



## The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2)

By Robert Ludlum, Philip Shelby

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**The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2)** By Robert Ludlum, Philip Shelby

For over thirty years, Robert Ludlum has been acknowledged as the master of international suspense and intrigue. In 2000, Ludlum managed to raise the bar yet again with his widely acclaimed bestsellers *The Prometheus Deception* and *The Hades Factor*, the first novel in his exciting Covert-One series. Now Covert-One is back, in a novel that could only have come from the imagination of the world's greatest storyteller.

"What they're going to do, I never would have believed it. It's insanity!" They were the final words spoken by Yuri Danko, an officer in the medical division of Russia's security service, before his body was ripped apart by a spray of assassins' bullets. In possession of Danko's classified papers, Covert-One operative Jon Smith and CIA undercover agent Randi Russell have unearthed a terrifying global conspiracy that threatens to unleash a plague of immeasurable proportions. A Serb terrorist has been dispatched from Russia to spirit hazardous vials of deadly bacteria into the United States. His mission: deliver it to an unknown American government agent-- a shadowy figure whose own motives for acquiring the bioweapon are made all the more unfathomable when both men are found murdered, and the strain is stolen. Now Smith and Russell must track it down, find the madman who possesses it, and stop him before he holds a defenseless world hostage with the power to render the human race extinct.

Visit the Covert-One Web site: [www.CovertOne.com](http://www.CovertOne.com)

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## **The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2) By Robert Ludlum, Philip Shelby Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1885246 in Books
- Brand: St. Martin's Paperbacks
- Published on: 2002-03-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.54" h x 1.23" w x 4.12" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 448 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Covert-One, the president's personal, super-secret agency formed after some recent virus-driven chaos (*The Hades Factor*, cowritten with Gayle Lynds), is staffed by an unknown number of international covert operatives, including Dr. Jon Smith, late of the USAMRIID. And a good thing, too, because someone's helped themselves to Russia's share of the world's last two stores of the smallpox virus, an eradicated yet hideously deadly bug with no ready vaccine.

That the pox was nabbed and who nabbed it is clear enough early on. Why such a seemingly large and disparate cadre of global citizens (keeping the players straight puts one in mind of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First" routine) chose to pinch the bug and for what end are the novel's driving questions. Freelance Serbian uber-nasty, Ivan Beria, is among the apparent perpetrators as are Dylan Reed and Adam Treloar of NASA, Tony Price, the head of the super-secret NSA, and a bunch of Russians. The good-guys roster claims Smith; Covert-One's head, Nathaniel Klein; Briton and ex-SAS man, Peter Howell; Smith's deceased girlfriend's sister and CIA operative, Randi Russell; the girlfriend's best friend, backup shuttle astronaut Megan Olson; and another bunch of Russians. Suffice it to say that Smith and company trot the globe, cat-and-mousing after the pox and in so doing careen through a classically speedy and Ludlumesque (if coincidence dependent) plot leaving large numbers of efficiently dispatched corpses in their wake.

Most authors of international thriller-mysteries would give their right trench coat to make The New York Times® Best Sellers list. Of the late Robert Ludlum's 21 novels, 21 have resided upon that list. Where *The Cassandra Compact*, written with bestselling thriller author Philip Shelby (*Gatekeeper*, etc.), winds up is anyone's guess, but a few hundred thousand nightstands is a good place to start. And stay tuned for more installments--Ludlum may be dead, but he's not done yet. --*Michael Hudson*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Ludlum continues to imitate his imitators in his second Covert-One biotech thriller (after *The Hades Factor*), this time with coauthor Shelby (*Days of Drums*, etc.). Medical researcher and sometime spy Lt. Col. Jonathan Smith aided by CIA agent Randi Russell, British operative Peter Howell and ultrasecret spymaster Nathaniel Klein faces another villainous plot to unleash a deadly disease on an unsuspecting populace. Retired from the Army Medical Research Unit for Infectious Diseases after the death of his fiancée, Smith heads to Venice to meet a Russian scientist who is killed by Sicilian mercenaries before he can warn Smith that a sample of smallpox is about to be stolen from a Russian bioresearch facility. Up against a global military-corporate conspiracy with moles at NASA, the Pentagon and the KGB, Smith follows the smallpox across the Atlantic to Houston Mission Control and beyond. The cinematic chase through changing landscapes and mounting body count gives the book its rapid pace, while insider politics, tradecraft and technical wizardry lend an extra kick. Boilerplate dialogue ("The hit came down as arranged. But there was an unexpected development. I'm expecting an update shortly") and movie logic (after ordering the space shuttle to land in Nevada with the most virulent smallpox strain ever and several dead astronauts aboard, the president hops Air Force One to go meet it) show Ludlum may leverage his brand name, but no longer delivers the complex situations that earned him his reputation as a premier writer of international intrigue. National advertising. (May 15)Forecast: Ludlum died just last month, and word is he left a few books in the works. It's been a while since he was in top form, but some readers are bound to overlook the telltale "Robert Ludlum's" in the title.

## Review

“An exciting medical-military thriller that moves at a rapid pace to its climax...an exciting new series.”

*?Midwest Book Review*

“A pop hit...that should bounce right up the bestseller lists.” *?Kirkus Reviews*

“Gripping...robust writing and a breakneck pace.” *?Boston Herald*

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Harold Sparkman:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

#### Harold Riggs:

This The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2) is great e-book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it facts accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having The Cassandra Compact (Covert-One, No. 2) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no guide that offer you world within ten or fifteen minute right but this book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

#### Helen Woodson:

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