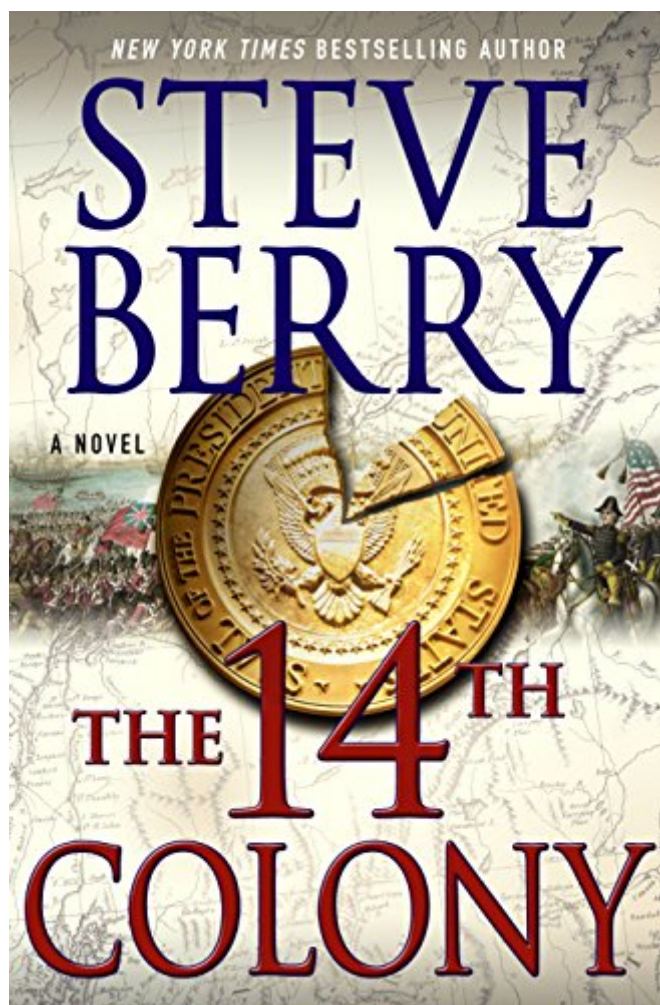


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The 14th Colony: A Novel (Cotton Malone)



Synopsis

What happens if both the president and vice-president-elect die before taking the oath of office? The answer is far from certainâin fact, what follows would be nothing short of total political chaos. Shot down over Siberia, ex-Justice Department agent Cotton Malone is forced into a fight for survival against Aleksandr Zorin, a man whose loyalty to the former Soviet Union has festered for decades into an intense hatred of the United States. Before escaping, Malone learns that Zorin and another ex-KGB officer, this one a sleeper still embedded in the West, are headed overseas to Washington D.C. Noon on January 20thâInauguration Dayâis only hours away. A flaw in the Constitution, and an even more flawed presidential succession act, have opened the door to disaster and Zorin intends to exploit both weaknesses to their fullest. Armed with a weapon leftover from the Cold War, one long thought to be just a myth, Zorin plans to attack. Heâs aided by a shocking secret hidden in the archives of Americaâs oldest fraternal organizationâthe Society of Cincinnatiâa group that once lent out its military savvy to presidents, including helping to formulate three invasion plans of what was intended to be Americaâs 14th colonyâCanada. In a race against the clock that starts in the frozen extremes of Russia and ultimately ends at the White House itself, Malone must not only battle Zorin, he must also confront a crippling fear that heâs long denied, but which now jeopardizes everything. Steve Berryâs trademark mix of history and speculation is all here in this provocative new thriller.

Book Information

File Size: 1862 KB

Print Length: 463 pages

Publisher: Minotaur Books (April 5, 2016)

Publication Date: April 5, 2016

Sold by:Â Macmillan

Language: English

ASIN: B0140MQTP8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,192 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21 inÂ Kindle

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Customer Reviews

I have read several (If not all) of the Cotton Malone novels over the years, enjoying the depth that Steve Berry brings to his plot lines, the imaginative twists and turns that he deftly weaves into his stories, and the well-developed characters who are both likable and very proficient at their jobs. BUT, the last Cotton Malone novel I read was "The Lincoln Myth: A Novel", a book that seemed to change each of the main characters' assessments of their lives, interactions, and motivations. It was almost as if they weren't on the same page any longer, didn't look at the world the same way, and were actively questioning who they were and what they were still doing with each other. However, the beginning of "The 14th Colony" seemed to acknowledge these unresolved issues. As the plot developed, our small group of talented friends were drawn back together (one by one) to create a unified force against an attempt by members of the old KGB to pay America back for helping to force the dissolution of the old USSR in the 1980's. Those of us old enough to remember the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the collapse of the Iron Curtain are treated to some very insightful perspectives that we haven't previously been exposed to. Mr. Berry also adds historical facts concerning the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the attempts that the United States made to invade Canada. That's correct, we actually invaded Canada! If you are interested in learning more about the history of our young country, told in an interesting and very entertaining way, read this book. Please understand that I am not referring to this novel as a history book with a few interesting notes thrown in.

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