

The Alexandria Link (Cotton Malone Book 2)

By Steve Berry

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Steve Berry's *The Columbus Affair* and a Cotton Malone dossier.

Cotton Malone retired from the high-risk world of elite operatives for the U.S. Justice Department to lead the low-key life of a rare-book dealer. But his quiet existence is shattered when he receives an anonymous e-mail: "You have something I want. You're the only person on earth who knows where to find it. Go get it. You have 72 hours. If I don't hear from you, you will be childless." His horrified ex-wife confirms that the threat is real: Their teenage son has been kidnapped. When Malone's Copenhagen bookshop is burned to the ground, it becomes brutally clear that those responsible will stop at nothing to get what they want. And what they want is nothing less than the lost Library of Alexandria.

A cradle of ideas—historical, philosophical, literary, scientific, and religious—the Library of Alexandria was unparalleled in the world. But fifteen hundred years ago, it vanished into the mists of myth and legend—its vast bounty of wisdom coveted ever since by scholars, fortune hunters, and those who believe its untold secrets hold the key to ultimate power.

Now a cartel of wealthy international moguls, bent on altering the course of history, is desperate to breach the library's hallowed halls—and only Malone possesses the information they need to succeed. At stake is an explosive ancient document with the potential not only to change the destiny of the Middle East but to shake the world's three major religions to their very foundations.

Pursued by a lethal mercenary, Malone crosses the globe in search of answers. His quest will lead him to England and Portugal, even to the highest levels of American government—and the shattering outcome, deep in the Sinai desert, will have worldwide repercussions.

The Alexandria Link (Cotton Malone Book 2) By Steve Berry Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At the start of bestseller Berry's second thriller to feature Cotton Malone (after *The Templar Legacy*), Malone, a former employee of the covert branch of the U.S. Justice Department, is trying to lead a secluded life as a bookseller in Copenhagen. Unsurprisingly, that hope is short-lived when his son is kidnapped and his ex-wife, Pam, asks for his help in rescuing the boy. The abductors intend to force Malone to reveal what he knows about the survival of the legendary lost library of Alexandria, which may hold ancient texts that could undermine Israel's claim to biblical legitimacy. Malone and his allies get mixed up in Washington intrigue and double-dealing as they try to identify the high-level traitor seeking to use the secret sources to change the dynamics of the Middle East. Characters implausibly leave enemies unsecured, placing themselves in unnecessary jeopardy, while the notion that the texts could have the desired effect may strike some readers as too far-fetched. Predictable plots twists (like the growing rapprochement between Malone and Pam) and superficial treatment of the issues between the Israelis and the Palestinians are further minuses.

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From [Booklist](#)

Berry, author of several big-selling high-concept thrillers, including *The Templar Legacy* (2006) and *The Third Secret* (2005), is back with another paranoid fantasy for fans who like their heroes to face unimaginable dangers in a variety of glamorous locations. Berry's hero, Cotton Malone (recently retired from the Department of Justice's Magellan Billet, which specializes in extra-sensitive international investigations), has reinvented himself as a seller of rare books in Copenhagen. Trouble, of course, finds him even in Denmark--first in the person of his ex-wife, who bears the news that their son has been kidnapped. Then the kidnappers convince Malone of their seriousness by torching his bookstore. The central conflict here comes from the fact that what the kidnappers want--"the Alexandria link," the key to locating the remains of the vanished library of Alexandria--is the one thing Malone, who knows the whereabouts of the link, cannot give them. So, with the conflict firmly established, and the villains showing their mettle, the plot is off and running across the globe, the story driven by a series of short chapters, each acting as a little time bomb. Trite characters and a formulaic plot (drawing, yet again, on *The Da Vinci Code*) get in the way, but Berry does make intriguing use of ancient history, and the action certainly zooms along. Fun reading if you keep moving and don't take time to digest. *Connie Fletcher*

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Review

Praise for Steve Berry

The Templar Legacy

"Richly detailed and fantastically suspenseful, this thriller grips the reader for a wild literary ride that continues until the very last page."

—Tucson Citizen

The Third Secret

"A racy read . . . skillfully combines Vatican insights, old-fashioned thrills, intrigue, murder, ambition and retribution."

—Orlando Sentinel

The Romanov Prophecy

“Perfect for thriller fans and history buffs alike. Fabulous plot twists.”

—David Morrell, author of *Creepers*

The Amber Room

“Sexy, illuminating . . . my kind of thriller.”

—Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Glenn Flinchum:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book entitled *The Alexandria Link* (*Cotton Malone Book 2*)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have other opinion?

Ashley McKay:

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Norman Brown:

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Christopher Hartwick:

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