



## Innocent Blood

*James Rollins , Rebecca Cantrell*

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**Innocent Blood** James Rollins , Rebecca Cantrell

In a masterwork of international adventure, supernatural mystery, and apocalyptic prophecy, New York Times bestselling authors James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell open the next chapter in a world of shadow and light, of salvation and damnation, where the fate of the heavens is locked within a child of...

Innocent Blood

A vicious attack at a ranch in California thrusts archaeologist Erin Granger back into the folds of the Sanguines, an immortal order founded on the blood of Christ and tasked with protecting the world from the beasts haunting its shadows and waiting to break free into the sunlight. Following the prophetic words found in the Blood Gospel—a tome written by Christ and lost for centuries—Erin must join forces with Army Sergeant Jordan Stone and the dark mystery that is Father Rhun Korza to discover and protect a boy believed to be an angel given flesh.

But an enigmatic enemy of immense power and terrifying ambition seeks the same child—not to save the world, but to hasten its destruction. For any hope of victory, Erin must discover the truth behind Christ's early years and understand His first true miracle, an event wrapped in sin and destruction, an act that yet remains unfulfilled and holds the only hope for the world.

The search for the truth will take Erin and the others across centuries and around the world, from the dusty plains of the Holy Land to the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean, from the catacombs of Rome to an iron fortress in the Mediterranean Sea, and at last to the very gates of Hell itself, where their destiny—and the fate of mankind—awaits.

With The Blood Gospel, the first novel in the Order of the Sanguines series, James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell breathtakingly combined science, myth, and religion and introduced a world where miracles hold new meaning and the fight for good over evil is far more complicated than we ever dreamed. In Innocent Blood they again take us to the edge of destruction . . . and into the deepest reaches of imagination.

## Innocent Blood Details

Date : Published December 10th 2013 by William Morrow

ISBN :

Author : James Rollins , Rebecca Cantrell

Format : Kindle Edition 733 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Adventure, Mystery, Horror

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# From Reader Review Innocent Blood for online ebook

## Jon Kurtz says

Innocent Blood is the second book of the three part Order of the Sanguines series by James Rollins/Rebecca Cantrell. Normally, I don't go for vampire fiction, but I stumbled upon the series being a fan of James Rollins' archeological/thriller genre of novels.

The strength of this series is the unconventional relationships between the characters. Humans work with vampires (Sangiunes) backed by the Catholic Church in order to rid the world of the stigoi (bad vampires) and other corrupt creatures set on the ruin of the world. At times you're not sure if the humans are viewed as teammates or T-bones. Blood flows freely, but grievous injury does not always equate to death. Be prepared for the roller coaster as main characters lose limbs, die, or almost die, return, turn into vampires, become human, and on and on and on. It actually makes the story telling richer as there are few limits.

Rollins and Cantrell use a well-considered recipe of "forbidden" love, loss, and tragedy to turn emotions on a dime. In addition, they pour in the occasional pint of ruthlessness, deceit, and loss over the centuries to develop the characters and provide souls to the soulless.

In this installment, as in the first, the main theme is one of good versus evil. Evil is well defined, though, as indicated previously, it's not always easy to pick out the good, whether they be human or otherwise. Even those wearing vestments and white collars are suspect.

Having revealed no specific information about this novel to potential readers (which isn't always easy), I provide Innocent Blood with a 4.2 out of 5.0 on the expanded scale.

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## Josen says

This is the second book in The Order of the Sanguines series. Once again I am more than happy with the Rollins/Cantrell collaboration. This was a vampire series that Rollins wanted to write and it's definitely done his way. In this series, "vampires" are referred to as strigoi and yes they drink blood but that's not what this story is about really. There are also sanguinists, who have been cursed as strigoi but have been recruited and have taken a vow to spend their lives as warriors of the Catholic Church who, in turn, battle the strigoi. But again, that just lays the foundation for the story. The story is more about stopping a prophecy that will bring about Armageddon. And of course it's done in true Rollins style with prophecy, mystery and adventure .....all the makings of a book that keeps me wanting to turn the page to read more. So good!

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## Rick Soper says

I really enjoyed this book. I've enjoyed all of James Rollins' books, but when you add Rebecca Cantrell into the mix, you really get a different tone and texture to the storytelling. Like Clive Cussler does in most of his books Rollins is always mixing historical facts within his fiction to come out with a plausible and

entertaining story. Rollins books are very action oriented, pulse pounding, and work very well for guys like me who enjoy that kind of stuff. I haven't read Rebecca Cantrell's other novels yet, but I've read all the novels and novellas in this series and I can tell you that her influence adds more than a little femininity and sensitivity to Rollins writing style and the combination of the two give the reader a very different reading experience. The Blood Gospel that came before this novel had one of the great hook-you-in endings that I've read in a long while, and Innocent Blood takes right up where the Blood Gospel left off with the characters that survived trying to move forward in their lives while being dragged right back into the mystical world they thought they left behind. Like many Thrillers this is a chase from beginning to end, that takes twists, turns, and throws surprises at you around every corner. I don't want to give too much away, but there are quite a few bible references in here, to go along with all the supernatural creatures, but the authors throw such a creative spin on everything that you can't help but be entertained. The fury with which they bring the story to it's cataclysmic conclusion was just awesome and had me flipping pages way too late in the evening. I'd highly recommend this book and I am looking forward to the next book because the ending once again has me hooked.

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### **Bruno says**

Mais um volume prazeroso explodido e já vou para o 3º volume desta trilogia "Os Sanguinistas".

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### **Shelley says**

\*Genre\* Fantasy, Thriller, Paranormal, Horror

\*Rating\* 3.5-4

\*My Thoughts\*

Innocent Blood is the second installment of The Order of the Sanguines. Seeing as I already have the final installment called Blood Infernal ready to go thanks to the publisher, I figured I might want to go back and read Innocent Blood first. Kind of silly skipping over books don't you think? That way I can jog my memory into remembering why I should care about these characters, or the different variations of vampires, or the fact that this Sanguine sect abides by Christ's teachings and doesn't drink blood from humans even though they're strigoi.

\*Full Review Posted @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

\*Recvd 11/19/2013 via Edelweiss\* Published: December 10th 2013 by William Morrow

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### **Susan says**

Thoroughly enjoyed this second installment in the Order of the Sanguines series. While some of the characters are familiar from the Bible, the premise is totally unreal, but it is fiction after all. The action picks up at heart pounding pace shortly after the conclusion of the first book, *The Blood Gospel*, and continues to

another hint of what's next. Meanwhile, good battles evil, some wrongs are righted, some win and some lose, second chances are taken or lost, comeuppances are had, and the archetypal story continues in very entertaining fashion.

And did I mention there are vampires? Evil strigoi and good (mostly) Sanguine priests. Yes, priests, an order established by Christ himself, beginning with Lazarus, who drink consecrated wine--the blood of Christ--rather than human blood. These guys are hard core. When they do drink their wine, it brings on visions of their past sins for penance.

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### **Jennifer says**

While vampires in the Vatican are not theologically sound, they are a heck of a lot of fun. I'm really enjoying this series, which blends a lot of elements into flaming Winnebago of action and thrills. One of the strengths of this book is the complexity of the characters, which neatly illustrates the way our beliefs can sometimes complicate our decision-making process. It's not deep, but it's a lot of fun.

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### **Julie Kellner says**

A little drawn out with the action not happening mid way. Still enjoyable story I think the romance can be left out though

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### **Steven says**

Innocent Blood by James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell

Published 2014, William Morrow

Stars: ★★★★★

Review also posted at: Slapdash & Sundry

This was my second read of this book, having read it new last year when it came out, and again now in preparation for finally reading the final book of the trilogy, which has been out for a few months now. I've put it off, being too sad that it will be over to pick it up. But it's time...

Yet again, Rollins and Cantrell do not disappoint. Ripping some of their major players right out of history and slapping them onto their pages, they bring a life and depth of character to each of the heroes and villains of their story.

This book deals with innocence, sacrifice, and choice. It's also an amazing testament to the power of two creative minds coming together to share a story with the world... one that demands to be read.

Pick up this series. It's incredible.

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## Lauri says

I won this book from Goodreads.

James Rollins is on my list of favorite authors, so I read everything he writes. I love his Sigma series with the mix of history. That said, this series is different. I don't usually read vampire books, but since the series was by James Rollins I read *Blood Gospel* and enjoyed it. So of course I had to continue with the series which is a mix of history and supernatural. I just had to get past the vampire part, which is not at all like the *Twilight* Series.

Great book, really enjoyed it.

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## Beth says

*Innocent Blood* is a very dark mystery thriller with a huge paranormal twist. Think *DaVinci Code* with vampire priests (Saguines), fallen angels and other immortals. It even has a steampunk element with magical/bio/mechanical creations. Literally this story had it all.

This memorizing story takes place on the brink of an Apocalypse, orchestrated by Judas himself. There is also a historical element that pulls in infamous characters from history into the storyline. All are still playing at political machinations to achieve their goals. What probably amazed me the most was how well Rollins and Cantrell took the purely evil and convoluted it into the gray. Good isn't always good, evil isn't always evil and there is a huge gray area in between. Character's interpretations of good and evil play a huge role in the outcome. There is an absolutely twisting of the Christian biblical belief system, hence the comparison to the *DaVinci Code*).

Every once in a while you hit a book that is so original its shocking, *Innocent Blood* definitely amps up the shock value.

Non-stop, pulse pounding action will keep you on the edge of your seat and riveted till the end.

I received this ARC copy of *Innocent Blood* from William Morrow in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication on December 10, 2013.

Written by: James Rollins and Rebecca Cantrell

Series: The Order of the Saguines

Sequence in Series: 2

Print Length: 448 pages

Publisher: William Morrow

Publication Date: December 10, 2013

Rating: 4 Stars

Genre: Paranormal, Mystery, Thriller, Horror

Learn more at: [James Rollins' Website](#)

Find this book on: [Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#)

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## **Tracey says**

Tons of action, always someone being kidnapped, chases by unholy creations or strange experiments being done on young girls. Never a dull moment it has a little bit of everything.

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## **Tim The Enchanter says**

### **The Vampires Bite...and Suck - 2.5 Stars**

Before I say anything further, I think it is important to state that this review is for the Audiobook version narrated by Christian Baskous. I really did enjoy The Blood Gospel. I was expecting the second installment to begin where we left off and to be filled with the action and discovery of the first book. In fact, I listened to the audiobook version of the first installment which was narrated by the same person. I don't always advise when I am reviewing an audiobook but in this case, the narration played a major role in my rating. Bad narration can ruin your enjoyment of an otherwise entertaining book.

### **Plot summary**

After the events of the first book, our heroes, human and vampire, come back together to save the world as foretold in the Blood Gospel. The previously unknown (and evil) leader of the strigoi and human alliance reveals himself and his plan to begin Armageddon and told in the Book of Revelation. Are our heroes fighting against inevitable prophecy, being used for some other purpose or fighting against the pride and presumption of a single man.

### **The Good**

#### **They Did One Thing Right**

I read the first in the series nearly a year ago and quickly realized I could not remember the majority of the plot from the first installment. While most subsequent books in a series require some recap, I think it is lazy and poor writing to provide a recap on the reader by dumping the info in a massive download. Rollins and Cantrell expertly recap the first book by reminding us of events from time to time throughout the book. Despite my lack of memory, this kept me from feeling lost as I read the book.

### **The Bad**

#### **An Elegy for James Rollins**

Ok. This might be a bit of exaggeration but seriously, I have high expectations when I read a James Rollins novel. Generally, the characters well devised, the plot is taut while moving quickly and the story is well researched and intelligent. Unfortunately, none of these adjectives describe this book.



While there were many characters, they were often confused, disoriented and unsure of themselves. While I appreciate a good broken and unsure character, I was never able to grasp exactly what it was that motivated the characters (beside the desire that the world not end) from scene to scene. The characters were simply not interesting or not likeable. This is quite the accomplishment considering I liked each of the characters in the first book.

The plot failed to get off the ground. The plot was as confused as the characters. Most James Rollins novels involves characters unfolding or solving some mystery. In this novels, the characters spent the majority of their time chasing shadows without much in the way of a plan. In the end it was only in part luck and logical leaps that allowed them to figure out the pieces missing to solve the puzzle. Additionally, this volume lacks Rollins trademark action. There is very little confrontation between characters and when there is, our heroes are impotent and unable to act.

### **What is with this Guy**

It is hard for me to understand how I can find great enjoyment in the narration of the first book but despise it in the second book. In this book it is as if the narrator took vocal lessons from some daytime soap stars. The pace was soap opera dramatic throughout and ran the gambit from melodramatic to cheesy. The voices he used were mostly bad. Most of the vampires sounded like the traditional, 'I want to suck your blood' Transylvania type vampires. The female voices were either childish sounding or sounded like an effeminate man. While I appreciate that a man doing a female voice is always a difficult task, the narrator made it sound like he wasn't even trying. I feel as if I would have enjoyed this book more and rated the book higher if I have read this as opposed to listening to it. I you have choice, pick up the book and skip the audio.

### **Final Thoughts**

I have read interviews with James Rollins where to states that his writing partner, Rebecca Cantrell, is the one who is providing the dark and taunt atmosphere of the novels. In this case, there was more atmosphere than content. While the novel made you feel as if you our late at night standing under a streetlamp with a light fog at your at your feet and pack of vampires at your back, the reader become lost in the fog, knocks his head on the lamppost, falls into the fog and is devoured by the undead. A sad day for James Rollins.

### Audiobook Notes

### **Content Advisories**

It is difficult to find commentary on the sex/violence/language content of book if you are interested. I make an effort to give you the information so you can make an informed decision before reading. \*Disclaimer\* I do not take note or count the occurrences of adult language as I read. I am simply giving approximations.

Scale 1 - Lowest 5 - Highest

### Sex - 2.5

While there are no sex scenes to speak of, there is an allusion to one and one interrupted scene. Beyond this, there is also discussion of the erotic feelings when one is turned into a vampire. Several of the characters recount these experience and feelings. There is significant sexual tension and desire between two of the characters for much of the book.

## Language - 2

As in most James Rollins novel, adult language is at a premium. I do not recall any uses of the f-word and only minor usage of other adult language.

## Violence - 3

There is considerable less violence in this installment. Most of the violence in Rollins novels occurs in confrontations. In this volume, the characters spend their times tracking the bad guys and there are only a few confrontations. A few people die during the confrontation but there is not graphic of gratuitous violence. There is some mild monster violence when there is a recounting of the characters transformation in a vampire state.

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## **Kaora says**

I spent the entire book going between one and two stars, finally settling on two because of the action packed ending.

The book has a great premise. It is Dan Brown with ~~vampires~~ strigoi mixed in. It has characters such as Lazarus, Countess Elizabeth Bathory and Judas Iscariot. Should be awesome right? Wrong.

First of all I found the characters cliched and completely illogical. There is no rhyme or reason to the characters' actions. For example Elizabeth Bathory killed hundreds of young girls in horrific ways, yet as soon as she meets Tommy she sees her son in him and feels protective.

WTF. You had two daughters. None of those hundreds of girls that you murdered reminded you of your daughters? You even killed a mother in front of her daughter. And we're expected to believe you had some sort of "change of heart" when this little boy comes along?

And the priest Rhun the lover of Bathory, when he finds out what she is he locks her in a coffin for four hundred years. Why? Do you think she'd come out repentant? I'm reminded of a joke I heard once.

If you lock your wife and dog in the trunk of your car for a day which one will be happy to see you?

Can't imagine how she felt after 400 years.

And Erin. Why in the world are you so reverent of Bathory?

*In this one instance, Erin agreed with Bathory. The countess had gotten a raw deal-turned into a strigoi, imprisoned in her own castle, then in a coffin for 400 years.*

An example of the great editing, several chapters later:

*For once, Erin found herself agreeing with the countess.*

What is with this kinship these two women seem to share?

*Still, Elizabeth had to admit the historian had an athletic grace about her and a fine mind. In another time, another life, they might have been friends.*

Or she might have watched you suffocate in a box or cut out your heart to examine it. Or eaten you.

I'm not even going to get started on the "romance" between Erin and Jordan.

It's never good what you feel like it would have made a better book if the main character(s) died half way through.

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## **Bob Milne says**

While *The Blood Gospel* was a problematic read for me, one with which I wasn't entirely comfortable, I enjoyed the adventure aspects of it enough to give the second volume a chance. All I asked was that the issue of faith be better explored, that Erin's character develop the way I felt it should, and that the villains come out of the shadows.

Unfortunately, *Innocent Blood* (*The Order of the Sanguines* #2) failed to deliver for me on all accounts. I hate to say it, but as much as I have enjoyed some of James Rollins solo efforts, I think I'm done with this series.

What originally drew me to the series was its take on vampires. I'm a huge fan of dark, sinister, old-fashioned, monstrous vampires, so I was really curious to see what he and Rebecca Cantrell would do with the mythology. The whole idea of the strigoi (damned and fallen) versus the Sanguine (saved and redeemed) is an interesting one, but I didn't feel they did anything to develop it further here. If anything, they erased some of the grey areas that I felt made the concept so interesting.

The first book teased us with a question as to whether consecrated wine really has magical/miraculous properties, or whether graduating strigoi into Sanguine was all a matter of faith, but it shied away from providing an answer. Here, we see the power of consecrated wine, and the consequences of would-be Sanguinists being found unworthy. Not without faith, mind you, but unworthy. Clearly, despite the novel's early tease (in which a Crusader if he is so certain there is only one God), the authors come down hard on the side of Christian certainty.

As for the characters, I was really disappointed in the way Erin's character was developed here. I felt she was robbed of much of her objectivity and inquisitiveness, becoming little more than a romantic entanglement. Similarly, Jordan fell very much into the stock hero mold, and what I originally thought to be a game-changing act of sacrifice turned into nothing more than an excuse to have him jump the proverbial religious shark.

Rasputin was one of the most interesting characters introduced in *The Blood Gospel*, and I was curious to see how he'd be developed here, but I found his potential to be largely wasted. By contrast, I really loved what they did with the introduction of Elizabeth Bathory, especially the complexities of her relationship with Rhun. I kept waiting for her to be cleansed and redeemed, to fall into the fold, but Rollins and Cantrell allow her to remain true to her past and to her self. It was probably her, more than anybody else, who kept me reading.

While the presence of Judas in the series pushed the story a bit too far into Christian territory for me, he presented some interesting dilemmas, and prompted some interesting questions. I quite liked the way he was explored, the influence he had on the other characters, and the justifications he presented for his actions. As willing as I was to accept his role, though, the story lost me completely when it started dealing with angels. It was at that point that I started skimming, looking ahead, and waiting for an end, as opposed to anticipating it.

Overall, Innocent Blood started out slow, with very little of consequence happening early on. There was some absolute carnage at the halfway point that got me interested, with what seemed to be some legitimate stakes involved, but the potential was just as quickly erased. What we're left with is a religious thriller that becomes more tedious than tantalizing. It will probably appeal very much to the right audience, but I'm convinced now that audience simply doesn't include me.

*Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins*

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