



Contest

By Matthew Reilly

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Contest By Matthew Reilly

Contest, the action-packed extravaganza that launched this international bestselling career, is vintage Reilly at his explosive best.

The New York Public Library. A silent sanctuary of knowledge; a 100-year-old labyrinth of towering bookcases, narrow aisles and long marble hallways. For Doctor Stephen Swain and his daughter, Holly, it is the site of a nightmare. Because for one night this historic building is to be the venue for a contest. A contest in which Swain is to compete—whether he likes it or not. The rules are simple: Seven contestants will enter, only one will leave. With his daughter in his arms, Stephen Swain is plunged into a terrifying fight for survival. The stakes are high, the odds brutal. He can choose to run, to hide or to fight—but if he wants to live, he has to win. For in this contest, unless you leave as the victor, you do not leave at all.

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Contest By Matthew Reilly Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

ETs with a mordant sense of drama turn the New York Public Library into "the labyrinth" for an interstellar survival game show in this ungainly thriller from Australian Reilly (*Ice Station*). Seven players, each from a different world, compete for their lives, combating not only each other but also a monster called the Karanodon. The earthly representative is Dr. Steven Swain, chosen for his courage in successfully fighting off a gang of thugs who invade his operating room. Unfortunately, Swain happens to be holding Holly, his plucky little daughter, at the moment he's transported into the labyrinth, so she goes with him. The most devilish trick the "sponsors" provide is an unremovable digital bracelet, whose face shows how many opponents remain, and will commence a deadly 15-minute countdown should its wearer manage to escape the library's electrified confines. Derivative of Michael Crichton's techno-thrillers as well as Stephen King/Richard Bachman's *The Running Man*, the book offers constant, nail-biting action, but not a lot of reverence for one of New York City's greatest public institutions.

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From [Booklist](#)

Australian thriller writer Reilly--*Area 7* (2001)--self-published this debut novel in 1996. It now appears, with a retooled story and some new characters, in its first U.S. edition. The premise is wild: an intergalactic contest, the Presidian, is held once every thousand (Earth) years. This time it's taking place on Earth, and seven contestants from across the universe--including Dr. Stephen Swain, our human hero--have been teleported into New York Public Library, where they will hunt one another until only one remains alive. The narrative is rough, bogged down by long passages of backstory designed to transmit great wads of information, but the pace eventually picks up nicely, and Reilly generates a great deal of excitement. It's all riddled with enormous logical flaws, of course, but somehow it works anyway: the novel's sheer audacity pulls us in and keeps us flipping pages. An interesting look at an established novelist's humble but energetic beginnings. *David Pitt*

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Review

"Reilly . . . can inspire awe. Speed demons, take note."

-- *Publishers Weekly* (*Publisher's Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Weimer:

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Sharon Scott:

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Bryant Booher:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Contest, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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