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GENRE / TRIM SIZE (PB+HC)

Thriller / 5.5" x 8.5"

COVENANT OF THE IRON CROSS

(VATICAN ARCHAEOLOGY THRILLERS BOOK 1)

When Vatican archaeologist Marcus Russo uncovers the fabled Nazi Gold Train buried deep within the Owl Mountains of Poland, he expects to find a forgotten trove of looted treasures. Instead, he unearths a chilling codex that points to a dark and dangerous legacy: Operation Eisenkreuz, a Nazi plan to seed chaos and power across the globe long after their fall. But Marcus soon realizes the train's secrets are only the beginning. Shadowed by an elusive and ruthless faction known as the Covenant of the Iron Cross, Marcus and his allies—Father Michael Dominic and journalist Hana Sinclair—must race against time to stop the Covenant from using the artifacts to reignite their deadly ambitions.

As Marcus pieces together the codex's fragmented clues, he discovers it holds more than history—it holds the key to a network of hidden Nazi caches and an unfinished plan that could shift the global balance of power. But the Covenant will stop at nothing to keep their secrets buried, infiltrating even the highest echelons of the Vatican itself. From the war-torn archives of Rome to the frozen depths of Eastern Europe, Marcus, Michael, and Hana are drawn into a treacherous game of cat and mouse, where every discovery raises new questions. Who can they trust, and how deep does the Covenant's influence run?

In *Covenant of the Iron Cross*, suspense and intrigue collide in a race to unravel a conspiracy decades in the making. Combining historical mysteries with modern stakes, this gripping novel explores the cost of uncovering forbidden truths—and the resilience of those who dare to stand against evil. This thriller delves into the shadows of history, challenging readers to confront how the echoes of the past still shape the present.

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Gary McAvoy returns with another novel with ties to the Vatican Archives, yet explores a new angle and fresh protagonist. He has made sure things are well-organised and clearly entertaining as the characters tackle various Vatican-based situations and historical anomalies, yet from the perspective of archeology and not only a biblical story layered amongst relics and documents. Vatican archeologist Marcus Russo has been sent on a mission to discover a long-held mystery surrounding a Nazi-era hidden treasure buried deep in a Polish mountain. While he gathers a great group, what they discover soon leaves them baffled and scared in equal measure. What did the Nazis leave for someone to discover and how does the Vatican play into this situation? Russo will have to make sense of it before it becomes an international mess. McAvoy commences a new series with familiar characters and just as much impact for readers to enjoy!

After being sent on a mission to uncover the Nazi Gold Train in Poland, Vatican Archeologist Marcus Russo gathers a group used to uncovering mysteries to accompany him. While locating the buried treasure is the easy part, there is something else that awaits everyone that could turn things upside down. Russo locates a codex at the site, one that points to a chilling discovery.

The codex hints at a dangerous plan to ensure chaos and send Nazi-type danger across the world, long after it lost all power in Europe. Operation Eisenkreuz seems tied to the Covenant of the Iron Cross, a means by which chaos will be sown at an alarming rate. Russo works with Father Michael Dominic and journalist Hana Sinclair to make sense of it and stop the Covenant from becoming the new reality. Racing across Europe to make sense of the new Covenant plan, Russo, Dominic, and Sinclair try their best to keep things moving in a positive direction, though nothing can be assured when evil powers remain at play.

It is only when they return to the Vatican to report on their findings that a deeper knowledge of Operation Eisenkreuz comes to the surface, with details that include a long-fabled group and its thirst for power. Even within the walls of the Holy See, a group seeks to enforce its power and will stop at nothing to keep things moving at a fast past. Russo is but one victim of a larger issue here and his discretion cannot be guaranteed, forcing drastic action. A chilling story that paves the way for a strong series by Gary McAvoy.

Kudos. Mr. McAvoy, for a great start to a new series that has me excited to continue! — MATT PECHEY, Reedsy



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary McAvoy is author of both fiction and nonfiction, including his bestselling thriller series "The Magdalene Chronicles," and its sequel series, "Vatican Secret Archive Thrillers."

His nonfiction work "And Every Word Is True" has been hailed as a sequel to Truman Capote's landmark book "In Cold Blood." Gary is also a professional collector of ancient manuscripts and historical documents, much of which informs his writing projects.