



Temple

Matthew Reilly

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"Deep in the jungles of Peru the race of the century is under way to locate a legendary Incan idol. An artifact carved out of a strange kind of stone, the idol could be used as the basis for a terrifying new weapon. The U.S. Army wants it - at any cost - but they are not alone." "The only clue to the idol's final resting place lies in a four-hundred-year-old manuscript. Enter Professor William Race, a brilliant young linguist who is unwittingly recruited to translate the manuscript and lead the army team to the artifact. And so begins the mission that will take Race and his companions to a mysterious Andean temple seething with menace and danger. But it is only when the foreboding edifice is opened that Race and his team discover that they have broken a golden rule: Some doors are meant to remain closed."--BOOK JACKET.

Temple Details

Date : Published January 1st 1999 by Pan MacMillan Australia

ISBN : 9780732909710

Author : Matthew Reilly

Format : Softcover 616 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Adventure, Action

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China says

SERIOUSLY?

Okay. I love what I call "adventure" novels. I expect some crazy absurdities when it comes to what the characters can do; rope swinging, narrowly missing sword slashes, crazy animal wrestling, and the like. This book was so over the top most of the time I just rolled my eyes because it was so absurd. Standing on the nose of an airplane (a college professor mind you), reaching to another military plane, pushes a button on the outside of said plane and opens to the hatch...then jumps into said hatch and rides a tank down to earth, only to be saved by a mysterious jetpack he didn't even know he was wearing. REALLY!? SERIOUSLY? There is plausible and then there is absurd. This is over that. The events in the book was so out of place that I really was just 'meh' by about 200 pages in.. but I kept reading...slowly.

Next, I don't know what kind of writing style this is. It's either way too descriptive or way too vague. The used of exclamation marks, ellipses, and italics was almost juvenile to me. THE ITALICS. Sweet zombie Jesus. It got to the point that when I read anything in italics (which happened at least 10 times a page) I read it in a teenage, giddy, 'I've got a crush on boy' kind of way. You know how little girls do that? I just assume there was giggling involved. Often times it was written on a level that I would consider an adult read. Then it would go to a level that was extremely young adult and I was so confused. My favorite line, which I assume had lots of giggling from the monk saying it, "I could see her bosom -and much to my embarrassment-her erect nipples." (teheheheh) I assume he giggled. That's when I lost all credibility for this book.

The story should have ended by page 400. Done deal. It would have gotten a 3 star rating had it ended there. Everything could have been finished up by page 410. Everyone is happy, natives got their junk back, we're going home, yahoo. NO. We weren't that lucky. In a brilliant twist, with characters you've never seen before another story comes out of no where to postpone this torture another 100+ pages. Seriously?

It took me forever to finish this book. It was a struggle each time I picked it up to read it, suppress giggles, and contain my eyes in their natural position because of the chronic eye-rolling I was doing because of this written nonsense.

Was it the worst book I've ever read? Nah. Will I read Matt Reilly again? NOPE. I actually finished this book; I quit 100 pages into another of his and gave the book back to the used bookstore. Never again.

B.G.M. Hall says

A re-read for about the forth time because I was out of new fiction and wanted something fun and fast after finishing *The Casual Vacancy*.

It is a *better book* than *The Casual Vacancy*? No.

Is it more of a fun read? **Hell, yes!**

As I've noted before, Reilly's forte is airport-style action novels. If Stephen King is the literary equivalent of a Big Mac and Fries, Matthew Reilly is the literary equivalent of a Michael Bay/Jerry Bruckheimer movie. He provides heroic characters fighting impossible odds, blowing tons of stuff up, defying the laws of gravity and producing a body toll greater than many national disasters.

Temple is Reilly in full Indiana Jones/Michael Crichton style (with more than a few homages to Star Wars too), in a race against time to find a religious artefact that has scientific properties that could literally bring about the end of the world. If you want Incans, Nazis, doomsday cults, Green Berets, DARPA, river chases, lots of guns and explosions, and don't care much about the laws of physics, Reilly is your guy. It's over-the-top action, but Reilly did it better in Temple, Contest and Ice Station than his latter books, as he was trying to write a good, fast story, rather than continually trying to top his previous works in terms of straining credibility (his Jack West series takes *so many* liberties with reality that they make Temple seem like a documentary).

Mark Hebwood says

Part 3 in a four-book review of Matthew Reilly's novels

Contest -> *Ice Station* -> ***Temple*** -> *Seven Ancient Wonders*

<= *Ice Station*

.... couldn't believe it! This, I believe, is Matthew's third novel, and by now he had devolved almost to the level he attained in the only other of his books that I read.

But for now, let's stay with this one. True to his chosen trademark, Matthew creates a plot which is so far removed from reality that it cannot seriously be considered any more as a thriller. Fiction does not have to be realistic, but it *does* have to be internally consistent. For example, if I write a thriller featuring a crack soldier (*not* a superhero) who finds himself locked up in a steel chamber, I create suspense if I explore ways in which my character will be able to extricate himself from this predicament. It will not do if I portray my soldier to punch a hole in the steel door with his bare fist, and then leg it, having made short work of the problem. My character is a *soldier*, not a superhero. There is nothing wrong with fiction that involves superheroes, only the hero in my example was not one. That's what I mean with consistent, but not realistic.

But surely, Matthew would not do this? Well, let's see. At some point in this novel, William Race, our hero, finds himself inside an Abrams battle tank which has been dropped from a cargo plane and is hurtling freely towards the ground, its fall unbroken by parachutes. William manages to climb out of the truck while in free fall, and one second before it hits the ground is saved by his jetpack, which automatically ignites and gets him out of harm's way.

Oh really. Matthew is seriously inviting his readers to believe that this is possible? Just for a bit fun, let me explore what that would involve. We need a jetpack which is able to fire jets with a force sufficient to neutralise the speed of a falling tank. This force will be equal to the William's mass multiplied by the change in velocity required. Delta velocity, in this case, is the velocity of the falling tank one second before impact, as we require a force sufficient to make William just hover at a distance above the ground. And the velocity is the terminal velocity of an object falling through the atmosphere.

So, let's calculate the terminal velocity of an Abrams tank. To do this, we need the following ingredients:

(a) the mass of the object. Matthew says this is 67 tonnes

(b) gravitational acceleration g . This is 9.81 ms^{-2}

(c) the density of the fluid through which the object is falling. In the case of atmosphere near ground level, this is 1.25 kgm^{-3}

(d) the projected area of the object. Matthew says in the novel that the truck had tipped forward, so is falling vertically towards earth. An Abrams tank is 2.44m wide by 3.66m high, so that's 8.9 m^2

(e) the drag coefficient. I guess an Abrams tank may look a little like a flat square if it comes hurtling towards you with the tip forward, and for such a shape Wikipedia informs me the coefficient is about 1.

Now we mash this together in the formula for terminal velocity and get 343 ms^{-1} . That is quite fast, actually. The speed of sound is 340 ms^{-1} so William, sitting outside the tank, holding on to the turret with his bare hands at 1235 km/h , will just a fraction of a second before his jetpack ignites have broken the sound barrier. Perfectly feasible of course.

And what force do we now need to break this fall? Matthew says that William's J-7 DARPA jetpack fired automatically when the tank was 27m above the ground, bringing him to a stationary hover 10m above the ground. So we need to apply a force capable of slowing a grown man plus his jetpack from the speed of sound to standstill over a distance of 17m.

Let's see. William is 1.75m tall and a fit guy. So let's say he weighs 80kg, all muscle of course. There actually were jetpacks designed for DARPA - these were unwieldy contraptions built by Bell Aerosystems in the 70s and weighed some 30kg. So let's run with that. From what we know, we can calculate the time it takes to travel 17m while applying constant deceleration to zero. Won't take long, as you can imagine - about 0.05 secs. Using $F=m*a$, and $a=dv/dt$ it follows that we need a force in the region of 700-800 kN to achieve this.

Sounds abstract? Let me put this into perspective. A Merlin 1D rocket develops 650 kN thrust at sea level, and the Merlin 1D Vac engine generates 800 kN. What are these? They are rocket engines powering the Falcon 9 spaceflight launch vehicle operated by space transportation company Space X.

So here we have a jet pack with the force of a rocket used to lift satellites into orbit and a human passenger who is able to withstand this force with absolutely no problems.

I rest my case. No, thrillers do not have to be realistic. But they *do* have to work. This sequence is just stupid, and, worse, Matthew clearly believes that his readers are stupid.

So why did I pick up another one of his, years later? I am not really sure, to be honest. As I said, I like the *idea* of this sort of novel. I guess I was hoping that he may have gone back to the style of Contest when I picked up *Seven Ancient Wonders*. Instead, ...

=> *Seven Ancient Wonders*

Rebecca says

Action Adventure Mystery Amazing couldn't put it down. Superb in its telling, an thrilling adventure. With unforgettable heroes and rip roaring action.

Liam says

People hate on Matthew Reilly something fierce. Yes, he isn't the best writer in the world, but he doesn't have to be to do what he does; he writes fast-paced, actiony schlock, and it is brilliant; if you expect realism or sensible plots, I think you've wildly missed the point.

Temple is possibly the most absurd and campy novel that he's written, and I still inhaled the fucking thing and loved every minute of it. Lighten up or go back to your Tolkien.

Read for Aussie Readers' October 2013 "Exotic Location" Challenge

Freda Malone says

Good grief, I think I'm in love. Matthew Reilly has done it again. His books get my blood pumping and rooting for the good guys, yes, aloud! Course, many may say the action in his novels are pretty far fetched but I don't care! It's fiction after all and as long as I can visualize it in my mind while reading it, it's all good!

Nicole says

I suppose I should begin by acknowledging that I completely understand why Reilly's books are so popular. I had a really high expectation because of it. The non-stop action and almost cinematic experience would appeal to many people - including myself.

BUT...(and there is a *huge* but)

There were several things about this book which completely ruined it for me, and as exciting as the events were, they just weren't enough.

FIRST COMPLAINT:

I could not *get over* the extraordinary use of italics *and exclamation marks!*

Sure, these techniques *may add* emphasis at the right time, but *there is* a time and a place. I'm the kind of *person* that adds voices to characters, but with all those italics, it sounded sarcastic the entire time! If the actual events weren't difficult enough to believe in the first place, it certainly doesn't help when *you sound so bloody overdramatic!*

I'm currently reading Ice Station and am disappointed that the same thing is happening (though considerably less, yay!).

SECOND COMPLAINT:

I by no means consider myself an expert on ancient South American cultures. Unfortunately, neither it seems is Reilly. I can appreciate what he was trying to do, but at no point did I feel that Inca culture was properly represented. (view spoiler) It sounded like a perfectly Western culture situated in a jungle with some fancy foreign names thrown in for good measure. ~~Warning: annoyance may cause some exaggeration~~

I think that if any writer wants to include piece of historical writing, then substantial research is needed, and the actual writing style needs to be convincing. Temple just didn't do that for me.

THIRD COMPLAINT:

Nazis.

FORTH COMPLAINT:

There were too many close calls. Sure, it's exciting the first few ~~dozen~~ times, but eventually it becomes hard to be believe. Add the WAY they're resolved and after awhile I felt really disappointed. If I can't suspend my disbelief I can't get into the story. And if I can't get into the story, then I'm wasting my time.

CONCLUSION:

I was not impressed by this book, but I would see the movie. I might even pay money to do so.

Heather says

I LOVE Matt Reilly! This is his second book that I've read and once again, I just couldn't put it down. What an action packed book, that just keeps you turning the pages.

I also love the way I become so attached to the main character, I felt as if we've been friends for ages and I can't help caring about what happens to him. He's just such a great guy!

And yes, I'll admit, sometimes the action sequences are a little long, maybe even a little over-the-top, but I still love 'em!

I will definitely be reading another Reilly book in the VERY near future, and recommend this to everyone and anyone, what a nice change of pace!

Skyw4lker says

First half of the book gone by so quickly, non-stop action. Loads of maneater 'cats' and god-eater spaniards. And in some part, star wars weapons 'G-11'. The tricky part of it and i dunno how I can visualize Race got away with taking out the helicopter by a rope swing... well dare to understand that's how MR write his stuff and I must say is still something we learn to take from an author of this kind of action-story-pages. I will dig in on the 2nd half of the book. More blood in this one though...wait up Race, you not a hero yet.

Come to the end of this book...have to say quite a story. Pack with action and even in its 2 part tale. One new one old. Very well written and connected. Hero (now the hero) Race is quite steam with action even though he is not train to be one. Guess he is the chosen one and had to do all that to save the world. Same sgit as NEO in Matrix. Some great high-tech written weapons and equipments...equipments that save last moment of life like diving from the sky. Loads of enemies from various department simply they are Nazi, US Army (Nash), US Navy (Romario), The Texan (doomsday cult). Even the Native Incas has a part in it to save the idol.

This a complete thing for this book. MR has once again did well and I hope to read more about William Race in the next book adventure. I give it a 7.8/10 for this one.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

From page one, I found the urge to keep reading impossible to resist. Reilly has a very in your face style when it comes to violence, so a reader should be prepared. And good men do die in this book. One that characters I was so crushing on died and my heart was broken. The way he did was so abrupt and not pretty. But the sheer adrenaline kick of reading this book will keep you going. I liked William Race as a hero. He's almost the opposite of Shane Schofield. He's physically awkward, more of a mental giant than anything. He gets into situations where you think, surely he's a dead man, but he manages to pull it together at the end. There seems like there will be a relationship between him and a woman who goes along on the mission, and the way that it ends is sad. But I'm not sure Race can handle a relationship when this book ends. He has his hands full between the 'bad guys' he knows about and the ones lurking in the shadows. This book has human monsters and animal ones also. It's one of those books where you're holding your breath and hoping that most of the characters make it out alive. It's a very innovative storyline that combines a little bit of Indiana Jones with Tom Clancy and makes for a satisfactory result. Fans of the treasure-hunting genre will probably love this one, and if you're into ancient history, you'll also get a kick, especially if you like Latin American ancient history. If you want a good, fun, but bloody ride that will give you some hours of entertainment and keep your interest, I do recommend this book. Reilly is definitely an autobuy because this guy knows how to write an action book.

Richard says

It is hard to call this science fiction, even though Reilly is really big on technology. The only problem is... his technology has far too much "magic" in it, and really pushes his stories -- all four of those I've read -- into a really weird fantasy genre where pseudo-technology fills the role of magic.

In order to avoid spoilers -- and thus losing the chance to warn folks about how they might be disappointed by this book -- it will have to be sufficient to say that Reilly relies at numerous points on technology as a *deus ex machina* plot mechanism.

If you either care or know absurdly little about physics, probability, or just about anything -- well, then you might be entertained by the non-stop action and cliff-hanger twists and turns in Reilly's plots.

The first of his books, and the first I read, was Contest, and earned three stars for its over-the-top hyperactive attitude. But the others are all more absurd, more reliant on unrealistic technology and impossible physics, without plots that compensate.

Bogdan says

I usually love this kind of novels, packed with action and some history between it`s pages. But this book had way to many fighting scenes and, in the end, there a lot (and I mean, a lot!) of sides that are going after the same mysterious Idol.

There are some repetitive scenes in the plot, some inconsistency (from what I`ve read in some other comments

from the readers) in the whole historic background, and for some of the switching sides parts I had a little hunch from the beginning of the story.

At the first glance I was hooked, but after some fighting clishee scenes, more badass than in the best action movie (in fact, the writer has declared that this is the way that he likes it) I was quite bored.

But my interested stayed alive because of the second old story, about a catholic spanish priest that befriends an Inca prince and together they have their parts of adventures.

Overall this was a fast read, with a lot of informations about weapons and paramilitary american guerillas, this is quite a reality in fact, that there are alot of them in the USA, but besides these informations the book looks and feels like a weekend read. It has been compared with Indiana Jones, but haven read two of the books when I was younger I could say that this one was way longer (shorter could have been a more good choice) and more intricate (not in the good way) that a Indiana J novel.

I guess i`ll stick with two stars for my part.

The Crimson Fucker says

I've been having problems working on my review of this one... I had in mind to write one of those reviews where I explain what actually goes down in this book without saying "fuck" "shit" "OMG" and "WTF" and not talking about the weird shit that happened around me while I was trying to read this book... but instead I was going to talk about the non-stopping action, plot twist that left me completely surprised... I was planning on talking about the Nazis!!! I mean Nazis!!!! You have any idea of how hard it is not to say OMFG NAZIS!!!!!! Nazis with super machine guns?? Dude, is really really hard!!! And then the giant cats!!! Rapas!!! Rapas are awesome!!! giant Nazi eating cats!! Can I say shit??? please!!! Let me say shit!!! SHIT!!! NAZI EATING GIANT CATS!!!! THAT'S FUCKING AWESOME!!!!!! and then can I take a few lines of my "review" to mention that I saw standing in front of me for like 10 minutes something that can only be described as an Epic Booty!! Dude that chick was like 6 feet tall and was wearing these nice pants... and dude... you should have seen it!!! it was epic!!! I know it has nothing to do with the book... but dude!! I'm telling you it was worth mentioning... still man, the book was what you promised... after I finish reading that book I felt so manly that I decided to go to a steak house and order the biggest more manly piece of meat on their menu... but then I saw a subway and end up eating just a veggie patty sub... booo!!! But still!!! When I got home I told my cousin to be a doll and cook me some steak and potatoes... she laugh at me and told me to be a bitch and make her some yaniqueues... and I made em!!!! Wtf!!! I'm a failure as a man!!!!

Marty Reeder says

I wouldn't normally have picked up a book like Temple on my own, but it was recommended to me by a student and he even lent me his own copy of the book. The result? I am considering pressing charges against the student for submitting me to cruel and unusual punishment. Let me point out that I am not beyond dumb thrillers. If it is handled well enough, I can't get enough of them. But I do have a problem with thrillers that make me laugh (not intentionally), then wince, then groan, and then finally lock inside a room with a nuclear weapon and detonate it (which, basically, happens in the book, and which, amusingly enough, the protagonist survives).

Where do I start? Some of the first things that set me off was the back story of a Spanish priest in the Inca kingdom at the time of conquest. Usually I would be quite open to such a tale since I am an amateur historian of this era, yet when the Reilly shows the story of the priest being written in the exact same, annoying style that he writes the rest of the novel, you begin to wonder why he even put on the pretext that this was an ancient document. Either that or we are to believe that Reilly is a descendant of Spanish priests and that the bad writing is simply hereditary.

Then, as if this ridiculous back story weren't enough, all of the sudden we have these mythic gigantic panthers enter the story. It was almost as if he thought ... well, I've stretched my credibility quite a bit already, but how can I really blow it off the charts? Then we have double climaxes, both of them involving a nuclear weapon capable of blowing up the world (which, frankly, is hard to explain, credibly, why any country in the world would legitimately want to make), and both of them involving ridiculous escapes by our wannabe Indiana-Jones-esque protagonist (complete with old hat that survives all of the improbable escapes, cleverly disguised as a Yankees cap instead of a fedora, of course).

Some of my favorite (laugh out loud) moments, were when Reilly felt like he had to accentuate his action scenes by throwing in an exclamation point at the end of the sentence, as if saying, well, if the image I'm describing isn't getting you thrilled enough, then I'll just force you into it with a shocking exclamation point thrown in at the end. An example would be something like this. Race saw a giant panther come out of the mist! (I am paraphrasing the ridiculousness by the way, but please do not think that it in any way diminishes how ridiculous it is.) At times the exclamation point isn't enough and he feels justified in italicizing the sentence as well.

Now I understand that picking apart any thriller is an easy thing to do, since most of them are based on pretty shady premises to start out with, so let me try to address this diplomatically. I think that Reilly tried to pack waaaay too much into one novel. One of the aspects would have been enough: world-destroying weapon, giant panthers, ancient Inca treasure, modern day Nazis, Armed Forces conspiracy, to name a few. All of these together make for a fascinating train wreck, but a terrible novel all the same. The other suggestion would be for Reilly to stick to his field of expertise. It seems to me that he seems pretty well versed in military equipment and forces. But his knowledge of history is laughable and embarrassing. Besides the non-ancient style of the priest's writing, there are the Incas riding horses as if they are Plains Indians, yet they've never known horses until Pizarro brought them to Cuzco.

Sigh. I must stop myself before I wear out my fingers. However, let me say, to Reilly's credit, that I did enjoy one action scene that he showed on a river. It was, of course, unbelievable, but in the fun way that thrillers are supposed to be. Why did it work? I can't say exactly, but I suspect that it has something to do with the lack of world-destroying weapons, giant panthers, ancient Inca treasures ... well, I think you got the idea. So, here is my final recommendation: the next time you see Matthew Reilly's Temple, run away screaming! (Please imagine that last sentence in an intense italics.)

Katharine Ott says

"The young monk sobbed uncontrollably as the cold barrel of the gun was placed firmly against his temple." From cover to cover author Matt Reilly keeps the action cranked up in his overly long novel "Temple." The focus of the book is a frenzied search for an Incan idol that was fashioned long ago from an asteroid. Of course this is no ordinary Incan idol - due to its composition, it can be used as a radioactive substitute, but without some critical side effects.

William Race, a professor with expertise in ancient languages, is essentially kidnapped to help with the

search as various rogue groups including the military spare no expense to find the idol. And by no expense we're talking lives, and also military weapons and vehicles, which are endlessly described in detail. The book has a real comic book or movie set feel to it as people, vicious animals, and vehicles are blown up right and left, and miraculous escapes for the good guys are the norm.

The outline of the story was promising - an idol, an ancient manuscript, jungles and temples, but it was a chore to finish. Dirk Pitt and his merry band could teach these guys a thing or two!

Jonathan Terrington says

I really respect Matthew Reilly from what I know about him through his books. He seems a likeable, intelligent person. I've also quite enjoyed his action novels. For thriller novels they're not your standard run-of-the-mill novel. They focus around one interesting and unique idea. I'll admit that the characters are often not overly free of cliché, but that said if you ever want to read something fast, fun and that reads like the explosive action of a blockbuster film then Reilly's your Australian.

In Temple I learned facts about Black Caimans*, read about mysterious pseudo-scientific ideas that while fake still sounded realistic enough, learnt about the power that grappling hooks can be as weapons and read about lots and lots of body counts. I think about one hundred people at minimum died (there may have been more...).

Temple, uniquely of all of Reilly's books that I've read, has a split narrative. One part of the action is set in the present and the other takes place in the past. Which was a slight meta-linguistic element to appease me as I was reading purely for the thrill and the fun of it. Oh now I've lost my train of thought...

Ultimately, a quick and fast paced 680 pages worth of story that went by quickly. In some ways there was too much story, in other ways the plotting wasn't Reilly's best but the ideas were interesting. Definitely worth reading if you are into thriller novels and unique action concepts.

*Apparently they may be larger than Saltwater Crocodiles (or at least similar in size) so that's 1 ton worth of crocodilian and seven metres length worth on average (Saltwaters can grow to 9 metres though so...)

Viraj John says

Quite amazing story.

An IDOL, which is carved from a meteorite and which can be used to create a Planet Killer 'Super Nova' a nuclear bomb.

Several factions of Bad Guys who is there to retrieve the IDOL and our hero Professor William Race, a linguist who believed that he working for the good Guys, Being part of team to translate an ancient menu script written by an old monk which tells an old story and thus, leads to the location of the hidden Idol.

Betrayal, Mythical Creatures, Action, and Suspense – which is quite a read.

And William Race, Saves the day... Being Hero from a mere professor.

Loved the story...

Henry Avila says

Timid Professor William Race of New York University, an expert in ancient Latin, is late for work as usual, it will be his last dull moment for many days. Colonel Nash head of an army unit, greets Mr. Race at the office and has a little job for him, a simple translation of a 500- year -old manuscript. A copy from the original taken from a French monastery in the Pyrenees by Germans, brutal criminals, Nazis, the famous Alberto Santiago one (a Spanish Monk). The problem, he can only read the writing on an airplane heading for Peru. The forceful Col. Nash, persuades the not very brave professor, how vital this is for national security. Promises that Mr.Race will be back home soon, not even leaving the plane! Can we say this is not what happens. When he finds out a former girlfriend in college, Lauren O'Conner, (William still has feelings for) is part of the group, how can he say no? Mr. Race grows weak, when he first talks to Lauren but she is married ...They're after an Inca idol, a foot high that originated in the distant Pleiades, a star cluster 425 light-years from Earth. So the rare Thyrium -261 element, which the beautiful but fearsome idol is made from, took a very long, long time to get here, millions of years, the Incas found the rock and carved The Spirit of the People, shaped like a cat's head, from the black , purple stone and made it their symbol . Translating, he soon discovers where the object is located. However they're not the only ones interested, Nazis, domestic terrorists from Texas, even the rival U.S. Navy would kill to get their hand on the Thyrium and do. Why? A Supernova device has been stolen from the military, put the two together, the Idol and the weapon and no more World (some crazies would like that). Landing in Cuzco the former Inca capital, the team's six well trained soldiers (Green Berets) and six nervous scientists, immediately head for the rainy jungle, a remote, unknown, deserted citadel Vilcafor where the towering temple is, built by the Indians, surrounded by a lake. The lost idol is hidden inside says the manuscript, put there by an Inca Prince Renco Capac, escaping the relentless conquistadors, led by the ferocious Hernando Pizarro (Francisco's brother, he had three), helped by Santiago and Bassario, a thief from a good family. But wait, complications , angry Indians descendants of the Incas protect the temple, arrows are shot the mythical , massive and hungry black cats Rapas, not so much any more, they like to eat human flesh, guard the area too. The Nazis arrive, kill many people, flee on the nearby river in an armada with the idol, followed by Col. Nash's team , exciting battles commence, bullets fly, planes are shot down, bombs explode, boats destroyed, amazon caiman reptiles eat a lot, then the terrorists and U.S.Navy also come, not to mention his brother Marty working for the other side. All would kill for the idol, blood flows like the river, nobody can be trusted and an unexpected hero appears, would you believe... Mr.William Race? Ticking doomsday clocks... two, a falling giant tank , wrestling with crocodile like animals, caiman (close relatives of alligators actually) he struggles with these numerous challenges. Can he stop the madness, before the madness stops the world? Superior action- adventure that never... ceases the frenzy.

Annalee says

This is my favourite Reilly book so far. It's a big fat blockbuster of a book but I ploughed through it in a couple of days. It's very edge-of-your-seat stuff, written in a cinematic style so it feels more like watching a fast paced action movie than reading a book.

The story has two timelines, one set in the time of the Spanish conquest of the Incas and the other in Peru of 1999. The unlikely hero is William Race, a mild mannered, likable linguistics expert who, during this story, finds himself on a mission to save the world.

Paul says

This book hurt. "At that exact same moment" I lost count of the number of times I would have thrown a physical book away. It is a mess. The bad guys are worse than cardboard. Their motivations are either non-existent or just plain ludicrous. The central premise of the Thyrium and the Super Nova were handled so badly, it was clear Reilly doesn't know much about nuclear physics. Although from the action scenes he is well versed in Hollywood Physics.

There were some interesting scenes. The falling tank would have been a great scene if I hadn't already grown to despise the book and just wanted to get to the end so that it would just be over.

One bonus is that I can be much more confident in my own writing, knowing that something like this can actually get published.
