



The Evolution of Evil

Steven F. Freeman

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The Galapagos Islands: Beautiful, Exotic...and Deadly

Jan Summit, senator's wife and world-class biologist, has disappeared from her Alzheimer's research center on the Galapagos Islands. When cryptologist Alton Blackwell is called in to decode the scientist's last message, he learns of a breakthrough discovery, one that could revolutionize treatment for the debilitating disease.

Alton and wife Mallory, an FBI agent, join an elite force sent to track down the missing scientist. In doing so, they uncover a world of shadowy intrigue—a land where environmentalists, competing pharmaceutical companies, and local Galapagos citizens all battle to suppress the results of Summit's cutting-edge research. The investigators' search is further complicated when a string of murders with apparent connections to both the black market in exotic wildlife and Summit's research begins within days of their arrival.

Following a trail of clues as enshrouded as the islands' volcanic slopes, Alton and Mallory face mounting danger in their race to recover Summit and track down the culprits who hope to suppress her work. Along the way, they discover that some facts—and some people—aren't always what they seem.

The Evolution of Evil Details

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From Reader Review The Evolution of Evil for online ebook

Raven says

Kidnapped

A long and arduous tale of who did what. Not all is what it seems. Too many clues missing to get there from here.

Debrah0683 says

Interesting idea to read with Galapagos as the setting

Book Junky Girls says

Alton and Mallory have another mystery on their hands. Asked by the NSA to assist in finding a missing senators wife who is also a scientist the head to the Galapagos Islands, but once there the mystery is bigger than anyone realized. And it's a race to find the missing person before a medical condition kills her or worse the kidnapper decides she is no longer useful and kills her!

Alton is on the case once again in another great who done it style mystery. You collect the clues with him and the others on his team and it's a race to see who can figure it all out first. And Blackwells record is 6-0 with me never managing to figure it all out before him. And that's one of the top reasons this series it so great you can never figure it out before the author is ready for you to.

So sit back and enjoy the ride.... Unless you can figure it all out before Alton Blackwell!

Charissa Wilkinson says

I received this book for the purpose of a fair review.

Overview: Alton and Mallory Blackwell are still settling in on their first year of marriage. Then, they get a call from NSA agent Vega. It turns out that a Dr. Jan. Summit was working on a special cure, and now she has gone missing. Who has her? What do they want from her? And will the team, that Alton and Mallory are on, find her alive? Lucky for the team, the good doctor was a bit paranoid. She encrypted everything.

Likes: Mallory and Alton work well with a team. I don't think that they really needed to keep finding the bodies. That might have been grounds for a conspiracy. I wonder if they will still be working with The Gooch later on in the series.

Dislikes: This story seemed slower than the others in the series. Perhaps it was because of the emphasis on how Dr. Summit's research could effect others, including the pharmaceutical companies. And Shoemaker

really needs to get his priorities straight. People should come first.

Conclusion: This one may have started slow, but it sped up during the last third. Enjoy the latest installment of The Blackwell Files.

Cat says

I hate being the first person to give this a one star review but for me....I knew who the main antagonist was from the very beginning? Perhaps Freeman's style isn't for me. I'm sorry, I don't intend to disrespect the author. It's very clear that he knows his topics, his personal history shines through in some of the moments of breakdown from Alton's perspective. We see a lot of deducing and expertise. But I sometimes feel like we get bogged down in the technicals of how and lose the opportunity for character development (reaction more than intrigue, anger, or annoyance) or depth of plot.

Sharron Grodzinsky says

I loved this book. I love how the author develops his characters with their flaws and strong points. But mostly he has a mastery of description. When he describes something or somewhere, you can actually picture it and feel like you are there. The dialog is great and is matched to the character. In addition, he has researched his technical points and that makes everything believable. The plot is strong and moves along quickly with a lot of twists and turns, but you won't be disappointed with the ending. I could not put the book down. Great job with another of the Blackwell files.

Jean says

What a joy it is to follow a new author as he develops and grows! Steven F Freeman's sixth book in his Blackwell Files, The Evolution of Evil, is perhaps his best work yet. Steve, you're not a rookie anymore!

After thieves break into a research lab on the Galapagos Islands and scientist Jan Summit disappears, cryptologist Alton Blackwell and his FBI agent wife Mallory are recruited to join a team of investigators to find the missing researcher and recover the important Alzheimer's studies. Working with the local authorities, the team must find the researcher, who suffers from severe asthma, as soon as possible. Adding to the sense of urgency is the fact that she is also the wife of a powerful US Senator, who is putting pressure on the group to locate his wife ASAP. Has she been kidnapped? Murdered? If she is alive, why haven't they heard from the kidnappers?

While Alton begins the laborious task of decoding the encrypted research files, Mallory pores over financial records looking for clues, and the rest of the team interviews witnesses. As possible motives and suspects begin to emerge, dead bodies begin to show up in remote spots. Are these murders related to the missing scientist and her theory about a cure for a devastating illness? Or are they simply random killings?

Mr Freeman has introduced a fascinating ensemble of characters this time around. I was particularly interested in a several of them, and in one case, my instincts proved to be correct. Without being given many concrete clues, we are left to our own devices when it comes to solving the crimes in Freeman's books. In

typical fashion, Alton puts it all together after making a discovery or two, which the author does not share with the reader until the mass assembly at the end, a la Hercule Poirot. Having read the previous five novels in the series, I am used to this format and can go with the flow. As Poirot would say, I use “the little gray cells” to consider what other suspects may have to hide that may not be related to the case at hand. But I may have said too much – at any rate, it makes for a tantalizing read, because the pieces of the puzzle fall into place quite nicely.

It sounds like there is a bright future for Team Blackwell. Stay tuned.

I wish to thank Steven Freeman for sending me a copy of his book in exchange for my honest review.

5 stars

Robert C. smith says

Good Plot, Constant Action

Action packed from beginning to end makes this a very entertaining book. My only criticism is the ending which was a bit too much conjecture, although on target, but could be more entertaining if acted out instead of the exaggerated Sherlock Holmes type deduction.

Stewart says

Great read with twists all the way through the story. Freeman's craft evolves with every novel. Don't miss it!

Carlos Rivera says

A good read but could have been better

This was a good book to read. It is quite entertaining, though it had a few mistakes. There's no Mariachi music in the Galapagos Islands, so that tells me the author did not make research on this. Not all Hispanic cultures are Mexican!!! The story was developed OK, but it dragged on for a while, and some of the characters needed more development. Without spoiling the story, the end was rushed, and some characters were disposed of quickly.

The final chapters felt like an Agatha Christie novel, where the protagonist/sleuth gathers everyone to solve the case, and discloses their peccadilloes, while getting the killer to confess.

I stuck with the book, since I wanted to see where the author would go with the story. He did surprise me a bit, though he could have delved deeper in character and story development.

I may give it a shot and check the other books to see what else the author has to offer.

Jen says

Pretty decent storyline and I liked that it took place in the Galapagos, my dream travel destination. Some of the dialogue was clunky, but overall, I didn't see the ending coming, and what more can you ask for?

Andrea says

Never a dull moment

Alton and Mallory Blackwell formulate a great husband/wife team that thrives on murder and mystery. Steven always provides an excellent read in the Blackwell files novels. Consistently a sure bet!

Patricia says

When a prominent scientist disappears from her research center on the Galapagos Islands a team from the NSA is dispatched to find her. The team, working with the local police, investigate an interesting list of suspects including another researcher, two pharmaceutical company representatives, an animal rights activist, a poacher of exotic species, and several poor locals looking for a job.

Colorful descriptions of the geological features, flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. Alton Blackwell suffered a serious and painful leg injury in Afghanistan but the author mentioned it too often. I have a bad leg too but this was tiresome.

No sex

No violence

Nicole Mastrogiovanni says

This book was a little slow pulling me in. Although I do love the story of Alton and Mallory this was my least favorite of all the books. It was really the last several chapters that pulled me in and kept me reading.

Pj Gamm says

The characters were lacking depth, and the local police were not believable; they read more like American police. Just needed a bit deeper characters and authenticity

