checking out.

This book had a lot of elements I like in a story, but it might have had too much. There were, in no particular order: Vikings, the Crusades, Istanbul, England, Greenland, Nazis, North America, South America, age old secret societies and Aztecs. It got a little confusing at times. Costas, being an engineer and not an archeologist, helped out the reader this time by asking questions so we could try and keep things straight. Still, I enjoyed it, except for the part where pretty much all of their discoveries(no joke) end up destroyed and only the characters who were there know the truth(fat lot of good that does anybody =P)

Brittney Tyler says

Star Rating: 5 stars

Note: This is the 2nd book in the Jack Howard series so this will not be an in-depth review.

Having absolutely loving book 1, Atlantis, I decided to pick up Crusader Gold by David Gibbins, book 2 in the Jack Howard series. It continues the story of the underwater archaeologist Jack Howard as he travels the globe pursuing a myriad of different archaeology mysteries with his ragtag band of friends and fellow experts. This one focuses on the Vikings and the theories concerning their globetrotting journeys of exploration.

If you don't know this about me, I am very interested in ancient history, anthropology, and archaeology so this book and its subject matter were right up my street. I am even thinking about pursuing these areas for my career. This book also features theories that I find incredibly compelling- the theories of Viking exploration, even though it does expand on them and add fictional elements. When I started this book, I thought it was about the Crusades and I wasn't as interested, but then I realized it was taking a completely different direction and I got really interested and finished it in one day.

If you have an interest in archaeology or ancient history, then I think you will love this book and series. I do and I did. 5 stars!!!!

Evander v says

I thought it would be a good idea to read this book so soon after the one on the Crusades, seeing as it's the book I'm on in the series anyway, but it turned out not to be about the Crusades at all! For a historical mystery like this, the characters are surprisingly developed and likable, whereas it's usually a big detraction from such books.
