



Havoc

Carolyn McCray

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What if the Tablets of the Ten Commandments were not sent off in the Ark. What if they contained more than the Golden Rule?

Rebecca and Brandt go on their greatest adventure trying to stay one step ahead of a new viscous enemy, the Disciples of the Stone.

Havoc Details

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Author : Carolyn McCray

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Sandi says

Awesome book! I am really hooked on this series. I find myself thinking about the characters a lot, concerned for what's gonna happen next. I love how the guys are the "big, bad military dudes," but still are human - funny, scared, anf just plain crazy. LOL I'm looking forward to more!

Christie says

Didn't see the book ending the way it did. With 2 stories entwined, I was not able to read fast enough. I wanted to see Rebecca and Brandt together. I was wanting to get the back story behind the 10 commandments.

I'm trying not to give anything away. This book too a turn I was not expecting! Now I have to read Shiva to see what happens next! Great book!

Elizabeth Horton-Newton says

Havoc by Carolyn McCray is the follow up to "30 Pieces of Silver". The story continues to follow the adventures of Dr Rebecca Monroe and her soldier hero Brandt. Another religious historical chase is on as the intrepid group now searches for the tablets given to biological threat that could very well decimate the world's food supply. I didn't like this as much as the first book in the Betrayed series. Some parts were wonderful, such as the reintroduction of a character or two believed killed in the first book. However the search for the tablets seems almost an understory to the ongoing challenges the group overcomes as they are pursued by a new group of religious fanatics. Still well worth the read as McCray once again pulls a great surprise at the end. I hope she will pick up more of the tablet story in a follow up book. I think there can be more here than has already been told. If you like fiction about religious history and are not easily offended you will enjoy the stories. If however you are easily disturbed by challenges to accepted religious beliefs these are not the books for you.

Mary Jo says

While the action was non-stop, the plot line was so contrived as to be completely unbelievable. The protagonists managed to escape every encounter in the most preposterous manner. I could have overlooked some of that had the writing been clean and crisp ... it was not. The editors, proofreaders, etc., should have spent more time tightening up the prose. It often read more like a conversation within the author's head.

Sally Malkowski says

I LOVED this book! The second book in the Betrayed series is every bit as good as the first – Thirty Pieces of Silver. The suspense begins on the first page and continues to the very last word. While highly controversial because of its religious context very different from what the average Christian was taught, and not for the weak in faith, the reader still needs to remember that it is a fictional presentation. If this reader has any criticism at all, it is the typos, and misuse and misspelling of words, as well as the absence of them periodically. However, this may be an uploading problem, and not an author issue. Either way, while it didn't detract from the story, it did cause me some angst as a reader. But it won't keep me from reading every book by Carolyn McCarthy that I can get my hands on.

norcgal says

Wow, what a letdown from the first novel. Expect for the non-stop action and pacing of the story, just about everything else was a big step back from the first in this trilogy.

The story telling was not as interesting, and if I thought the plot device in the first novel was unreal, the main conceit in this book was truly way, way, way “out there”.

Then we have the characters. I said in my review of the first book that character development was sparse, but in this book, it was outright non- sensical! First, the author completely changes Rebecca's middle name from Sophie to Sasha! [An aside: how can the author forget her own creation's name when me, a mere reader was able to recall it without resorting to looking it up?!] Then, in the first novel, Brandt tells Rebecca he's not a “one night stand” kind of guy but completely reverses it in this novel! And point of fact, Brandt had to be a “love ‘em and leave ‘em” for this book because of the dumb plot device of (view spoiler) Truly, epically stupid of CM to have ever inserted this needless melodrama in the first place!

For the most part, Carolyn McCray again showed her detailed research when it comes to weaponry and how to employ them, but there was one tiny aspect of military knowledge that didn't ring true: (view spoiler)

Kristin says

I really enjoyed Havoc. It was a great follow up to 30 Pieces of Silver with the same kind of intensity. The mystery was more convoluted than 30 Pieces and a little more unbelievable but I felt like the plot as a whole was more overshadowed by the character interactions and the great dynamics between everyone.

After the final chapter teaser, I'm excited to start Shiva. I also expected something like the ending to occur but not the way that it finally happened. Very satisfactory and a great read.

Alex says

There is a lot to say about this book. First of all it is a combination of Indiana Jones archaeological adventure with Dan Brown religious controversy and a secret society. I enjoyed reading this book, but the action was

way over the top, completely unbelievable, and often got to the point of being ridiculous and laughable. Here is an example without giving away too much plot. Lets set the stage, main character goes to interrogate someone, before much information is revealed a sniper shoots the person, and then a team of assassins is released. Outnumbered, but with lots of luck the character manages to escape the assassins, and the police over and over again. What I enjoyed the most were some of the religious questions brought up by the author, such as what happened to the first set of Ten commandments? Were they identical to the second? Where is Moses buried? etc.

Rose Cimarron says

[2013-02-05] 8% in and I have a number of cultural complaints.

We British (please not "Brits") no longer called police patrol cars "Panda" cars - we haven't since the police stopped painting them black and white.

The Underground in London is known as The Tube, not the subway. We have Tube carriages, not subway cars. If I'm reading a book about New York, I expect to read about subway cars; if I'm reading about Paris (or Glasgow or Manchester), I expect to read about Metro carriages. When I read about London, I expect to read about Tube carriages, wherever the author calls home.

Then there's the comment about punctuality...now I'm prepared to be corrected on this one, as I don't live in London. Whenever I've visited and used the Tube, I've never seen a timetable; beyond start and stop times on each line, I didn't think there was a timetable about which The British could be sticklers.

Apart from those, the book lives up to Ms McCray's standards.

[2013-02-28] Whilst I enjoyed the premise of the book (and the series), I was disappointed by Ms McCray's execution of the storytelling. There were factual errors, plot holes and so much needless destruction! I started to feel the book was written with more than one eye on a Hollywood movie offer. Whilst the destruction scenes would look spectacular on screen, I felt they were often unnecessary to the story.

Summary: has promise, could be better executed.

Ari says

Fast paced and entertaining!

This book never stops to take a breath. Great fast paced action all the way. I thoroughly enjoyed the story from start to end.

Rich K. says

From the synopsis it seemed that it might be a good story. However, I found the writing style too colloquial and rife with clichés. Like, it actually gets annoying when writers like, use the word like, you know, like people tend to like use it in these days in, like, conversation...especially when it's not even in, like, dialogue. I think that, like, sums it up.

Actually, I read a lot and only review a few books here, mostly indy's. This book stalled me. I am a "completionist." Unless something is absolutely horrid I try to finish it. It took me months to finish this. I feel as if I made excuses not to read it. Not a good thing.

João Jorge says

What a ride. This was amazing, really amazing. Lets get one thing straight. The books in this series are completely "stupid". Well, they are. The sort of action in "Havoc", in particular, would be too crazy even for an 80's action flick! Its completely unrealistic and completely over the top! The plot deals with religion, "lost artifacts" but its all very thin and just an excuse to move things along.

The biggest strength of "Havoc" is how its completely focused on its duty! Being entertaining. Its a "blockbuster" and by God, its proud of it! That's what I love about Carolyn McCray's writing. There's no deep meaning, no attempt at making things seem "artsy". Its just honest. Plain old fun. And she is a master. Its no easy task. I have read many books, seen many movies, about "adventures" with lots of action and they can turn very, very boring quickly. McCray never lets go of the pedal. Its a non-stop thrill ride. Other than the amazingly crazy action set-pieces, the exotic locations and the treasure hunt with its clues and bad guys just behind our heroes, her greatest achievement are her characters. They're not complex, or with lots of flaws or even experience a great character growth. They're just likable. They're the old fashioned good guys. The hero and the beautiful girl who fall in love, the guy with the jokes and the former traitor seeking redemption. They feel "honest" and I feel attached to their fate, feel like they're old friends that have been with me through countless adventures. And that is probably the best a writer can hope for. That the reader cares. That is what stops "Havoc" from being boring. We're invested in the action.

The book does have a few flaws. The villains were not as interesting as in the first book, the new characters, new members of the team felt underdeveloped and "outsiders" and the plot really was very thin but this still had me hooked from the first page.

Cannot wait to read the next adventures of Brandt and his team!

Linda Branich says

Oh my! Where to begin?

If you like a little Indiana Jones thrown in with some James Bond and a lot of other things, this is the book for you. It is quite long, but packed with action. I can see this as a movie---lots of chases, shoot-em-ups, technology, flying around the globe, blowing things up...add in some humor like avalanche surfing, a little romance, a search for the original tablets containing the Ten Commandments (do they contain more than the 10 commandments?), and a biological plague weapon hidden away and you've got a book with a recipe containing something for almost everyone.

This is the second in The Betrayed series. I will definitely go back and read the first, even though much of this book was a little far-fetched.

Neil says

I didn't enjoy this one quite as much as the previous one in the trilogy, the plotline did seem to be a bit too

fanciful in places. However if you ignore the Indiana Jones type element it was still a good read. It does still have that element of controversy which was there in 30 Pieces of Silver, but this time it is the turn of the Ten Commandments. Throw in a new group of pursuers and a stolen bioweapon and you start to get the picture. Reading other reviews this is what I refer to as a Marmite book, you either love it or hate it.

Patricia says

Earth, wind, fire, and rain + snow, guns, bombs, wild car chases = the second book in the Betrayed series. This book included elements I love: interesting characters, biblical events (Moses), history, adventure, and travel. Lots of action but some of the scenes were over-the-top/unbelievable. Interesting twists and surprises.

McCray invents a group, the Disciples, and then links them to a Dead Sea scroll she calls the book of the Disciples. She makes it fit but this is fiction and she substitutes the word 'Disciples' for the original 'discipline'. The scroll is now called the Manual of the Community.

I like that she dates events BCE (Before the Common Era)-- it looks scholarly.

No sex

Violence: non graphic and appropriate to an adventure/action book
