



The Sigma Protocol: A Novel

By Robert Ludlum

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Ben Hartman is vacationing in Zurich, Switzerland when he chances upon his old friend Jimmy Cavanaugh?a madman who's armed and programmed to assassinate. In a matter of minutes, six innocent bystanders are dead. So is Cavanaugh. But when his body vanishes, and his weapon mysteriously appears in Hartman's luggage, Hartman is plunged into an unfathomable nightmare...

Meanwhile, Anna Navarro, field agent for the Department of Justice, has been asked to investigate the sudden, random deaths of eleven men throughout the world. The only thing that connects them? A secret file, over a half-century old, that's linked to the CIA?and is marked with the same puzzling codename: Sigma.

As Anna follows the connecting thread?and Hartman finds himself on the run?she ends up in the shadows of a relentless killer who is one step ahead of her...victim by victim. Now, she and Hartman together must uncover the diabolical secrets long held behind Sigma. It will threaten everything they think they know about themselves?and confirm their very worst fears...

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Robert Ludlum's trademark skills of intricate plotting, breakneck pacing, and high-wire drama are all on display in this gripping thriller. After his twin brother dies in a plane crash, Ben Hartman reluctantly takes his place in the investment firm started by their father, a Holocaust survivor. But then an old college buddy tries to kill Ben on a crowded Zurich street, setting off a chain of events that ultimately leads Ben into the thick of a worldwide conspiracy. Behind it is Sigma, a multinational cartel built on the rubble of World War II by industrialists and financiers bent on exploiting wartime technology and protecting their wealth from the threat of communism.

Accompanied by a beautiful American justice department agent, Ben eludes the assassins on his trail and follows Sigma's tentacles across Europe, to Brazil, Washington, and finally to a sanitarium known as the Clockworks in the Austrian Alps, where the horrifying agenda of a perverted new world order is revealed. Ludlum, who died between the writing and publishing of this book, was a master of the genre he helped popularize, and *The Sigma Protocol* shows him at the peak of his craft. --Jane Adams

From Library Journal

Anna Navarro, special agent for the Justice Department, has been assigned to investigate the deaths of several eminent men, all advanced in age and all connected to a mysterious group called Sigma, founded in the last years of World War II. An accident brings her together with Ben Hartman, an American investment banker who is in Zurich investigating the death of his twin brother and finds himself the target of an assassination attempt. Who is Sigma, and why are some of its members being killed? More importantly, what grand project is in the works? Readers may find the answer to these questions simplistic: Sigma is a partnership of high-ranking statesmen and industrialists, put together not only to spirit wealth out of Germany at the end of the war but also to stop communism's spread. Sigma's goal is to make the world safe for capitalism, a corporation whose board of directors is in charge of Western history itself. Unfortunately, Ludlum's latest novel (he died in March but left outlines for more posthumous thrillers) is not one of his better efforts. Even the sparks that eventually fly between Anna and Ben seem tepid.

- Ronnie H. Terpening, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson

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From Booklist

Robert Ludlum's thrillers are generally consistent: their characters are wooden and their dialogue is clumsy, but their plots are compelling and well researched. They appeal to readers looking for action, not artistry. However, near the end of his career, he seemed to be developing a smoother style, an ability to create characters that felt real and dialogue that didn't sound so obviously contrived. His last novel, posthumously published, is actually quite good, a convoluted tale about a plot to kill off a number of people who, many years ago, were part of a conspiracy involving Nazis, Swiss gold, and a lot of deadly shenanigans. (There are, however, questions about the novel's provenance: Ludlum died in March, and final revisions were made in June, casting some doubt on who was responsible for the book's craftsmanship.) At the heart of the story are Anna Navarro, a mid-level government intelligence operative suddenly assigned to a case of toplevel importance, and Ben Hartman, a businessman who learns several surprising things about his own family, including the unpleasant history of his parents and the rather startling truth about his twin brother's death. As usual, Ludlum keeps things moving with plenty of gunplay and running about. Uncharacteristically, he also lets things slow down from time to time, long enough for us to get to know the players in this complicated story. After so many Ludlum novels that seem like carbon copies of one another, it's refreshing to see

something different. First *The Prometheus Deception* (2000), and now this: proof of either a memorable swan song or a capable editor. *David Pitt*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Cassady:

This *The Sigma Protocol: A Novel* book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular *The Sigma Protocol: A Novel* without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry *The Sigma Protocol: A Novel* can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *The Sigma Protocol: A Novel* having good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Jerry Raminez:

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James Horowitz:

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Marvin Smith:

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