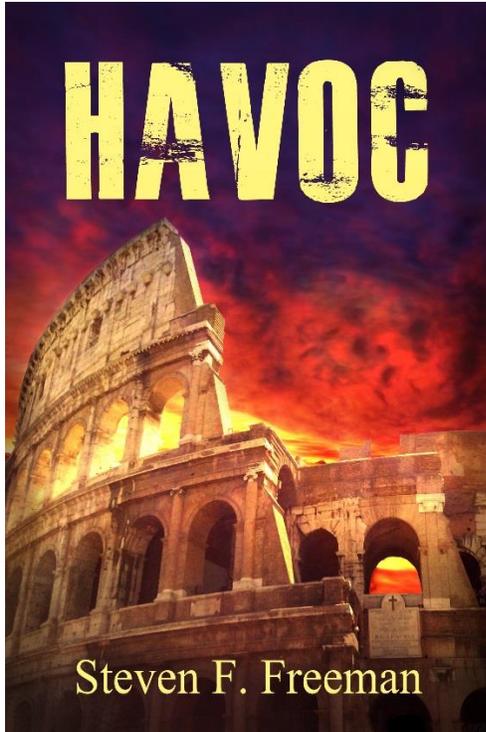


Havoc: A Novel

Technology So Valuable It Could Change Your Life...Or End it



SYNOPSIS

When Cryptologist Alton Blackwell takes his girlfriend, FBI Agent Mallory Wilson, on a surprise trip to Italy, the couple expects the vacation of a lifetime, but their pleasure is short-lived. Intent on selling Vidulum Inc.'s proprietary technology to the highest bidder, a rogue employee of the high-tech company arranges a clandestine meeting at one of Rome's most famous tourist attractions. Rather than collecting a huge payday, however, the company turncoat encounters a lethal surprise. When Alton and Mallory rush to assist the dying scientist, they find themselves pulled into the subsequent murder investigation.

Foreign and domestic agents, corporate spies, intellectual-property thieves, and shadowy underworld figures race to acquire the technical files stored on the dead employee's missing cellphone and reap the billions of dollars and technological superiority now at stake.

Despite their efforts to leave the tragedy behind and continue their vacation, Alton and Mallory soon learn their own lives are in danger. They are left with no choice but to join forces with the Roman police in an effort to crack the case. While diving into the investigation, the discovery of another man in Mallory's past disrupts Alton's plan to move his relationship with her to a new level.

As they encounter unexpected twists at a breakneck pace, Alton and Mallory must summon all their intellectual powers to reveal the truth behind the Vidulum employee's death and track down the missing technological plans before a life-threatening end game can be set in motion.

SUMMARY

In **Havoc**, volume four of "The Blackwell Files" series, vacationing FBI agent Mallory Wilson and boyfriend Alton Blackwell summon all their skills to stay one step ahead of the murderer of a turncoat scientist, racing to discover stolen, proprietary technology before the murderer's end game can be set in motion.

REVIEWS FOR HAVOC

"HAVOC was incredibly enjoyable. It was incredibly visual to read with the scenes easily coming alive in my mind." **Sarah Redmond**

"The best story yet!" **Priscilla Gould**

"I enjoyed your book immensely. The plot moved at a quick and interesting pace." **Yassemin Intalin**

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FOR THE PRESS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thriller/mystery author Steve Freeman is a former member of the US Army's Signal Corps, a twenty-six year employee of a large American technology company, and an avid traveler who has visited five continents. The novels of *The Blackwell Files* draw from his firsthand knowledge of military service, the tech industry, and the diverse cultures of our world.

He currently lives near Atlanta, Georgia with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.



INTERVIEW TOPICS

- How have your life experiences influenced the novels of *The Blackwell Files*? To what extent are they autobiographical?
- What writers are most influential to your work?
- Do you anticipate future novels featuring Alton and Mallory, the two main protagonists of *The Blackwell Files* novels?
- What sets *The Blackwell Files* novels apart from other thrillers?
- How did you start writing?

FOR THE PRESS

Prologue

Alton passed through the building's automatic doors and into the warm humidity of the summer evening. He headed into the parking lot, an expanse of asphalt bordered by a sidewalk, beyond which lay a dense grove of trees. On previous visits to the building, he had often observed squirrels darting through the underbrush, but the parking lot's faux-antique streetlamps couldn't begin to illuminate the interior of the dark copse now.

As he walked down the sidewalk towards his Explorer, Alton ruminated over the curious series of events. The evening's investigation had only strengthened his inclination to believe them to be more than a result of chance.

With no distractions beyond the soothing symphony of crickets, Alton seemed to think more clearly in the moist night air than he had in the cramped office. He slowed his pace as the outline of a pattern began to penetrate his thoughts. His mind was on the cusp of forming a connection, of recognizing a common attribute shared by all instances of the cases he was investigating. The noise of squirrels rustling underneath the trees proved a momentary distraction, but he quickly resumed his attempt to identify the solution which lay, tantalizingly, just out of reach.

As Alton struggled to complete the intuitive leap, a blur of motion appeared at the periphery of his vision. His world exploded into a thousand bright lights, then turned utterly dark.