



## Day of the Vikings

*J.F. Penn*

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A ritual murder on a remote island under the shifting skies of the aurora borealis.

A staff of power that can summon Ragnarok, the Viking apocalypse.

When Neo-Viking terrorists invade the British Museum in London to reclaim the staff of Skara Brae, ARKANE agent Dr. Morgan Sierra is trapped in the building along with hostages under mortal threat.

As the slaughter begins, Morgan works alongside psychic Blake Daniel to discern the past of the staff, dating back to islands invaded by the Vikings generations ago.

Can Morgan and Blake uncover the truth before Ragnarok is unleashed, consuming all in its wake?

Day of the Vikings is a fast-paced, action adventure thriller set in the British Museum, the British Library and the islands of Orkney, Lindisfarne and Iona.

Set in the present day, it resonates with the history and myth of the Vikings. If you love an action-packed thriller, download a sample or buy Day of the Vikings now.

Day of the Vikings features Dr. Morgan Sierra from the ARKANE thrillers, and Blake Daniel from the London Mysteries, but it is also a stand-alone novella that can be read and enjoyed separately.

## Day of the Vikings Details

Date : Published June 11th 2014 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform (first published May 3rd 2014)

ISBN : 9781499356175

Author : J.F. Penn

Format : Paperback 98 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Fantasy, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Day of the Vikings for online ebook

### Nigel says

Another great short story about ARKANE. This one has Morgan and a new sidekick pitting themselves against a modern day Valkarie and Neo Vikings bent on finding a mystical object that will bring about the end of times. Excellently researched and written this time whisking the reader around the British Isles. Thoroughly recommended and looking forward to the next instalment. Thank you Joanna.

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### Graeme says

This was a fun change of pass from 'One Day In Budapest', and was exactly what was needed, considering some of the content in ODIB.

Day of the Vikings is more of the same brilliant Morgan Sierra, that I have come to expect from Ms Penn. However, I'm not sure I would call it an ARKANE tale. A large portion of the story is given to the character Blake Daniels from the London Crime Thriller trilogy. This did not bother me, and I fully intend to read that series once I finish with ARKANE, but I am aware it might bother some.

Overall, this was a fun little read, and if you have stuck with Morgan this far, there is no reason not to pick this one up as well.

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### Stephen says

With this, the 5th entry in the ARKANE series, J.F. Penn returns to the feel and form that hooked me on the series in the beginning. The supernatural occurrences are ramped up without losing any of the historical facts and details expected from the author.

Day of the Vikings moves away from Christian relics (featured in the first four installments) in order to focus on Norse mythology and the magic of the Vikings. The story does still intersect with some Christian history, but the focus is on the Vikings.

This novella rekindled my love for the series that was dampened a bit by One Day in Budapest. I am now certain to read the next in the series, Gates of Hell.

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### Mark Mercer says

"Uh-oh, he's starting with a 'but...'". Sadly, yes. I thoroughly enjoyed this novella, as I have all the others in Penn's ARKANE series, as rollicking good fun, fast-paced entertainment. In a topic area I like, the intersection of spirituality, history, psychology. Well-researched, readable. With a kick-butt hero (female heroes are called hero, just like female actors are rightly called actor) in Dr. Morgan Sierra, a character I

want to learn so much more about.

But...

There's something missing in this book, and I don't just mean the page count nor the inevitable structural differences between a novella (this) and a full-length novel (the original trilogy of novels and arguably also "One Day in Budapest"). It's taken me about a day to put some solid thoughts and now words to it. What's missing is the whole set of support that Morgan supposedly has, the ARKANE-verse, so to speak.

For 2 and a half books now, her partner Jake is either in hospital, or out of it finally, but we don't even get a phone call or text message between them, even when she's in range. Trafalgar Square is a pretty quick walk to the British Library, but we don't get even an abbreviated-for-novella scene at ARKANE kicking off this expected-pure-academic mission. A moment of tension about "weapon or no weapon" in a "show-don't-tell", perhaps Maretti warning her to stop by the armory but still-wounded, both physically and mentally, Morgan, wants no part of violence today, she just wants to be the academic for the first time in what seems forever. This could have been half a page. Instead, it's just Morgan's excessive inner dialog, which is almost always to herself rather than a reply/analyze/agonize over an interaction in a flashback.

In "Pentecost", Penn set up our new hero Morgan with a rich supporting cast and backup. In "Prophecy" they were mostly still around, and their being whittled down or out of touch served the story. But by "Exodus" we keep hearing about them but not much seeing them, even in flashback. I'm tired of hearing about the risk to Jemma and to Jemma's mom, Morgan's identical twin sister. I want to see some jeopardy again, or see the family dysfunction caused by Morgan taking her secret career as a superspy for the religious analogue of U.N.I.T. or S.H.I.E.L.D. (Pick your universe, though since aliens are handled by "an entirely different unit" I think Joanna already gave us a clue.)

Plus, Jake. First book all this sexual tension. It seems as if Penn doesn't know how to resolve that or if she wants to, so we keep finding ways to keep them apart. Meanwhile Morgan is starting to collect her series of gender-swapped Bond Girl characters.

I'd love to get back to the characters, settings, organizations, which Penn did such a great job of making us care about in the first book, rather than all the "guest stars". This isn't like "licensed property franchise" novels where nothing substantial can happen to Kirk, Spock, the Doctor, or Captain America in the books, because it might impact what happens in the "real series". This is the real series, this is where the stakes and the prime crew are supposed to be. I think Penn maybe even knows this, because near the end Morgan's inner dialog touches on how she needs to get back to her real partner. If even the author's lead character is voicing this frustration, it's well past time for it!

One other thing struck me as unusual for this series, not where I expected it to go. Now that Penn has gone there, I hope she embraces it rather than backpedals. Which is, \*and this next bit is spoilery so be forewarned\*

Spoiler  
Space  
Is  
The  
Lord's  
Work  
According

To  
ARKANE

This time, the power of religious artifact / ritual is unquestionably genuine. Even with the Pentecost stones of fire, the "demon" transformation in Sedlec, and some of the oddities around the events in the search for the Ark, Penn, and her lead, Sierra, always had an alternate explanation, something that may have been science, even if not quite as we know it. Maybe it was the Lord's work (or the Devil's) but maybe something explicable, someday. At least that was how I read it.

This time it's real. Unquestionable. Too many things that are explainable only by the supernatural. In front of multiple witnesses. And oddly, the first time Penn writes as if the supernatural or divine is unquestionably real, it is the first time she uses a non-Abrahamic, non-monotheistic religion, instead using the pantheon of the Norse Gods.

As a loyal reader, that took me by surprise. What also took me by surprise is that Morgan Sierra, brought up in Israel by a Jewish father, an academic in an Anglican Christian and secondarily Roman Catholic surrounding (Oxford), in a Judeo-Christian-Islamic greater milieu, does not seem surprised by it. Instead it's just more of the supernatural and divine that she has started to accept happens. I get it that Morgan is on a journey that will force her to accept that the stories of God may be real. But I think that she still was expecting HER God, not All-Father Odin, to be the one with the power.

Please don't take this as a pan of this book nor of the series. I totally enjoyed the read. But I do think there could be so much more, and I want Penn to fulfill the promise of the intriguing characters, settings, premises, and themes she has built.

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### **Lynelle Clark says**

I have forgotten about this book that I have downloaded in 2014, when just released. I suppose this is what happens when you are over zealous to read but the time simply runs away that you forget.

Now that I had the time I was happy to pick up this book again and what a wonderful read.

Although this is the first book that I read in the series I could catch up quickly the thread of the story and what's it about. And soon I was so involved in the book that everything around me could have erupted in chaos and I would not have known.

The characters are wonderfully developed and I cannot wait to read more about Blake and his extraordinary gift.

But the strong character of Morgan captured my imagination. This woman seems to enjoy her work so much that coincidences to her actions are secondary to save the day. But then she is equipped to act in such an events with the skill, grace and knowledge to save herself and the world around her.

The story itself was well researched and written to give you a superb thriller. It is extremely descriptive and takes you right to the heart of the action as it unfolds.

Truly a excellent book I can recommend as a standalone.

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### **Claudie Muchindu says**

I really enjoyed this quick read and it's a definite page turner. I've had this on my Kindle for a while and just never got around to reading it. Now I feel compelled to go back to the beginning of the series and follow Morgan through all her adventures!

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### **Melissa Hartfiel says**

This was another quick read - I actually didn't realize that it was a novella and not a novel so when the end arrived I thought I was only about half way through and the climax was simply the midway point of the book (I was reading it in a box set on my kindle so it's a bit hard to tell where each book ends!).

I love Joanna's books but I struggle with the gore (not my scene) and this one seemed more graphic than usual which is why I gave it 3 stars instead of 4. It was a bit too much for my stomach! But she sure can tell a rollicking good story and this was certainly that! Looking forward to reading The Gates of Hell next. I'll just make sure I don't read it while I'm out eating lunch!

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### **Eric Praschan says**

J.F. Penn dazzles again in this rollicking thriller. Dr. Morgan Sierra teams with Blake Daniel to stop a group of Neo-Vikings determined to resurrect the power of the Norse gods and bring about a cataclysm. The action is full-tilt from the onset and the reader is left little breathing room as the theft of a mythical staff leads to a series of bloody encounters.

Penn's prose is evocative as usual, drawing the reader in with a solid sense of setting and attention to detail. Her historical insight and well-laden research also shines through the narrative, providing additional substance to the frenetic pace. Day of the Vikings scores another hit in the ARKANE thriller series, and I look forward to more adventures with Morgan Sierra.

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### **Angela Ford says**

A thrilling fast paced read! I'll be back for more!

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### **Ronel Janse van Vuuren says**

Brilliant, vivid, prologue.

Museums, Vikings, explosions and mystical artefacts – what's not to love?

“She itched to hit something, craving the rush that only violence could soothe.” Isn’t Morgan awesome?

The language – especially the use of Old Norse and Latin – enriches the story’s world.

An action-packed adventure through the British Museum and Library – not to mention the Neo-Vikings and

their Valkyrie causing chaos everywhere.

A quick read (or perhaps I just read really fast!) that won't disappoint.

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### **Leanne Hunt says**

Joanna Penn is an accomplished storyteller. I have followed her progress with interest and been really impressed with her output. She researches the religious/spiritual/historical/psychological background of her stories well and manages to weave lots of intriguing facts and details into the action. I really enjoy the intersection between ritual and the potential for inexplicable and chilling events.

I came to "The Day of the Vikings" knowing that it was a short novella and therefore not expecting it to deliver great character exploration or depth of theme. It was what it claimed to be, a rollicking good tale. The action was vividly described and electric; the pace quick and dramatic. I particularly enjoyed the descriptions of the British Museum and the island of Iona, neither of which I have actually visited. After reading this, I am determined to visit both.

What fascinated me most about this particular book of Penn's was the sense of something lurking just beyond the edge, ready to break through into the known realm. As a student of spirituality and psychology, I hold to the view that all such premonitions of supernatural breakthrough are symptoms of hypersensitivity to shifts of consciousness. Is Penn giving expression to the enormous shifts taking place in the tectonic plates of popular culture? Or is it something more personal, a way of giving form to the massive shifts taking place in her own life as she comes to terms with her rapid rise to prominence in the world of fiction and internet entrepreneurship? The nearness of this threat makes for compelling plots and I look forward to more exploration on this front.

Finally, a word about Morgan Sierra. She is an appealing hero with lots of guts and insight into strange and dangerous phenomena. In this book, however, she lacked the charm of vulnerability. I hope to see more romantic interest in future books and perhaps some reference to her feminine health/wellness issues. As tough as she is, readers want to identify with her physically and emotionally, not just intellectually.

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### **Toni Osborne says**

Book 5, in the Arkane series

Although this novella may be the 5th of a series of thrillers it reads perfectly as a stand-alone and the adventure can be enjoyed if the topic interests you.

The story is fast paced and is one to leave us on the edge from page one as we follow the main characters Dr. Morgan Sierra and Blake Daniel on another thrilling ride. This time our heroes become trapped in a terrorist attack on the British Museum of London where they will witness ritualistic murder by Neo- Vikings.

This story is an exciting blend of fiction and facts although where the author's imagination took over is really up to historian to say. The plot is gruesome, fast moving and exciting. The author's magic touch brings

to life ancient mysteries and turns folklore into an out of this world experience, although a tad of improbability is also chiseled into it to captivate us. The story is vividly described and is very visual a sure sign that Ms. Penn loves her subject. We are also whisked across the British Isles with fine details and rich words.

Not being familiar with Neo-Vikings and their rituals did not hinder my enjoyment although I must say that this series as yet to win my heart but is slowly doing a good job in trying to.

The author has graciously provided this book for an honest review. My thoughts have not been influenced by the offer. This is the way I see it.

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### **Marcia Richards says**

This novella with its short chapters wowed me! The tension was amped up by its fast pace. The action scenes showed Morgan Sierra as more formidable than ever, though she always makes room for her softer side...she took notice of Blake Daniel's (from Desecration) alluring qualities. Morgan takes chances in this story that causes the reader great worry for her. The historical, religious and supernatural notes make this one of the most interesting thrillers I've ever read. I'll read anything Penn writes...she's that good. Fans of thrillers, in general, will love this story, especially fans of James Rollins, Steve Berry and Brad Meltzer. Highly recommended.

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### **Neil says**

Another novella to add to the ARKANE series, this being book 5. What begins as a trip to the British Museum to learn more about an artefact on display there, soon becomes a hostage situation. A group of Neo-Vikings, headed by their Shamen, are determined to seize the very same staff that Dr Morgan Sierra is studying. With the staff they hope to summon the ancient Nordic Gods and bring about the end of the world, or Ragnarok.

Without her usual partner, Jake Timber, Morgan receives help from an unlikely source, another academic employed by the museum. Once again this has been well written, and the reader will find it easy to picture remote Scottish Islands, as the story sweeps back and forth through time. As with the previous novella the action sequences seem to come quite thick and fast, and in some places can be a little gory.

Even if you have never read any of the other books in the series, this one is well worth a read. Maybe I'm slightly biased, as I do have a soft spot for Norse mythology.

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### **Nick says**

I'm not quite sure why I have this book on my Kindle -- it seems to be a freebie that showed up when I subscribed to an author's blog. Probably J. F. Penn's. Anyway, I started reading it out of curiosity, and before I knew it, I had finished it. It reads like a Dan Brown thriller -- it's both that page-turning suspenseful and that cheesy. The heroine has steel-blue eyes that turn hard when she gets ready to kick some bad male ass, that sort of thing. So it's simultaneously risible and compulsively readable. I wouldn't recommend the series unless you love that mixture of James-Bond-style action with a touch of the supernatural. If you can suspend

disbelief long enough to get into the story, then you won't be able to put it down.

You may not even need to suspend disbelief for that long. I lost it at the opening, when the Viking Seer started chanting in the Vortex and presaging the end of the world. But nonetheless I couldn't put it down. Penn is an extraordinary crafter of page-turning prose. As such, I have huge admiration for her -- she's even better than Brown, really. I wish she would offer a master class on writing compulsively readable prose -- because she made me read on in spite of myself.

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