



## The Deep Zone

*James M. Tabor*

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**In this gripping debut thriller from James M. Tabor, a brilliant and beautiful scientist and a mysterious special ops soldier must lead a team deep into the Earth on a desperate hunt for the cure to a deadly epidemic.**

When she was unjustly fired from a clandestine government laboratory, microbiologist Hallie Leland swore she would never look back. But she can't ignore an urgent summons from the White House to reenter the realm of cutting-edge science and dangerous secrets.

*"Potentially the worst threat since Pearl Harbor"* is how the president describes a mysterious epidemic killing American soldiers in Afghanistan—and now poised for outbreak in the States and beyond. Millions will die unless Hallie and a hastily mobilized team can recover the ultrarare organism needed to create a new antibiotic. The good news is that Hallie knows more about the organism than anyone else on the planet. The bad news is that it can be found only at the bottom of Earth's deepest cave.

Hallie's team is capable—especially the mysterious Wil Bowman, who knows as much about high-tech weaponry as he does about microbiology—but the challenge appears insurmountable. Before even reaching the supercave, they must traverse a forbidding Mexican jungle populated by warring cartels, Federales, and murderous locals. Only then can they confront the cave's flooded tunnels, lakes of acid, bottomless chasms, and mind-warping blackness. But the deadliest enemies are hiding in plain sight: a powerful traitor high in the Washington ranks and a cunning assassin deep underground, determined to turn Hallie's mission into a journey of no return.

The award-winning and bestselling author of two nonfiction books about adventure and exploration, James M. Tabor now plunges readers into the harrowing subterranean world of supercaves—and even deeper, into a race-with-the-devil thriller that pits one woman against a lethal epidemic and a murderous conspiracy.

## The Deep Zone Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2012 by Ballantine Books

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Author : James M. Tabor

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## From Reader Review The Deep Zone for online ebook

### **Elyse says**

An eerily timely premise, with plenty of plot twists and complexities.

Strong characters, including the lead female scientist, Hallie Leland. Even so, it felt a little too structured and predictable. I'm mainly disappointed by the romantic thread. It felt a contrived - at best stereotypical (female scientist falls for silent, deadly military guy - really??).

Enjoyed it enough that I will try other books by this author and hope that Tabor leaves out the romance.

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### **Allison says**

This debut thriller by Tabor centers around Hallie Leland, a government research scientist and her race against the clock to find a cure for a deadly flesh eating bacterium before it causes a pandemic. Hallie is a strong protagonist assisted by a mysterious special ops guy who accompanies her to a super cave in Mexico to retrieve a possible antidote to the bacterium. Of course they are being pursued by agents of a shadowy group out to make millions on the cure as well as bad guys from within the government. The story is very fast-paced and action packed and I felt claustrophobic while listening to the scenes that take place in the cave. I listened to the audio version of this book which was well narrated by Paul Michael. I would recommend this book to fans of Clive Cussler, Stephen Coonts and Michael Crichton.

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### **Darren Vincent says**

This was a good-not great, fun-but not quite exciting read. I am giving it three stars and that is a pretty fair call. It might could have been four, but the book falls victim to the praises on its cover. Brad Thor called it 'The Andromeda Strain for the twenty-first century', and it was not even in the same ballpark as that book. Thor also says '...meet the new Michael Crichton', and I mean no disrespect to James M. Tabor, but this couldn't be further from the truth and it does a disservice to the book by raising the expectations higher than this book can ever hope to read. And that doesn't mean it is a bad book, it just isn't up to par with Crichton.

There were some good characters, some predictable romance and some interesting science. There is nothing that would make me really want to recommend this book to someone else, but if I caught you reading it in a library or coffee shop, I wouldn't warn you away from it. It did for me what a book like this should do, which is take my mind off everyday life and on an adventure.

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### **Amy says**

could not finish it, did not enjoy this book at all

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### **Curt says**

So if this were a movie - I would describe it as a good popcorn movie. So I enjoyed the book, but not enough to continue reading the series it started. The situations in which the protagonist finds herself are extreme and her ability to extricate herself are unbelievable. Finally, with a surprise, albeit predictable ending, the book crashes to a sudden stop. A few threads are left loose - nothing major but annoying.

It is a good popcorn book and a quick read.

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### **Ned says**

This is a thriller and a very good one. The best I have read in over a year. I read this 400 page book in 2 days. I read myself to sleep almost every night. That didn't work here. I struggled to stay AWAKE so I could keep up with the story.

A novel, but based on good science. In this case microbiology. Millions of people will die unless a microorganism is retrieved. And, of course the microorganism only lives in the deepest part of the world's deepest cave. It could have been at the bottom of the dairy case at Safeway, but that would not have been quite as thrilling to get to. With the science, this reads a lot like Michael Crichton. And to that, you need to add three tablespoons of Jules Verne.

I recommend this book. Very impressed with the writer. He has two other novels and also a couple of nonfiction books on caving and mountain climbing. I intend to read them all.

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### **Don says**

I enjoyed reading this book although it was somewhat predictable. Maybe it's from reading lots of books in the genre, but I would still recommend it.

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### **April Rohrer says**

I liked this book more than I thought I would. An entertaining, fast paced book about an adventure to stop a new bioweapon before it becomes a world epidemic. Likable characters, some plot twists, interesting to read about the search for a cure in a cave. First in a series and I would pick up another.

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### **Larry Hamilton says**

An intriguing science based thriller with a storyline that moves along nicely with a few twists and surprises. Think of a typical Michael Crichton novel except without going overboard on the scientific facts. A fun read!

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### **Neil says**

[It is kind of "funny" how even twenty years ago people were worried about different types of "superbugs" that would defy antibiotics and have the potential to annihilate humanity. (hide spoiler)

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### **Nancy says**

I listened to this on a playaway.

Hallie is a brilliant scientist who is working at a diving shop because she resigned (fired) from her position (having been framed which we find out later). Her former boss gets her back to work with a team to go into the deepest cave to get "moon milk" which could be used to work on a cure for ACE which is an infection which is super contagious and has no cure. (She had been in the cave before) There is lots of description of the cave and going through it. One of the other cavers is Wil Bowman who she comes to like--really like. But one of the guys is killing off the other members of the team until just Hallie is left. (It turns out Bowman wasn't killed--I kept waiting for him to appear and low and behold he did!) We think Hallie has been killed, but she rallies and ends up killing the traitor in a very satisfying fight. In between are chapters about the evil genius who rigged this whole infection so that his company's antidote would be in demand. Another side story is a doctor who risked infection (and then was infected)--she turned out to be the sister of the woman from Hallie's dive store and she figured in the ultimate discovery of the antidote. When Hallie finally came out of the cave there were groups of bad guys waiting for her and we had to get through her (and later Bowman) fighting them until they are rescued. Then we had to wait for the cure to be made with the "moon milk" brought back by Hallie. I'm looking forward to the next Hallie book.

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### **C. Scott Kippen says**

This book appealed to me because it had to do with caving. A subject/hobby that has always fascinated me. I have also read part of his non-fiction book *Blind Descent* (still working on it). I enjoyed this book, but it has flaws. Lots of flaws. James Tabor has a long ways to go to become a good writer.

Now, don't get me wrong. I enjoyed this book, and read it quite quickly, but it is not "good" in the sense of good. You will not marvel at the writing in this book, the plotting, or the characterization. In fact, the first two chapters of this book have some of the worst, most-cliques writing I have seen in a long while. If I were the editor of this book, I would have made those first 2 chapters re-written. They are beyond terrible, and if I had not paid for this book, they may have stopped me.

Aside from the writing, the basic plot of the novel (go into a supercave and retrieve an extremophile is what

drew me in. The caving and basic plot works. There were no surprises in this book for me. I was never in any real doubt of what was happening and what was going to happen. It is a typical suspense novel, in the vein of James Rollins, but not nearly as well plotted or written. James Tabor will get there, and I hope there is a sequel in the works that involves a cave yet again. If it does not involve a cave, I don't know if I will be able to wring myself to read it.

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### **Janis says**

I'm beginning to think this author might have a grudge against women. A big pharma company decides to create a need for an old antibiotic by creating a new plague - one that will strike women. They contaminate feminine hygiene products - insidious - unfortunately it mutates and their drug only slows this new disease. The victims are destroyed from the inside out. It's up to a small group of scientists to go deep into an ultra deep cave and bring back more of a potential new drug. Are they sure it will work no but with a new disease spreading faster than smallpox and 100% mortality it's their last hope.

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### **Casey Hampton says**

I'll write the kind of review I wished I had seen before I grabbed this out of the library.

This is an awful book full of mediocre writing and cardboard characters.

Don't waste your time.

If you're jonesing for suspense in this style of story, just go reread some old Tom Clancy.

Trust me on this. The Deep Zone? Nope, just the Crap Zone.

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### **Cyndi Beane-Henry says**

It all begins with the war in Afghanistan and a young soldier is shot. Medic care is provided immediately. Everything looked good.

But something went horribly, horribly wrong, and a strain of bacteria that would make Eboli look weak threatens to take out the US military forces.

If you like a good book, take a deep breath, you're about to go on a wild ride that won't let you put this book down until you've consumed it. And I seldom say that about any book these days.

Tabor tells a story of espionage at a level that's gonna make you shiver with fear, and become so angry you'll want to spit in someone's eye! Then take you to plummeted levels of despair and dying. Only to raise you up to newfound love. And through it all, courage is born. Over and over.

Fraught with suspense [don't try to read a bit and then attempt to go to sleep.... you'll be too wound up!] you'll find yourself tensing at every turn. And quaking in fear at the possibilities of what you might find around every corner, or stalagmite [or is that stalactite?]

I give this book Five Stars and my Thumbs Up!

I highly recommend this read for anyone over the age of 15. Younger teens might be okay with it if they can handle some violence. Parents should make that decision before allowing them to read this.

\*\*\*\*DISCLOSURE: The copy that I read was an "Advanced Reader's Edition" and as such may vary from the actual finished edition. The cover above is on the Advanced Reader's Edition, the actual sale copy may differ. The book will debut and begin selling on April 3rd. This copy was provided by Amazon Vine, in exchange for an independent and non-biased review.

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