



The Tower

Simon Toyne

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In *The Tower*, the thrilling conclusion to Simon Toyne's bestselling Sanctus trilogy, an ominous countdown has begun that some believe could be the first sign of an imminent global catastrophe.

Toyne's latest thriller opens at the NASA Control Center in Maryland where the center's director has gone missing and all that can be found is a bizarre message on his computer screen. FBI Agent J. J. Shepherd believes some of this might be related to an explosion at the Citadel, a secretive monastery in Ruin, Turkey; the viral outbreak that followed there; and the chilling disappearance of a woman named Liv Adamsen.

As strange events and natural disasters occur around the world, Liv searches for the final secrets of the prophecy, while inside the walls of the Ruin, her lover, Gabriel Mann, infected by the virus, battles to survive. Is this the end of days?

In the tradition of Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* and Steve Berry's *The Columbus Affair*, *The Tower* will keep you riveted until the very last twist.

The Tower Details

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Author : Simon Toyne

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From Reader Review The Tower for online ebook

Andrea Andrei says

Atunci cand se termina ceva, altceva nou incepe.

Cath says

The third, and final, in the unfolding tale of the Key and the Sanctus. Whilst I enjoyed the story, and liked being able to have a firm conclusion to the book, it lacked the excitement and complexity of the two previous books.

Worth reading to find out what happens to the heroes, and indeed, civilisation and the world, but whilst I am sure it is intended to make you think about your life, it left me when I finished the last chapter and I have given it little thought since.

Disappointing end to the trilogy but have a read if you have read the other two.

Siobhan says

Like the first two books in the trilogy the conclusion is fast paced and keeps you entertained from the beginning until the end. However, sadly, I will say that like the second book in the trilogy I found myself somewhat annoyed by predictable moments that I managed to work out well in advance. As a whole it was a great conclusion to the series – I was not at all disappointed – I simply expected better twists and turns to appear at certain points, much like what we saw in the first book.

As a conclusion to the trilogy, this books flickers between two points in time: our story is told through the perspective of a newly introduced FBI agent and the characters from the past two books. As the FBI agent works his way towards the answers we're given insights into what has been happening over the last eight months for our characters from the last two books, the story unfolding along two lines for us. As with the other books it is highly entertaining, getting a tight grip on you quickly. If you have read the first two books then it is a must that you read this one and find out how the story ends.

Daniel Nickle says

First of all I should disclose that I am a Simon Toyne fan. He captivated me with the first book of his trilogy, Sanctus. The notion of an underground movement to release the Goddess into our male dominated world I found to be truly original. The idea became more and more plausible as Mr. Toyne continued his story into the second book The Key. By the time I finished reading this second installment, I couldn't believe I was expected to wait for the author to finish writing the third and for it to be released by the publisher. By this time I had become such a Toyne addict that when I learned The Tower would be available in the UK six weeks before the US, I ordered the UK edition. Now that the final installment is available in the US, I feel a bit smug at having read it before the rest of Toyne's American audience.

I don't want to create a spoiler here, so I will simply quote the synopsis from the dust jacket:

"The forbidden Citadel at the heart of the ancient Turkish city of Ruin opens its gates for the first time in history. Why now, after centuries of secrecy?

"A deadly disease has erupted within, and threatens to spread beyond its walls. Infected charity worker Gabriel Mann may hold the cure –but can one dying man stop an epidemic?

"Without him Liv Adamsen, a former journalist, is vulnerable, surrounded by strangers in the desert oasis that is her new home. Liv, however, has far bigger concerns than just her own life...

"In the USA, newly qualified FBI agent Joe Shepherd investigates the disappearance of NASA's most senior professor. Is it a vanishing act, or something darker? Shepherd's investigation approaches a powerful conspiracy with a global reach, and profound consequences.

"For them all, this much is clear: something big is coming. Something that will change everything. But will it be a new beginning or The End of Days?"

Mr. Toyne's books are not the garden variety mysteries. There are no old ladies or self-possessed inspectors here. Instead, his story germinates from a part of the world most of us have not visited, the interior of Turkey. The spark that sets everything into action is the suicide of an American monk who resided at a monastery called The Citadel. Even the name foreshadows the battle to come. This, however, is also not your typical Church conspiracy puzzle involving the Knights Templar, Messianic bloodlines or Masonic mysteries. This is a full-blown, action packed power struggle.

The adage is 'knowledge is power.' The monks of the Citadel have amassed a library of the entire world's knowledge which is off limits to all but the members of a particular rank of the hierarchy, and certainly closed to the outside world. The hierarchy wields such power that there is no conflict or strife or disease within the confines of the monastery. All are devoted to The Sacrament even though only the top echelon knows or understands what it is. Once the sacrament is released into the world, circumstances change. A mysterious plague is unleashed and all available resources are engaged to recover it. Allegiances shift like desert sand leaving the reader to wonder who the good guys are. In true fashion of the genre, readers are given the ah-ha at the end.

I have two complaints I would lodge against Mr. Toyne. The first is that his books are such page-turners nearly 500 pages don't last very long. The second is that I will have to go to readers rehab now that this series has come to an end.

Shawn Spjut says

The Tower; Simon Toyne, 2013; William Morrow

So I've finished the third book in the Ruin Trilogy and I will tell you'all that The Tower was every bit as good as Sanctus and The Key; not too shabby for a first time author.

That we should all be so favored as to produce such a great story the fist time out of the gate. It's a good

thing that I am eternally optimistic or I'd go shoot myself now.

Just kidding!

No not really!

Panic attack aside, I really did enjoy the book and am pleased that I've got another author to add to the list of, 'If so and so wrote it, then I gotta read it.'. Not only were the characters relatable but Toyne keeps the plot percolating even when he's got you flying all over it. Never once did I get motion sickness or feel disorientated by the shifts from character to scene to geography to character again. And I have to give Simon credit for keeping the military jargon to a minimum.

But... and here it comes, my eyes did roll once or twice on the astrophysics part. TMD! And the result was I found myself skipping on... several times. Yet be that as it may, I did find the parts I could follow interesting.

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_eSqX...]

Now I may not have agreed with Toyne's theological suggestions or the conclusions he came to, but I can't help but agree with the stories thought provoking questions: Can any religion, be it Christian or otherwise, justify acts of violence or hatred with its writings or claims of authenticity and sovereignty? And where do we draw the line between Freedom of Religion and Homeland Security?

The Tower raised far more questions than it answered, but in the end it was still a really well told story that forced me to choose between my favorite TV program and it. Need I say more?

I also appreciate that Toyne's writing is PG -13 friendly and that I wouldn't be concerned handing it off to my grandchildren to read.

On my scale of 1-5 stars I'm giving The Tower 4 stars for a great story and 3 for tweaking my theology. Just kidding - I gave it 3.5.

K.Y. K.Y. says

As per my expectation. Sesuai harapan. Trilogi sangat menarik. Tema berat namun disajikan agak ringan. Nggak menyesal baca buku ini, tp hrs dr buku pertama, lho.

Raven says

And here endeth the lesson in how to write a really good religious conspiracy thriller, as The Tower brings to a close this excellent trilogy. Beginning with Sanctus and The Key, this final instalment instantly propels you back into the world so succinctly and powerfully portrayed in the first two books. I instantly took to these books, despite my original and somewhat cynical poo-pooing of this genre, thanks to the scars left by reading other less effective authors of this kind of fare. I can safely say that I had no such qualms as having read Sanctus in pretty much one sitting, and then champing at the bit for The Key, I awaited this closing book with a sense of anticipation and it did not disappoint...

Trying to avoid spoilers for those who have not yet had the pleasure of reading the full trilogy, *The Tower* draws on the perilous and unresolved events at the end of the previous books, with the present time juxtaposed with a catch-up on events eight months previously until the two timelines converge. As our erstwhile hero Gabriel grapples with a tortuous journey back to the sinister auspices of The Citadel at Ruin (the predominant setting of the first two books), our heroine Liv is left to deal with the increasingly bizarre events in a desert wilderness as an ancient prophecy begins to gather muster, heralding the possible End of Days. In the present timeline there are some devilish deeds going on within the confines of NASA with the sabotage of two major space exploration programmes at the hands of what appears to be religious fanatics, but is there more to it than meets the eye and are there greater powers at work? It falls to a rookie FBI agent and his surly superior to unravel the mystery leading to a denouement linking all the characters and interlocking plot threads together.

Other reviewers have commented on the slower build-up of this book and I can see their point, but I actually enjoyed this sense of the plot gathering a momentum, and felt my own tension for the characters ratcheting up at the same speed, also noticing my reading speed increased substantially as the book reached its conclusion, so found this all rather clever. I must confess that I found the NASA plot utterly fascinating and enjoyed the fruits of Toyne's research into this particular field of science and technology, enjoying the exploration of the age old argument of science vs religion as the plot unfolded. With this new plotline set predominantly in America, and the skilful interweaving of the pre-existing locations and story from the first two books, fear not if you have come to this series anew with this book, as the back story is coherently referred to throughout so you won't miss anything. On the strength of this one alone the impetus will be there to seek out the other two books post haste!

I think one of the major strengths of this series has been the excellent standard of characterisation, and although *The Tower* gives Toyne the chance to further flesh out some familiar figures, the introduction of some new faces further illustrates his adept hand at this. I particularly took to newly qualified FBI Agent Joe Shepherd and his boss Special Agent Benjamin Franklin and the nature of their professional relationship with the seeds of distrust between them sown by some unspoken secrets of Shepherd's past. There was a real depth and believability to their working and personal interactions and bolstered by the existing strength of the recurring characters, I was completely drawn into these people's lives and tribulations as the plot played out. There is usually an inherent failing within this genre of matching the strength of characterisation to the needs of the conspiracy thriller pace and plotting, but Toyne experiences no such problems in balancing the needs of both with an assured grip throughout.

In conclusion then, I would highly recommend *The Tower*, be it as a conclusion to you having read *Sanctus* and *The Key* or equally if this is your first foray into Toyne's writing. An exceptional thriller that left me with a slight wistful air that the series was now finished. Can't wait to see what's next!

Ilaria says

"Nulla dura in eterno,ma nulla scompare mai completamente.
Si trasforma semplicemente in qualcosa di diverso..."

La Torre di Ruin è un thriller a sfondo storico/religioso che mi ha lontanamente ricordato i libri di Dan Brown.

La narrazione si snoda in due parti: da una parte siamo nel presente in America, dove l'FBI sta indagando su

degli attacchi terroristici sospetti ai danni di alcuni tra i più rari centri di osservazione astronomica al mondo. Prima è toccato all'Hubble, dirottato sulla Terra e non più verso le stelle, seguito da un inquietante messaggio: L'umanità non deve vedere oltre. A indagare sul caso saranno gli agenti Franklin e Shepherd che in una corsa contro il tempo cercheranno di venire a capo dell'enigma mentre nel mondo accadono eventi inspiegabili.

Contemporaneamente seguiamo gli eventi accaduti 8 mesi prima, quando Liv si ritrova sola in mezzo al deserto accusata di aver distrutto le fonti petrolifere, mentre Gabriel, che mostra i primi sintomi di una terribile malattia, tenta di tornare alla Cittadella per fare in modo che l'epidemia non si propaghi...

Ho letto questo romanzo in poco tempo catturata completamente dalla storia e dal ritmo adrenalinico con cui si sviluppa!

Le vicende narrate in questo romanzo iniziano immediatamente dopo la fine del precedente volume della trilogia, quindi è indispensabile aver letto i precedenti romanzi per avere una comprensione più completa degli eventi.

L'autore narra la vicenda attraverso due filoni narrativi, uno nel presente e uno nel passato, punti di vista che vanno man mano ad avvicinarsi e poi ad unirsi quando ci si avvicina al finale della storia.

La storia narrata è estremamente intrigante, ben strutturata e ricca di colpi di scena che tengono alta l'attenzione del lettore e impediscono di mettere giù il libro! I capitoli scorrono velocissimi man mano che ci si addentra nella storia e si cerca di dipanare il mistero che ne è il fulcro.

Oltre alla storia ben scritta credo che un punto di forza del romanzo siano i personaggi. Spesso in romanzi come questo, un po' alla Dan Brown, i personaggi fanno semplicemente da sfondo alla vicenda, invece in questo caso essi sono parte integrante della storia, inoltre sono caratterizzati benissimo e questo contribuisce alla buona riuscita del romanzo!

Ho apprezzato moltissimo la piega che hanno preso gli eventi e il modo in cui l'autore è riuscito a spiegare perfettamente tutti i misteri e gli eventi inspiegabili che avvengono nel corso della storia. Un romanzo adrenalinico, ricco di misteri e avventura, un degno finale per un'interessante trilogia!

Pupottina says

L'umanità non deve guardare oltre

Misticismo e avventura si mescolano ancora un volta in un thriller religioso, il nuovo romanzo di Simon Toyne. Il pericolo è imminente: qualcuno vuole scatenare l'apocalisse.

L'"FBI deve indagare su un caso molto particolare: la NASA ha perso il controllo del telescopio Hubble, che ora punta verso la terra. Su tutti i pannelli di controllo si legge un unico messaggio: «L'umanità non deve cercare oltre.»

Tutto ha inizio nel centro spaziale di Goddard.

Poco dopo cominciano a prodursi inquietanti fenomeni naturali e in tutto il mondo la gente prova l'impulso di cercare rifugio tra le mura di casa. La risposta all'enigma si trova a molti chilometri di distanza, in un luogo mitico in pieno deserto, dove Liv Anderson, la donna che incarna un'antica profezia, affronterà la rivelazione finale, custodita per millenni dai monaci della Cittadella di Ruin, per fermare l'apocalisse.

In cammino verso Ruin, oltre a Liv, giornalista, c'è anche Gabriel, ex militare. La loro è una missione. Loro sono a conoscenza di una qualche verità segreta. Nella lotta contro il tempo, per scongiurare l'apocalisse, c'è anche l'agente dell'"FBI" Shepherd, un giovane super esperto in astronomia e religione, ma anche in tecniche militari. Anche Shepherd, però, ha un segreto. È un personaggio altrettanto misterioso ed interessante.

Lo stile di Simon Toyne è superlativo nel creare la suspense e nel catturare l'interesse dei lettori, mantenendolo per tutta la durata del romanzo che supera le quattrocento pagine. I personaggi sono ben

caratterizzati e il lettore è portato a patteggiare con loro e a rimanere stupefatto dai tanti colpi di scena che li coinvolgono. È un ottimo thriller mistico per rivedere le proprie concezioni religiose.

Eadie says

I found The Tower to be an exciting ending to an excellent trilogy. I loved all the characters (good and bad) and the plot kept me turning the pages. The books are all entertaining adventure reads with a different take on religious themes. Simon Toyne knows how to draw you into the story and make you feel as if you are right there living the story. Although they can be read separately, your enjoyment will be greater if you read them in order. I am anxiously awaiting his next book.

Frenchie says

This review is from: The Tower (Sancti Trilogy 3) (Kindle Edition)

Oh my, what a read!

Hubble, the world's Mega Universe star gazing telescope, stationed at Goddard, has been moved from its orbit. It is now watching a little spot in the desert. Its counterpart, James Webb at Marshall, has been totally destroyed. Two eminent scientists looking after them are on the run. But are they suspects or targets of a sinister, secret organisation?

Strange messages appear on computer terminals and a countdown has started. No one knows what will happen when it reaches 0. Preachers cry of heretics and end of the world. Chaos ensue. And there is this strange exodus of people who want to 'go home'?

In Ruin, the blight continues. We are reunited with Gabriel, who, despite being infected, has ridden hard and fast to contain the infection to the Citadel. But he is too late, Ruin is in quarantaine, and his thoughts are only for Liv, as Dr Kaplan, Athanasius and Thomas try to keep him alive, but for how long.

Liv has her own battles in the desert. Seconded by Tariq, one of the desert riders, she tries to keep the desert fortress and the water fountain welcome to everyone. But not everyone wants to come in peace.

The Tower just holds your breath. Simon Toyne picks up where he left us in [[ASIN:B006I1CH1A The Key (Sancti Trilogy 2)].

New characters are introduced, like Agents Franklin and Shepherd. Shepherd is a rookie and has been paired with Franklin, an old hand. And Shepherd has a secret too. And we keep wondering who is the self appointed Novi Sanctus,

There are some characters that maybe the book could have done without them having a background story of their own, like Carrie and Eli. I do not think that their background was necessary. I would rather have had more on Novi Sanctus. But I would not rate The Tower anything else than 5 stars just because of this.

I was very difficult for me to put it down and go about my every day chores. It is a wonderfully written book but you have to keep alert of who does what and where. The story is at several places at the same time and spans on many months.

But what I really loved, is that the author does not give you the answers to some clues. He assumes that his readers are intelligent and will know what is going on and this was like a breath of fresh air. Lately, I have read a few books where the author felt the need to spoon feed the reader by explaining every "why" and "how".

The Tower has been worth every penny and I recommend it to everyone who loves thriller/suspense/conspiracy and fantasy all in one. Oh, and of course, a race against time and all odds. I was

sad when it finished.

I hope the author will give us soon another book of the same caliber.

Andy says

Real tough one to review is the crux of it.....

The opening 100pgs are really very good, plenty of action & at the nub of the mystery, all is unfolding & lots of Oh yeah....! Sound! moments, and it's here that the short chapters style works but.... it jus becomes relentless & before long yer halfway through the book & not a lot is going on to warrant this short choppy style & its a real draaaaag - i think ive been here before as well with this trilogy too - so more fool me with sticking it out I know.

New characters emerge too, which have "some" relevance but in reality there story could have been left out & this all wrapped up sooner - i did skipread a lot from about pg 300, only really following the protagonists from the first stories which I enjoyed as they played out their stories. It builds towards the end as it all comes together & then the REVEAL..... was that it? No surely after neraly 1450pgs that cant be it..... as I skipread to the end. NO WAY! I stuck with that for that ending.....

Incredibly frustrating read as it's one yer likely to stick with IF you pick it up as IT IS very good in parts.

Its like 24 (which I only watched 1 episode of) full of cutting from 1 scene to another in order to generate impetus into a story which inevitably plateaus due to its false tempo/style of writing.

I know I give it a 3 but really I cant recommend this in all honesty.

Kate says

I've loved the Sanctus trilogy - hugely evocative and atmospheric mystery thrillers, centered around the most ancient city of Ruin, at the heart of which lies the Citadel. This final novel is a little different, balancing the stories of familiar figures in the Middle East with a different quest by new characters in the United States. It all comes together almost perfectly. The sad news, though, is that this is it. I'm grateful to Simon Toyne for these three novels. Each has brought me so much pleasure. And all those comparisons with Dan Brown? Ignore them, Simon Toyne is infinitely better.

Catnip (Antonija) says

I survived..... oh God, I thought I was going to die of boredom. I really expected more from this book. Sanctus was interesting, The Key was so-so(a bit annoying) and I expected for this one to a little more packed with dynamic. With every book there was less and less dynamic and everything was in slow motion. There was nothing going on in the beginning(the first 100 pages) besides the missing professor. It just wasn't intriguing and there weren't any hints to keep you on your toes so you would want to go on. No!!! It was

infuriating and utterly boring -.-'

The cover says for lovers of Dan Brown. Well, next time I'm in library, I'm going to borrow a book written by Dan Brown so that I can compare it to this one because if the movies made by Brown's books are half as good as the books, that is already 100 percent better than this one!!!

[image error]

Peter Cresswell says

Dissapointing conclusion to the Santus Trilogy.

An ok read but the book has major problems, too many to list so I will just touch on the books biggest failing.

After spending two books getting us to care for the 2 main characters (Liv and Gabriel)- in this concluding book they are completely sidelined into very minor characters and we are introduced to a completely new character who will now be the focus of the book.
