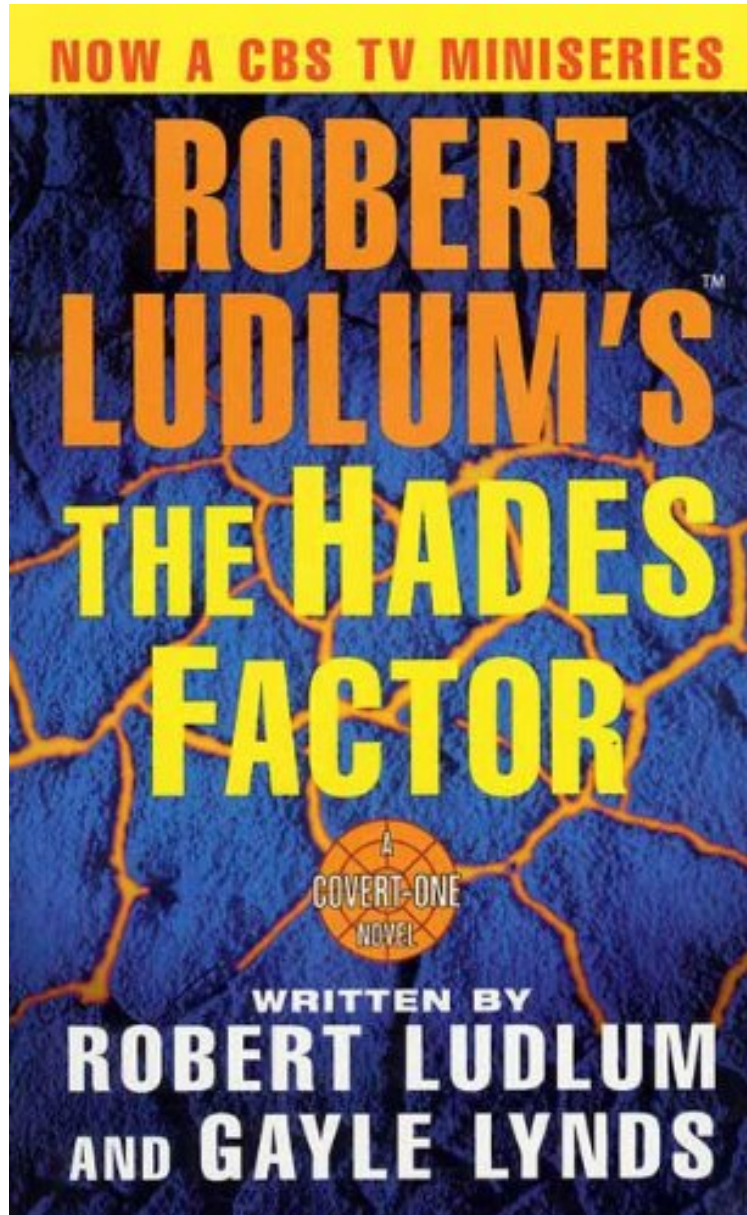


[Online library] Robert Ludlum's The Hades Factor: A Covert-One Novel

Robert Ludlum's The Hades Factor: A Covert-One Novel

Von Robert Ludlum, Gayle Lynds
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Von Robert Ludlum, Gayle Lynds : Robert Ludlum's The Hades Factor: A Covert-One Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robert Ludlum's The Hades Factor: A Covert-One Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A

contagious . . . action thriller

Von Anakina
The plot of this novel is well-designed and is focused on a very charismatic and credible male character, Jonathan Smith. Jon, as his friends call him, is a doctor, but also a soldier. He is an intelligent man and full of resources, but not the classic perfect action man. He has faults, makes mistakes, but in the end he is also a bit lucky (as it always happens in novels). Even if this book wasn't written only by Ludlum, who would be dead the year after its publication, his touch is evident. In fact, despite being a very long book, it reads just as quickly, almost creating dependency, and has the right balance between action and introspection of the characters. The theme, that of a pandemic caused voluntarily to obtain a financial return, makes you think. The scenario, although extreme, is however realistic and, precisely for this reason, gives the chills. The scientific part, although it is not overly developed (for the benefit of the reader, who should not put up with any info-dump), is credible. Among the characters I particularly liked Marty, a nerd with Asperger's Syndrome. It was interesting to follow the fluctuation of his thoughts as the levels of the drugs changed in his body. On the other hand, this novel is not without downsides, starting with an excessive head hopping. It is not functional to the story, so it seems almost causal and sometimes it makes you lose empathy with the characters. The ending opens to a series of books that can be read separately with limited or no real subplot, which unfortunately sounds like a commercial operation. For this reason I do not think I'll read more books in this series, because the next two, to which Ludlum participated (I cannot say to what extent) are posthumous, while all others are completely written by other authors. Despite the downsides, I really enjoyed reading this book, so I still decided to give it full marks.

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli, author of Kindred Intentions
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The start of what could be an exciting series

Von Bernie
In the prolog three seemingly unrelated people die of a uniquely fast acting virus. Prepare for gushing blood and more. Our hero, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jonathan ("Jon") Smith M.D. from USAMRIID, is warned by an old friend to be wary of the Ides of March. Oops I meant that the friend xxx warns him that he is in trouble. Evidently the warning is too little too late to save the love of his life. He spends the rest of the story with the help of some extraordinary friends, tracking down the culprits. All the characters are bigger than life. They can go anywhere and do anything without the annoying details that would make the story impossible. Of course Robert Ludlum is a tad over descriptive and fluffs a 100 page tale into a 400 page tale mostly with gushy stuff (I suspect the influence of Gayle Lynds). The very thing that makes this story surreal is the very thing that makes this story fun. I am looking forward to the next book in the "Covert-One" series.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mediocre knock-off, like Clancy's OpCenter
Von David S. Rose[sigh] I guess one of the downsides of our capitalist economy is that what passes for art must inevitably end up being sacrificed on the altar of economics. Ludlum, who really is unrivaled as a thriller writer but can only knock one out every couple of years, has thus joined the ranks of those best-selling authors who are selling their name for the money. As with Clancy and Cussler, or the posthumous "collaborations" of Ian Flemming and Alistair Maclean, this new book is attempting to leverage another stream of revenue off the Ludlum franchise. The success or failure of these third-party corporate franchises is, as one would expect, completely dependent on the skill of semi-ghost. In some cases, as with the Alistair MacNeil attempt to carry on the Maclean legacy, it was a still-born disaster. In others, such as Cussler's NUMA spin-off written by Paul Kemprecos, you can welcome a decent new series with a familiar feel. With this first book in a new "Covert-One" series, however, Ludlum's chosen author lets the team down somewhat, although nowhere near as badly as Pieczenik squanders the Clancy name in selling the deprecable Op-Center series. Gayle Lynds' "Hades Factor" attempts to reuse some of the usual Ludlum conspiracy approaches and undercover violence, but unlike the master, the book is not particularly well written, the plot (the thesis of which is very similar to Rainbow Six) is laughably implausible and obvious, the characters are two dimensional and stereotypical, and the set-up for the rest of the series too pat. It should be pretty easy to figure out ahead of time whether or not you'll like this one: if you have an insatiable appetite for thrillers, are more concerned with the usual "good guys overcome obstacles using cool violence to save the world" genre than you are with a particular author, and are the kind of person who happily gobbles up the Clancy/Pieczenik Op-Center series, you'll find this an acceptable book. It's OK for a summer beach read, and has the usual quotient of ingredients that you would expect from the Ludlum/Clancy/Cussler camps, as written through the keyboard of a romance novelist (ie, a lot more romantic introspection and longing than the usual Ludlum). But if you are a true aficionado of good thriller writing, who really appreciates Ludlum's finely honed paranoia, be forewarned that you will be disappointed. The bottom line is that it's an OK-but-not-particularly-great book, much better than Op-Center but not as good as NUMA. I'm not sure if I'll get any future books in this series...it probably depends on how desperate I get for my thriller fix.

Kurzbeschreibung
Robert Ludlum has been acclaimed as the master of suspense and international intrigue. His many books have thrilled millions of readers, reaching the top of bestsellers lists the world over and setting a standard that has never been surpassed. Now, from the imagination of one of America's greatest storytellers comes Robert Ludlum's *The Hades Factor*--a thrilling new entry in the Covert-One series. A homeless man in Boston, an Army Major in California, and a teenage girl in Atlanta all die suddenly and painfully--each a victim of an unknown doomsday virus.

For three days, a team of scientists in a U.S. government laboratory has been frantically trying to unlock the virus's secrets. When the leading researcher from that lab, Lt. Col. Jonathan Smith, returns from overseas, he barely survives a series of well-orchestrated attempts made on his life. By the time Smith eludes his pursuers and makes it home, he discovers that the virus has claimed its fourth victim, Dr. Sophia Russell--Smith's fiancée. Devastated and enraged, Smith quickly uncovers evidence that his lover's death was no accident--that someone out there has the virus, and the pandemic that threatens hundreds of millions of lives is no accident. But wherever he turns, Smith finds that some unseen force has blocked his quest for information. Not knowing whom to trust, Smith assembles a private team to search for the truth behind the deadly virus. While the death toll mounts, their quest leads to the highest levels of power and the darkest corners of the earth, as they match wits with a determined genius--and as the fate of the world lies in the balance.

With an unbroken string of bestsellers dating from the early '70s (beginning with 1971's *The Scarlatti Inheritance*) and over 200 million books sold, Robert Ludlum is an acknowledged superstar of the political thriller. Gayle Lynds, who was compared to Ludlum after her 1996 debut, *Masquerade*, has two successful novels and a slew of pseudonymous pulp fiction titles to her credit. Together--after a fashion--they serve up book 1 of Ludlum's new Covert-One series of trade paperback originals, *Robert Ludlum's the Hades Factor*. After three disparate Americans succumb to a hitherto unknown Ebola-like virus, the United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) is pressed into service. Since the USAMRIID's top doc (and former military intelligence operative) Lt. Col. Jon Smith has yet to return from an overseas conference, the job of heading the medical research team falls to Smith's colleague and fiancée, Dr. Sophia Russell. Upon Smith's return, he is sequentially treated to a life-or-death warning from a childhood friend (and rogue FBI agent), several nasty near-death experiences, and the viscerally graphic demise of his wife-to-be, an apparent virus victim. Enraged and bereaved, Smith flies into investigatory action only to discover doctored files, expunged records, and the distinct likelihood that he's dealing with cases of murder-by-virus. As more questions are asked, more deaths occur, official channels slam shut, and Smith finds himself a wanted man, battling his best friend, an evil-genius gazillionaire scientist, corrupt politicians, and Third World terrorists. In other words, it's Smith versus all the usual suspects. Ludlum and Lynds cover no new ground here (and their prose is less than sterling). In fact, *The Hades Factor* owes as much to Tom Clancy's *Op-Center* series--co-created by Clancy and Steve Pieczenik--and Richard Preston's *The Hot Zone* as it does to Ludlum's own considerable body of work. That said, *The Hades Factor* still delivers a respectable level of intrigue and suspense, will likely be snapped up by output-starved Ludlum fanciers, and will be right at home on the bed stands of Preston fans. --Michael Hudson.co.uk

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