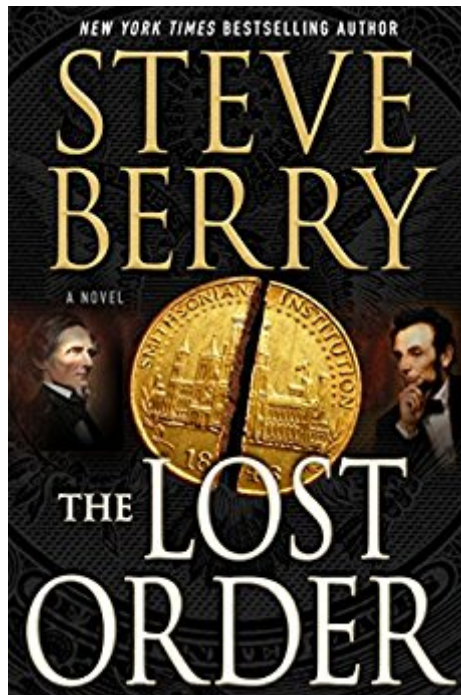




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# The Lost Order: A Novel (Cotton Malone)



## Synopsis

The Knights of the Golden Circle was the largest and most dangerous clandestine organization in American history. It amassed billions in stolen gold and silver, all buried in hidden caches across the United States. Since 1865 treasure hunters have searched, but little of that immense wealth has ever been found. Now, one hundred and sixty years later, two factions of what remains of the Knights of the Golden Circle want that lost treasure—one to spend it for their own ends, the other to preserve it. Thrust into this battle is former Justice Department agent Cotton Malone, whose connection to the knights is far deeper than he ever imagined. At the center is the Smithsonian Institution—linked to the knights, its treasure, and Malone himself through an ancestor, a Confederate spy named Angus “Cotton” Adams, whose story holds the key to everything. Complicating matters are the political ambitions of a reckless Speaker of the House and the bitter widow of a United States Senator, who together are planning radical changes to the country. And while Malone and Cassiopeia Vitt face the past, ex-president Danny Daniels and Stephanie Nelle confront a new and unexpected challenge, a threat that may cost one of them their life. From the backrooms of the Smithsonian to the deepest woods in rural Arkansas, and finally up into the rugged mountains of northern New Mexico, *The Lost Order* by Steve Berry is a perilous adventure into our country’s dark past, and a potentially even darker future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historical fiction is my favorite book genre, and Steve Berry didn't disappoint. The quantity and depth of his research is impressive, and his stories are always entertaining. I like the way he links characters from one novel to the next, but it's somewhat frustrating that relationships between them don't become closer over time. Perhaps if we knew why...The only reason I gave the book four stars instead of five is because I found the plot too predictable. Thankfully, this did not take away from my enjoying the book as a reader. Don't miss the "Writer's Note" at the end; it is especially enlightening as Berry separates what is fact from fiction.

You can't really define this book as Steve Berry's best because it lowers the status of his other works. Since I found Steve Berry I have enjoyed reading each and every one of his books. This one is no exception, it is a murder mystery, a political thriller, and a treasure hunt all rolled into one. From the beginning of the story until the very end, Steve keeps his reader guessing. Coton Malone is once again the star of the book although Danny Daniels and Cassiopia Vitte play major roles. Do yourself a favor and read this highly entertaining and fast moving book, you won't regret it.

Steve Berry does a very considerable amount of research into the historic aspects that frame his adventurous good-guys/bad-guys feel-good stories. If the historic framework of the particular Berry novel that you are currently reading happens to interest you, the story can be a fun read. In this particular case, I was less involved in the plot elements than I have been in previous Berry books. The writing style remains consistent (and somewhat predictable) with the writing in his other books, but the result is perhaps one notch down the ladder.

It was an enjoyable read that kept me turning the pages. As always Malone is true to form and keeps things exciting and the plot line is interesting. I always love the true historical fiction built into Steve Berry's books. I did find this one a bit more disjointed than some of the others however. While overall a great read, not my top pick of his books. I do still recommend it, but definitely read the others first!

I have read all of Mr Berry's books but this one took me two weeks to read. The basic plot was ok but there were too many people trying to solve the situation. I was constantly going back through the parts I had read to get the storyline for the person I had started on. Also I felt I was taking an in-depth history class. I know that the history was important to the story but reading page after page after page was just too much. I will continue to read Mr Berry's books and hope that he improves these problems I'm

**The Lost Order by Steve Berry** This is the 12th installment of the "Cotton" Malone series. This time it deals with The Knights of the Golden Circle. This was a clandestine organization that stole and hid billions in stolen gold and silver. Its original mission was to use the gold to build a Southern Empire which would include Mexico and most of the Caribbean. The organization has kept the loot hidden by a select group of "Sentinels" that guard their spoils since 1865. Treasure hunters have searched, but little of that immense wealth has ever been found. The book opens with the great Smithsonian fire of 1865 in which an ancestor of Cotton Malone, Angus "Cotton" Adams, steals a journal and a key from the Smithsonian. This fact holds the key to everything. Back to the present, there are two factions from Knights of the Golden Circle that want that lost treasure— one to spend it for their own ends, the other to preserve it. The former is led by Warren Watson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; the latter is headed by Frank Beckingridge, a former Smithsonian leader. Narrated from the third person point of view, the plot twists and surprises the reader. There are two subplots: one is the plot deals with power grabs in Congress. By changing the rules of the House via altering Article 1, Section five, Clause 2 - to make all legislation to be originated in the House, thus making the Senate obsolete. The other is by creating a Constitutional convention trying to alter the Constitution. The second subplot just deals with greed: people wanting to find the treasure for their own profit. These later ones are willing to do anything: including killing Senators and even an ex-president to achieve their goal. By finding the five stones that hold the key to "the vault" where all the money is hidden, we are taken to Arkansas, the west, and finally the site of the treasure. All of the characters that we've learned to love: Stephanie Nell, Danny Davis, Cotton Malone, and Cassiopeia Vitt come back to solve the mystery of The Lost Order. The book reads fast and it comes to a wonderful climax/conclusion. I loved the book. If you're a Steve Berry fan, this one will not disappoint you!

I am always intrigued when I know Cotton and Cassiopeia are about to be involved in a mystery. This one didn't fail the expectation. Very involved story line and weaved by a master.

I really enjoy these books by Steve Berry. There is just enough history in the background to help me learn as well as enjoy the mystery

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