

★★★★★ **Mayan archeological mystery turns into a medical thriller**, August 10, 2005

Reviewer: [James Barnes "Editor, www.IndependentPublisher.com"](#) (Traverse City, MI United States) - [See all my reviews](#)



Anyone who visits the Mayan ruins of Mexico and Guatemala is left with this question: What happened here? Standing atop a stone pyramid, one imagines what these mysterious jungle cities would be like with a bustling population and wonders, why did they all disappear?

Here's a book that combines an explanation of this archeological mystery with a modern day medical thriller, a fast-paced tale about a deadly virus unleashed at a Mayan dig site that threatens to wipe out humanity while our smart young heroes race around the Yucatan to find a cure. There's adventure, romance, science, and just the right amount of sex, drugs and violence. It's the perfect beach novel for a Caribbean vacation - or for reading in the backyard wishing you were on a Caribbean vacation.

This book will appeal to a wide array of readers, from techie to touchy-feely. Think Andromeda Strain meets Against All Odds (and thinking cinematically makes sense, as it would make a great movie). The characters are well-drawn and engaging, from bumbling Mexican cops and mercenary thugs to dashing treasure hunters and brilliant scientists. Author Larry Baxter brings believability and humanity to the entire cast, as he weaves a suspenseful, edge-of-your-seat tale that's exciting and informative. Both a trip back in time and a glimpse of a frightening possible future, The Mayan Glyph is a wild ride indeed.

★★★★★ **powerful action-packed tale**, May 25, 2004

Reviewe [Harriet Klausner](#) - [See all my review](#)



Near Uxmal, Mexico, a University of Texas archeological research team finds a Mayan ruin, but when they return home, every member is ailing and soon begins dying. The disease spreads to the hospital staff. CDC enters the fray seeking a panacea while more people die.

The airborne virus that eradicated most of the populace of the Mayan Empire in the latter half of the ninth century has returned. However, what was a relatively localized pandemic is much more dangerous to humanity, as modern transportation provides this virus with easy access way beyond Austin. The United States government leadership discuss how to contain the pathogen, but unless a cure is quickly found, the only response is to draw a line above Texas and isolate everyone to the south with full military at the containment front. Millions will be condemned to a horrible death.

Dr. Spender of CDC discusses the disease on a video conference with Boston based Dr. Robert Asher. Soon Asher learns that the starting point of the spreading epidemic was a research team in the Mexican jungle. Asher, accompanied by Mayan scholar Teresa Welles, visits the epicenter hoping to learn how some Mayans survived. Concurrently, the virus has spread to Mexico.

This exciting thriller provides an intriguing spin to the end days of the Mayan Empire that alone hooks readers to learn more about what happened. Coupled with the twenty-first

century epidemic, fans will take immense delight with both subplots that interconnect through the virus. The final "twist" involving the Lincoln Room is a terrific low key closing to a powerful action-packed tale that is a one sitting read. ...Harriet Klausner

Reviewer: Joy Calderwood

Archaeologists opening a king's grave in the Yucatan unwittingly resurrect a deadly virus, which has been dormant for 1200 years. The archaeology team, the occupants of the plane on which they returned to Austin, Texas, and then Austin itself: the numbers of the dead are growing fast. This could easily be the end of the human race.

The story's focus settles quickly on the problem-solvers. Gary Spender, at first trying only to protect his own family from the increasing outbreaks, is just as dedicated when his assigned "family" becomes the whole quarantined population of Texas. Edward Teppin, compensating for his severe crippling with his quick understanding of the latest high tech equipment, coordinates the search for a cure from Boston University. Teppin recruits his departmental Renaissance man, Robert Asher, whose many restless ideas keep him from staying with one project for long. Dr. Asher invented the microscope which gives the most useful picture of the virus to date. To everyone's amazement, the newly revealed image of the virus matches a Mayan picture with Mayan writing glyphs next to it, offering hope that the Maya knew a cure.

While the virus spreads unchecked through Texas, Asher and Theresa Welles, expert in the Mayan language, jet to the Yucatan, home of the Maya. There they find themselves blocked by a drug lord who sees the Yucatan virus as a business opportunity. How can they unravel the puzzle when they are busy exchanging bullets with Ernesto?

THE MAYAN GLYPH works on two levels. It is a lively, exciting adventure story with a nice romance between Robert and Theresa; and it is a knowledgeable, inventive scientific puzzler. It is arranged so readers can skip over the technical details if they like without hurting the story, or they can enjoy the reasoning and mental leaps that lead to a solution. When I visited the author's website I was not at all surprised to learn that he is an inventor. Also, the planning that goes into the handling of the outbreak seems completely authentic, as if the author used ideas he got from participating in a think tank on the subject.

THE MAYAN GLYPH compares favorably with another disaster novel I read recently. That one was by a civil engineer, written like a planning paper, and makes the colorful humanity of THE MAYAN GLYPH look even better from the comparison. Author Larry Baxter's multiple talents clearly extend beyond the realm of science. I found it a pleasure to watch Robert Asher, the author's alter ego, in action. His outside-the-box thinking and unexpected approaches to problems kept me agreeably surprised.

I started THE MAYAN GLYPH with a set conviction: I hate thrillers about epidemics. A tongue-in-cheek comment on the first page made me realize I had better think again. There isn't a lot of room for humor in a book on this subject, but when there is, Baxter uses it. To my great relief THE MAYAN GLYPH does not revel in panic and anguish, it does not focus on the degradation of humanity expecting the end of days, and it is not out to terrorize readers for the fun of it. That kind of writing is for people who have not experienced real disaster. When the chips are down, individuals pull together to beat the threat, and recognizing this is what gives THE MAYAN GLYPH its quality.

Joy Calderwood

http://www.reviewers-choice.com/the_mayan_glyph.htm

Reviewer: [Anne K. Edwards](#)

An excellent read! Get your bug repellent and hiking boots ready for a trek through the jungle as you join Drs. Robert Asher and Teresa Welles in a search for a lost cure for an ancient killer that makes a reappearance. Modern technology keeps them in communication with the outside world, but it cannot protect them from unexpected dangers they encounter once they reach their destination, a lost city of the Mayan civilization.

Author Larry Baxter has used his considerable writing talent and vivid imagination to give us an enthralling tale that kept me reading late into the night. The pace never slackens, the characters are varied and believable and the underlying sense of urgency pushes the story along. This tale gives us a new look at the old mystery of why the Mayans abandoned their cities while Robert and Teresa seek answers in the writings they left behind.

The author makes history come alive and his theory is believable in the face of the building panic as the disease widens its circle around Austin, Texas. Highly recommended by this reader

<http://www.murderandmayhembookclub.com/mayan.html>