



The Fifth Vial

By Michael Palmer

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The Fifth Vial By Michael Palmer

From the blockbuster, eleven-time *New York Times* bestselling author comes a novel of medical suspense that begins with these chilling questions: Who ends up with the blood samples you routinely give for tests? What else are they being used for? Why don't you know?

Take a Deep Breath. . . .

In Boston, a disgraced medical student is sent to deliver a research paper that could save her career. . . . Four thousand miles away, in a jungle hospital in Cameroon, a brilliant, reclusive scientist, dying from an incurable disease that threatens to make each tortured breath his last, is on the verge of perfecting a serum that could save millions of lives, and bring others inestimable wealth. . . . In Chicago, a disillusioned private detective, on the way to his third career, is hired to determine the identify of a John Doe, killed on a Florida highway, with mysterious marks on his body.

Three seemingly disconnected lives, surging unrelentingly toward one another. Three lives becoming irrevocably intertwined. Three lives in mounting peril, moving ever closer to the ultimate confrontation against a deadly secret society with godlike aspirations and roots in antiquity.

Medical student. Scientist. Private eye. Three people who will learn the deeper meanings of brilliance and madness, truth and deception, trust and betrayal.

Three lives linked forever by a single vial of blood--the fifth vial.

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The Fifth Vial By Michael Palmer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bestseller Palmer (*The Society*) tackles the illegal transplant organ trade in his entertaining 12th medical suspense novel. What do three very different people—Harvard medical student Natalie Reyes, Chicago PI Ben Callahan and scientific genius Joe Anson—have in common? Natalie, in Brazil for a conference, is attacked, hospitalized and loses a lung; Ben gets hired to discover how a mutilated anonymous body died; Joe, the inventor of an untested medical breakthrough, is forced into an operation for his life-threatening pulmonary fibrosis. All three seek answers connected to the Whitestone Foundation, a conglomerate that's a front for the Guardians, a secret cabal of medical specialists. At a hidden hospital in the Brazilian rain forest, Natalie and Ben learn of the Guardians' insidious methods. Huge sums are at stake as the arrogant Guardians make medical decisions largely motivated by greed. The action, which begins plausibly, becomes less so as the tension builds. Still, Palmer, himself an M.D., does a good job of informing the reader on an important ethical issue. *225,000 printing; author tour. (Feb.)*

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From [Booklist](#)

Palmer is adept at tapping into people's natural fear of disease, doctors, and hospitals and converting that fear into unnerving suspense. In this, his twelfth medical thriller, Palmer plays with the phenomenon of organ donation, forcing the reader to ask nervously, "Where do donated organs come from?" The answer comes slowly, in the best medical-thriller tradition, by having three different characters, widely separated by space and circumstance, each play a role in tracking down a powerful conspiracy network. Natalie Reyes, a brilliant Harvard Medical School student, is summarily dismissed for disagreeing with a doctor. In one of the many wild stretches of the plot, Natalie goes to Rio de Janeiro to present a paper and is kidnapped and left for dead. In another stretch, a newly minted Chicago private eye is hired by a University of Chicago medical anthropologist to conduct an investigation into underworld organ trafficking. Meanwhile, in Yaounde, Cameroon, a doctor is refining a drug that can speed the formation of new blood vessels, but--slight problem--he's racing the clock against his own life-threatening illness. The sprawling plot lurches along toward the discovery of a conspiracy to obtain organs by any means and sell them at high prices. The characterization is wooden and the plotting clunky, but Palmer's fans know not to worry overmuch about such niceties. If medical thrills are what you're after, he delivers. *Connie Fletcher*

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Review

"An ingenious medical thriller, suspenseful and cleverly plotted."

--Kathy Reichs, author of *Break No Bones*

"Palmer's latest has thrills and chills aplenty, while conveying a sobering--make that *terrifying*--message. Not only is this one heck of a medical thriller, it's a scary wake-up call to what could happen if a few individuals decided to play God, a premise that scared the daylights out of me. Could this happen? Palmer makes you think so."

--Sandra Brown, author of *Ricochet*

"*The Fifth Vial* is a nail-biting thriller you don't want to miss."

--Catherine Coulter, author of *Point Blank*

"Michael Palmer delivers a complex plot, fascinating characters, and plenty of action. *The Fifth Vial* is a roller-coaster ride that winds its way through the United States, Africa, India, and Brazil on the way to a terrific surprise ending."

--Phillip Margolin, author of *Proof Positive*

"From knowledge comes power, and from power, temptation. Michael Palmer's *The Fifth Vial* is a tale set at the very edge of our medical knowledge, and of a thrilling heroine who confronts a theft that haunts me still. I loved it!"

--Tess Gerritsen, author of *The Mephisto Club*

"Brilliant storyteller Michael Palmer is at the top of his game, and gives us a compelling and thought-provoking tale that will have you looking over your shoulder. It's both realistic and terrifying, and it will keep you up all night!"

--Iris Johansen, author of *On the Run*

"There's a compelling truth at the center of this high-octane thriller. The twists keep you reading and the questions Palmer poses keep you thinking all night long."

--Tami Hoag, author of *Prior Bad Acts*

"Michael Palmer, perhaps the best of our medical-thriller writers, has penned an action-packed tale that will have you checking all your body parts for days afterward."

--Terry Brooks, author of *Armageddon's Children* and *The Sword of Shannara*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Wiggins:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This *The Fifth Vial* book is readable by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer associated with *The Fifth Vial* content conveys the thought easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different as it. So , do you still thinking *The Fifth Vial* is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Melissa Chandler:

Do you have something that you prefer such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, limited story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not striving *The Fifth Vial* that give your satisfaction preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world a great deal better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be said constantly that reading habit only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for all you who want to start reading through as your good habit, you could pick *The Fifth Vial* become your own personal starter.

Maritza Berry:

The book untitled The Fifth Vial contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

Gary Lewis:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that question was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And also you know that little person just like reading or as studying become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update regarding something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them are these claims The Fifth Vial.

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