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Sleeping Giants (Themis Files)



Synopsis

A page-turning debut in the tradition of Michael Crichton, *World War Z*, and *The Martian*, *Sleeping Giants* is a thriller fueled by an earthshaking mystery and a fight to control a gargantuan power. A girl named Rose is riding her new bike near her home in Deadwood, South Dakota, when she falls through the earth. She wakes up at the bottom of a square hole, its walls glowing with intricate carvings. But the firemen who come to save her peer down upon something even stranger: a little girl in the palm of a giant metal hand. Seventeen years later, the mystery of the bizarre artifact remains unsolved—its origins, architects, and purpose unknown. Its carbon dating defies belief; military reports are redacted; theories are floated, then rejected. But some can never stop searching for answers. Rose Franklin is now a highly trained physicist leading a top secret team to crack the hand's code. And along with her colleagues, she is being interviewed by a nameless interrogator whose power and purview are as enigmatic as the provenance of the relic. What's clear is that Rose and her compatriots are on the edge of unraveling history's most perplexing discovery and figuring out what it portends for humanity. But once the pieces of the puzzle are in place, will the result prove to be an instrument of lasting peace or a weapon of mass destruction? Praise for *Sleeping Giants*—Reminiscent of *The Martian* and *World War Z*, *Sleeping Giants* is a luminous conspiracy yarn that shoots for (and lands among) the stars. —Pierce Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Rising* As high-concept as it is, *Sleeping Giants* is a thriller through and through. . . . Not only is *Sleeping Giants* one of the most promising series kickoffs in recent memory, it's a smart demonstration of how science fiction can honor its traditions and reverse-engineer them at the same time. —NPR —Neuveil weaves a complex tapestry with ancient machinery buried in the Earth, shadow governments, and geopolitical conflicts. But the most surprising thing about the book may just be how compelling the central characters are in the midst of these larger-than-life concepts. . . . I can't stop thinking about it. —Chicago Review of Books —First-time novelist Sylvain Neuvel does a bold, splashy cannonball off the high dive with *Sleeping Giants*. It bursts at the seams with big ideas and the questions they spawn—How much human life is worth sacrificing in the pursuit of scientific progress? Can humanity be trusted with weapons of ultimate destruction? And the biggest: Are we alone? But all that really matters is that this book is a sheer blast from start to finish. I haven't had this much fun reading in ages. —Blake Crouch, author of *Dark Matter* and the bestselling *Wayward Pines* trilogy —A remarkable debut . . . Reminiscent of Max Brooks's *World War Z*, the story's format effectively builds suspense. —Library Journal (debut of the month) —This stellar debut novel . . . masterfully blends together elements of sci-fi, political

thriller and apocalyptic fiction. . . . A page-turner of the highest order.â Kirkus Reviews (starred review)â [A] fascinating first novel . . . This intriguing tale is entirely worthy of an adult audience.â Publishers Weekly

From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Rose Franklin, who at the age of 11 fell into a hole and discovered the first piece of a giant alien robot, finds herself heading the task of making it work. First though, she has to find the other pieces, which were scattered across the globe millennia ago. Not surprisingly, some of the parts are located in places with unfriendly governments, which complicates their retrieval. Fortunately, she has the assistance of a well, we never do learn his name. Or just who he works for. We'll call him the Interviewer, and for certain, he's some form of highly placed spook, who has unlimited funds, the ability to disappear people, and ready access to the President's ear. Once the parts are finally found, and assembled, the real challenges and dangers begin. Unlike any other book I've ever read, Book One of the Themis Files contains no live-action or narration. Each chapter is a log entry, mission report, or most frequently, an interview transcript. The interviews are conducted by our mysterious Interviewer, and take us chronologically through the

robot's story. It's an odd technique, and if you're really into richly detailed descriptions of people, places, and things, you'll probably not like it. Fortunately, it never bothered me; I was having too much fun following along with the story. You'll learn a lot about the main characters, and quickly feel their frustration in dealing with the Interviewer. With one exception – a very over-the-top Ms Papantoniou – the characters are both believable and nicely fleshed out. As sci-fi goes, the story is pretty plausible, and stays consistent within its own logic and science. The author has a wickedly dry humour, which adds a nice dimension to the dramatic story.

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