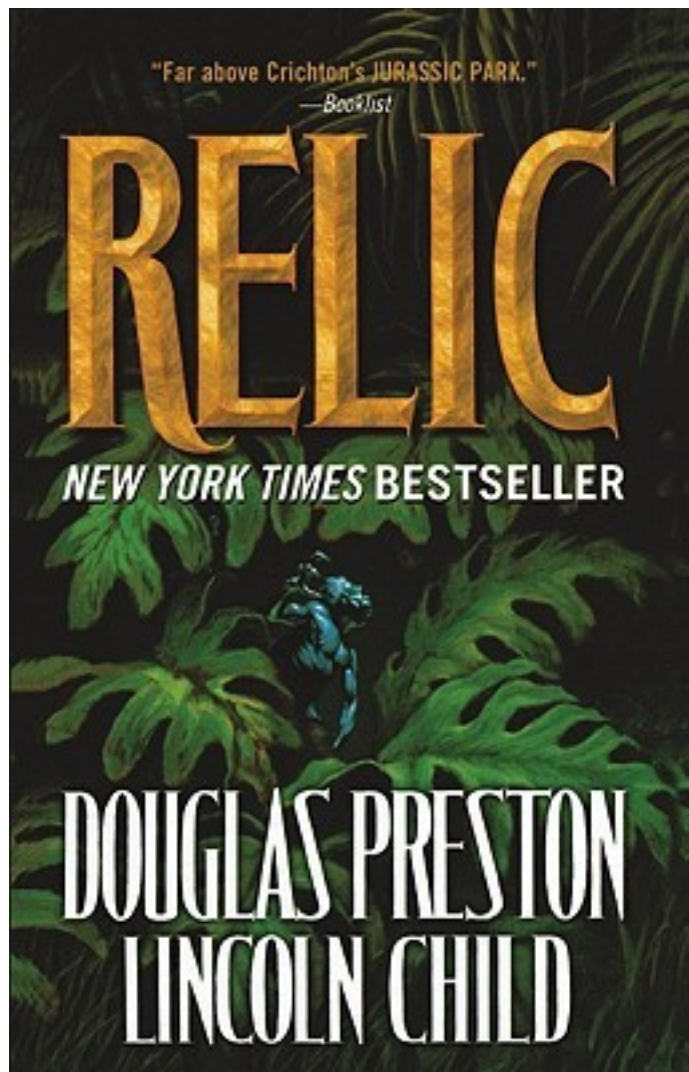

Douglas Preston

Relic (Pendergast #1)



Title: Relic (Pendergast #1)

Author: Douglas Preston

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Description

Investigating a series of savage murders that disrupt a massive new exhibition at the New York Museum of Natural History, graduate student Margo Green finds a clue in a failed Amazonian expedition.

Insightful reviews

Lisa: 3.5*

Monster shenanigans at the New York Museum of Natural History!

It's a bit hammy and OTT but it works really well. The science bits lend authenticity to the plot and the characters are great.

Love the dynamic between Pendergast (alternative FBI agent - think Mulder) and D'Agosta (tough New York cop) and the 'evil' Dr Wright (old bloke in complete denial) who tries to protect his museum at the expense of people's lives and the police investigation.

Margo is a bit of a wet fish to start with but redeems herself with some quick thinking monster action!

Really enjoyable read - I might even read the next in the series, yay!

Stephen: ***UPDATED REVIEW***

3.5 stars. This was a great mystery/thriller that was raised above the norm by two elements. The first was the inclusion of a very interesting SF/supernatural element into an otherwise straight-forward crime drama. This may have had a more positive impact on me since my reading tastes tend to run towards speculative fiction and so the "X-file" element was very welcome.

The second was the character of Aloysius Pendergast, the charming, brilliant, FBI agent with a Southern accent and an open-mind ready to follow the facts into the realm of the bizarre if that is where they are pointing (keeping with the X-files analogy, he is like a cross between Scully's practical, skepticism and Mulder's imaginative deduction). I love when a character acts the way you hope they will in a bizarre situation rather than simply saying "nope, can't be that, let's think of something else" until they get hit on the head with a sledgehammer clue. Pendergast doesn't play that way and was on his game throughout the story.

Briefly, the plot involves...you guessed it...RELICS from a failed and fatal expedition that end up at the New York Museum of Natural History. Well, coincidentally (or is it?) only days before a new exhibition is set to open at the museum (called interestingly enough, the "Superstition" Exhibit), a series of grisly and bizarre murders takes place and it is up to our group of researchers, historians, curators, cops....and Pendergast to solve the mystery.

I thought the backstory of the Relics was fascinating and the slow revealing of the central

mystery was well done. On the negative side, there were a few characters that were a bit boring and the middle of the book had some slow parts though nothing too bad. The beginning and ending were terrific and Pendergast was compelling whenever he was in the scene (which thankfully was quite a bit).

Overall, I liked it and will certainly read the next book in the series. Recommended.

Sue Smith: Oh my Gawd! What a book!! Totally riveting and crazy tension that just builds and builds.... there were times I was sitting on the edge of my seat utterly engrossed and appalled!!! I mean, when you think it couldn't get any more intense or complicated - it does. In a big way. And the ending is just the beginning.....proving the point that A) once that first domino falls, it starts a chain reaction of events that can't be stopped and B) don't mess with unknown drugs. (OK - I know that doesn't sound like it's related in any way, shape or form, but trust me.....it is.) Damn those drugs - they cause all sorts of troubles.

I can't begin to tell you what I enjoyed most about the book. At first I thought I would be disappointed with the fact that the story was written in the late 80's when the computer technology was in it's infancy- that can date a book so fast - but I was quickly off that train of thought as the computers played a minor role in the story (albeit a critical one). The real story lay with people. Ultimately, what people will do for greed and notoriety - putting themselves and their wants and desires before the considerations of others... without thinking of any consequences that may fall out from their actions. You know what I mean - a horror story waiting to happen!!! It was a really well laid out story. Characters that are introduced are all accounted for throughout the story - I like that. (Nothing worse than reading a book that has a character that seems to important but seemingly fades away into murkiness, like they're forgotten ..makes you wonder why they were in it in the first place). And the computer issue actually lends itself to the tension of it all - although for all you 'newbies' that never lived through the early glory days of computers, it may be annoying. I found it was really a non-issue after all.

Now put that premise into the bowels of an old and venerable institution - The New York Natural Museum -, add in a few incredibly macabre murders and time it along side with the opening night of a controversial exhibit on 'superstitions' and watch the bedlam happen. Truly spine tingling!! There were times I left the book muttering..."The fools! The fools!" Hahahaha!! Too great! You've got to love a book that you mutter at! I have to admit that now I'll never look at a museum in quite the same way.

Great book - great story! Can't wait to read on!!

Riju Ganguly: lengthy ago, within the days of "Jurassic Park" craze, my mind's eye have been stuck through a couplet that used to be (supposedly) the sure-shot formulation at the moment (maybe even now) to supply a best-seller: "techno-thriller". Any reader of James Rollins (and Matthew Reilly, earlier than he deserted writing novels and commenced composing video-games via words, a hugely praise-worthy process, yet now not fully fitted to my tastes) could comprehend the fundamental parts that pass into making of those books: a few unique expertise framed by means of a instantly & fresh narrative, a number of dastardly villains (preferably supported by way of a few shadowy employer or nefarious international powers), a

couple of solid males & girls stuck within the unsuitable position at flawed time, and action-action! think me, I had wolfed unnumberable no. of such books sooner than I stumbled on this grand daddy of thrillers! when you've got learn this book, you recognize what I mean; if not, then run for the closest book shop that could give you a copy. This impressive publication bargains with a sequence of grotesque murders happening within the ny Museum of typical History, with a number of ordinary suspects and a definitely gothic building, the gala establishing of an ominously-themed exhibition coupled with torrential rain open air and anything sizeable inside!!! i'm working out of steam easily attempting to decrease myself right into a few words, so i'll stop. PLEASE learn THE BOOK. PERIOD!

Libby: a truly stress-free thriller. It used to be predictable, incredible and foolish frightening – precisely what i need from this kind of book. The authors right here be aware of their style and don't aspire to arrive past it, and it works. I decide those books up simply because i need a well-written, exciting mystery and that's precisely what I got. it's like occurring a curler coaster - i do know what's going to take place however it continues to be frightening and fun. This ebook made for a really enjoyable weekend read.

StoryTellerShannon: MINI REVIEW: A chilling mystery that happens ordinarily in a massive museum in NYC. do not be fooled should you hate museums. it really is nonetheless very fascinating with a mix of horror, sleuthing and melodrama. Characters are generally brilliant and whereas you'll argue a number of plot issues have been predictable they have been nonetheless satisfying. BTW, the motion picture is a really negative illustration of the book. CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: A minus; STORY/PLOT POINTS: A minus to A; CREEPINESS/HORROR: B plus; total GRADE: A minus to A; while READ: may well to July 2010.

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