



The Templar Cross

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From the *USA Today* Bestselling author of *The Sword of the Templars* and *The Aztec Heresy*

Some secrets are too great to bear...

Retired Army Ranger Lt. Col. John Holliday has reluctantly settled into his teaching position at West Point when young Israeli archaeologist Rafi Wanounou comes to him with desperate news.

Holliday's niece—and Rafi's fiancé—Peggy has been kidnapped. Holliday sets out with Rafi to find the only family he has left. But their search for Peggy will lead them to a trail of clues that spans across the globe, and into the heart of a conspiracy involving an ancient Egyptian legend and the darkest secrets of the Order of Templar Knights.

Secrets that, once known, cannot be survived...

The Templar Cross Details

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From Reader Review The Templar Cross for online ebook

Tomavalon says

Not as good as I'd hoped.

Haitch says

written on my phone and though I'm not entirely sure what I've put contains "spoilers" just a heads up just in case as I can't see the spoiler button

So I gave this book 2 stars for that fact it was a quick and easy read - something for the train etc when its harder to concentrate.

The book should have been called something completely different as there is absolutely no mention of a templar cross and when a cross is mentioned in the last 3 pages it still isn't called a templar cross specifically.

I still have issue with the fact that characters would speak in one language and then repeat it in English. What is the point? Either say it in the desired language or just leave everything in English there is no need to repeat and it is so unnatural.

I care not a jot about any of the characters and it seems I picked up the second in a series and they repeatedly mention a previous escapade in which I presume the author did the character development.

Also what is with the description - argh! I did not need that kind of description in this kind of book.

A big concern of mine also is with the sudden reveal of the cross at the end with no real explanation of how he even picked it up never mind kept it safe through everything he went through. Its all just rambled out in about 2 lines.

Oh and another thing they rescue the girl then suddenly its something like 6 months later and the girls married and he's quit his job with no explanation of how they got out of killing the people they did or how they even got back into their own countries.

Sorry for the disjointed rambling but just wrote things as they came to me.

Still after all an inoffensive easy read.

Matt says

Warning: I am extremely biased towards books that have history, the army, and treasure hunts! These books will almost always get 4 stars from me because they allow me to escape the middle east where I'm currently stationed and follow a fictional character on an Indiana Jones type adventure! Books like these are my

addiction.

I found this one on a shelf in a restaurant on base. I am a sucker for anything having to do with historic fiction and action. Add the Templar's and anything that remotely reminds me of, "National Treasure" and I'm hooked.

Main Character: LTC John Holiday Army Ranger, now history prof at USMA

Side kick: Rafi Wanounou, Israeli anthropologist from Jerusalem

Han Solo character (the bad-ass who keeps saving the MC and Side Kick):

Emil Abdul Tidyman, Egyptian/Canadian mercenary with a heart of gold.

Sustain: It's a series of books featuring your normal reoccurring action hero in the form of a retiring Army ranger LTC John "Doc" Holiday. Unfortunately for me this is the second book in the series so, I've started in the middle and missed a lot of the character development.

Sustain: It drives me crazy when authors describe the history of everything to include local plant life before they advance the plot. And, when they finally advance the plot, you find out it adds nothing to the denouement. Mr. Christopher doesn't do this. He explains everything relevant in less than a page and it all ties together with the plot nicely.

Improve: Some of the villains are too cookie cutter and honestly it seemed more like a video game script than a book. Due to the fact there was always a bad guy to defeat every couple of chapters. Also, one villain did not make any sense to the story whatsoever. He showed up playing the classic James Bond uber-villain for about 3 chapters and then disappeared until the end of the book. I read the book in 3 days and couldn't put it down, but when the villain from the first 150 pages pops up again after page 350 it didn't make sense.

Improve: I got it. The hero is going to win, and that is exactly what I want. However, everything goes perfectly for the hero and his team. The weapons he picks up are always fully loaded, and he knows how to shoot everything with pinpoint accuracy. Nothing ever goes wrong. It reminds me of the movie, "Commando" with Arnold Schwarzenegger who manages to kill over 200 enemy soldiers without getting shot or having to reload. I don't want the hero to lose, but can't he maybe not show up in the right place, at the right time, with everything working like he had a plan all along?

Recommendation: I'd start with the first book before reading this. I would have given this book three stars due to the lack of character development, but since I read into the middle of the trilogy I'll assume the author set it all up in book 1. I love books like this where I can picture the actors who would play the characters, and the plot is always moving forward. There weren't a lot of moments where I was worried about the characters but there were a few moments where I was emotionally invested. I'll read the third book when it comes out in paperback and I don't know if I'll go back and buy the first book as there are a number of books I'm working through right now.

Alissa says

I have to be honest, I gave the first Templar book 5 stars because I absolutely loved it. This book was sorely lacking in historical content, and I don't know where the series is headed at this point. I will continue to read the series, but if the next book is more like this one than the first one. I probably won't read the rest.

Matt says

Christopher continues his great Templar series with this installment that sees Holiday head out in search of his niece. While this is the underlying plot, the theme of the book is a new world travel thriller.

Christopher uses his characters and storyline to explore the vast edges of the world, all with the Templar thread woven through experiences and historical happenstance. I quite enjoyed learning all about the various parts of the world., bth those that pertain to the Templars and the German armies of WWII.

Kudos to Christopher for tying events together from the previous book, reintroducing characters to the reader, something that he failed to do in his Finn Ryan series, which really got under my skin. I was eager to keep reading and learning about everything that Christoper had to offer.

I could not stop until I got to the end, in hopes that the next book would be equally as interesting.

Sue says

My actual rating is 3.5 if 5 stars.

Larry Cowan says

A very interesting book with surprise and suspense at every chapter.

A lot of intelligent characters. However most of them die before the book ends. There a lot of twists and turns and a lot of travel and of course the hero survives so he can come back in the next book.

Alan says

Another great action packed adventure.

Spencer Littlejohn says

Good start to a line of stories

I like Paul Christopher and this second tale of Doc Holiday. Doc is a very courageous and seemingly infallible warrior with a lot of compassion. The ability to find just the right connections is uncanny and I would rate a five if it wasn't for how easily he seems to get out of almost impossible scenarios. The journey is fun to read through as was the first and I will keep going. At some point I do want to see Doc bailed out by someone else but love the heroics Paul provides with him. So I have a bit of a paradoxical view that keeps me reading to where it happens.

Pamela says

“...part fear, part anticipation and part rising bloodlust. It always surprised him that he felt so comfortable with the desperate feeling deep in his gut, and every now and again he wondered if there was a pathological need for it with soldiers – junkies for battle and the dangerous game of jousting with death.”

Yes!!! As hoped for, Paul Christopher delivered . . . raising the bar in thrilling, captivating abundance!

“Faraj laughed, racing through the traffic, careening side to side like a wildman . . . pedestrians leaping out of the way, cart drivers screaming oaths in Arabic . . . Ahead of them, barely in sight, the scooter chattered through the twisting back streets without a backward glance . . . threading their way to the ocean.”

Second installment in the Ret. Army Ranger John Holliday series - “The Templar Cross,” has all the elements I love in ‘Holy Grail’ global-trekking mysteries: Clear descriptive writing; unique characters; engaging plausible plot; fast pace; crescendo suspense; wry humor; fierce action – but not overly graphic.

“The sun was level with the sea, turning the old ruins the color of old gold and deepening the shadows. There was no sound except the sighing of the breeze across the field, gently wafting the flowers and the dry screams of the pallid swifts that darted like flitting bats in and out of the ruins. Nothing moved and it seemed that for an instant the world held its breath.”

In addition, I love the movie ad-libs Holliday uses as comparisons; which Rafti, his Israeli friend/professor, doesn't quite get. Somewhat like Dinozzo on NCIS. Holiday definitely has a wry eccentric side that's great for a chuckle. Another thing I enjoyed, as with the first book, are the tidbits of related trivia. In particular, I found the gun manufacturing/smuggling references in relation to Canada - “Sixth-largest exporter of small arms in the world” – quite interesting, in an eye-bulging sort of way.

“Holliday looking idly at the debris left behind by the Long Range Desert Group more than half a century before. Not for the first time in his life Holiday found himself thinking about the borders between countries and why men fought over such artificial boundaries.”

However, it's African sand dunes and Italian influences that is most worrisome; impeding Holliday's search for Peggy, his niece and archaeologist, who was kidnapped – shortly before an assassination attempt on his own life. Rafti thinks her abduction is somehow related to the Templar quest they had recently went on, but to what means and ends, who could say? The only certainty: Time was of the essence and Holliday would stop at nothing to find Peggy and bring her home.

“Like most rescue plans it looked perfect on paper, and like most rescue plans . . . it would be anything but perfect in its execution.”

Speesh says

Army Ranger Lt. Col. John 'Doc' Holliday is teaching at West Point when he receives desperate news, his niece Peggy has been kidnapped while joining an ancient tomb excavation in Egypt.

Holliday immediately sets out to locate and rescue her, but Peggy's captors belong to The Brotherhood of the Temple of Isis - murderous fanatics who worship a dead god.

A trail of clues sends Holliday deep into Africa and into the heart of a conspiracy involving an ancient Egyptian legend and the darkest secrets of the order of the Templar Knights.

It would be very easy to dismiss and ridicule books like this. However, as it is easy and I'm not like your run of the mill bloggers, I'm going to give it due deliberation.

So, we're back in the company of Lt. Col. John Holliday and his one-man crusade. I think Mr Christopher sees him - and would like us to too - as something of a blend between an alternative 'Jack Reacher' and 'Indiana Jones.' Holliday returns to West Point teaching, after the adventures of the first book, as 'Indiana' does - not West Point, obviously, but returns teaching each time - where he is going about his business, then gets interrupted, 'Indiana Jones'-like, by bad news and off we go! I thought 'Jack Reacher' because of his resourcefulness and his unbelievable, instant recall of just about whatever needs recalling to solve a problem. Yeah, it stretches believability somewhat, though it doesn't stick out so much that the eyes go upwards. Too often.

This one reads very quickly and has a decent, all problems knocked out the way, in Clive Cussler-way, flow. However, for a series ostensibly about The Templars, it could perhaps have done with a bit more 'Templar' in it. There's too much arse-ing about in the desert, the 'fanatics' aren't that fanatical and really don't seem frighten the characters, or us, all that much. There are, as with the first in the series, some tantalising tid-bits of ancient information sprinkled here and there. I've no idea if he's right there, though they certainly sound plausible..

If the series is meant to be light, diverting and easy to digest, then this one does its job. Though there is a surprising lack of tension, it is strangely subdued, for a number two, where, presumably, you're still trying to hook a readership. I'd guess he imagined he was writing it so that the Templars would come over as a dark, malevolent, brooding presence in the background. However, they're so much in the background, you almost forget they're there. 'Templar Cross,' is from 2010 and if it had been written today, the travels through the north African deserts and the encounters with the 'murderous fanatics' might well have taken on a significantly more frightening and tense dimension. He could have kept the 'ISIS' part. Hmm..maybe he is actually ahead of his time?

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E Mac says

Can't wait for the next chapter !

Sue says

Another interesting, exciting read from this author. Not quite as compelling as the first one.

Trish says

I did realise that this was the second book in the series when I started reading. But I don't think you need to read the first book it does reference things that happened previously but not in a way that you're left scratching your head thinking huh?!.

I really enjoyed the mystery & there was just enough conspiracy theory to keep me interested. Perhaps I will go back & read the first book & search out the other books in the series.

Pat Casey says

I enjoyed this book
