



The Compendium of Srem

F. Paul Wilson

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Compendium of Srem

F. Paul Wilson

The Compendium of Srem F. Paul Wilson

It is the time of the Inquisition, and mass conversion, terror, and swift trials determine who will live and who will burn. Presiding over all of this, Prior Tomás de Torquemada's duty is to peer within the hearts and minds of his fellow men to detect faith or blasphemy. Then, one day, the prior is presented with a book unlike any he has ever beheld: The Compendium of Srem. It is not long before the prior realizes that the Compendium is no ordinary book, but a volume that could well contain all the terror and devilry the tribunals work to annihilate.

The prior is convinced he must destroy the book before it works more evil, yet no one who has held the book is to be trusted. And it may be that those who possess this mysterious book are, in fact, possessed by it.

The Compendium of Srem Details

Date : Published September 23rd 2014 by MysteriousPress.com/Open Road (first published 2014)

ISBN :

Author : F. Paul Wilson

Format : Kindle Edition 51 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Horror, Mystery, Fiction

 [Download The Compendium of Srem ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Compendium of Srem ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Compendium of Srem F. Paul Wilson

From Reader Review The Compendium of Srem for online ebook

Kelly says

Hunted down as part of The Secret History of the World.

James Love says

The Spanish Inquisition meets The Secret History of the World. No Glaeken, Rasalom nor Repairman Jack but definitely worth reading.

Thomas says

I've read a few books by Wilson over the years. I have fond memories of Sibs, and enjoyed Nightkill and Midnight Mass well enough, but he's not a writer I've latched on to, despite my very much wanting to read the Adversary Cycle. His fiction is solid and entertaining, but somehow his style hasn't grabbed me like other authors have. I thought this novella might be a way to jumpstart my interest in the author.

The story is set during the Spanish Inquisition, where a mysterious book falls into the hands of the Grand Inquisitor at a monastery. The book is bound in metal, is adorned with a pattern that changes whenever you blink, appears to the reader in their first language, and has moving pictures on its impossibly thin pages. The monks believe it to be evil, and set out to determine who made the book, and to ultimately destroy it.

The story reads like a mystery, which is no surprise since this novella is part of the Bibliomysteries series published by Mysterious Press, but it also has elements of science fiction, fantasy, and even horror. Parts of the story are glossed over, possibly for the interest of space, but also because Wilson feels like a non-nonsense author who wants to get quickly to the point. I'm not sure how I feel about that. I mean, I don't want an author to spend ridiculous amounts of space describing details that aren't important, but neither do I want an author who removes all subtlety of storytelling just to get to the end. I'm chalking it up to trying to hit a minimum wordcount for the format, especially since I remember his other novels being effective.

What does set the novella apart is its commentary on religion and the Inquisition. It's not a subtle theme, since even one of the Brothers in the monastery comment on how they're no longer viewed as spiritual advisers, but instead as people to fear, but it's an unexpected perspective, especially coming from one of the Brothers. It's not enough to push the story into literary canon, but it makes it more than just an examination of a mysterious book.

This novella is a curiosity, enough so that I wonder if it's a part of either the Adversary Cycle or the Repairman Jack novels. If so, then this is likely the earliest story in those chronologies, which means I'll be all set for those books once I get started on them. Maybe I ought to move them up on my reading list.

Ronald Koltnow says

Bibliomysteries Obsession, Day 3: As is the case for most Jews, I love reading about the Inquisition. F. Paul

Wilson has written a short treatise on faith in THE COMPENDIUM OF SREM. It is not about the profession of faith but its opposite; it is not as much about the defense of the faith as it is about its concealment. An aged Torquemada is presented with a heretical book, one that doesn't invalidate Christianity but just plain ignores it. In an attempt to find the origin of the evil tome, the Inquisitors encounter a converso who may still be practicing his Judaish ways, a student of natural philosophy who may not be in lock step with Torquemada, and another, who keeps his faith locked in, never to be relinquished, never to be revealed. Not enough has been said of F. Paul Wilson, a gifted writer with a boundless imagination. His Adversary novels are addictive, his Repairman Jack books have a large, loyal cult. He makes literature of pulp, a true alchemist.

Franklin Hummel says

*A TRULY CREEPY eSTORY"

[Note: This review needs to be proofread further by me: 12/20/14]

"The Compendium of Srem" is a novella featuring F. Paul Wilson's addition of a tome to the Lovecraftian Mythos through his version of the "Cthulhu Mythos" that he has named "The Secret History of the World". The tome originally first appeared in his extended "Adversary Cycle/Repairman Jack" series that are the core of Wilson's Secret History.

Personally I think that is a lousy name -- similar versions of "Secret History of..." appear in many other places -- but what is to Wilson's credit is he has taken the core concept of what is called by Lovecraftians "Derleth Mythos" and made it *more* Lovecraftian.

(If there had been a 6th Edition of the original series of the NecronomiCon conventions, I had wanted to have Wilson as the Guest of Honor.)

Set during the Medieval Ages, in particular the time of the Spanish Inquisition, the book comes to the notice and possession by three Inquisitors, who realize at once the book is a blasphemy to the Christian God.

The story deals with their many attempts by these Inquisitors both to destroy the book and to find its original owner.

This story is truly about "The Compendium of Srem" itself and how a book tens of thousands of years old (there seems to exist only *one* copy of it!) has survived and continues to do so. In this sense, the book is actually a "Bibliomystery", part of that series of books by the publisher Mysterious Press.

(Speaking of this publisher, the cover for this novella is truly appalling. "The Compendium of Stem" is in *no way* a book of "black magic" (as the book's cover has an inverted pentacle and goat's skull). Rather it is an encyclopedia of the First Age of Humanity which is similar to Robert Howard's "Hyborian Age", in it's period of time, if not in its nature.)

The story is a very good one giving, as it does, a background to "The Compendium" as it appears in Wilson's series of novels. The story itself is much more mystery than horror, but that is not a problem in the slightest.

HOWEVER!

I titled this review "A Truly Creepy eStory", but is *not* the story itself that I found, over time, to be truly creepy, but the *eStory*, the novella's digital format.

Whenever I plugged my Kindle in to recharge it through USB or downloaded more books from my computer, the insidious thing would ALWAYS move to the *very first place* on the "Currently Reading" spot of my Kindle -- even when I had NOT opened the story.

ALWAYS.

I tried several times to move "The Compendium of Srem" 3-4 pages back into my Kindle with 18-24 other books in front of it -- but as soon as I charged my Kindle, there the eStory was, back in first place on my Kindle! This went on for weeks as I read other items - until finally earlier this week I got so upset of this, I decide to read the story so I could just delete it from my Kindle (keeping a copy in my Calibre Library on my computer).

I have no idea how the digital eStory itself did this on my Kindle; I do not know if somehow, the publisher managed to script "The Compendium of Srem" so it did this. With me, it went from surprising to annoying to out-and-out creepy. This story was, after all, about a Lovecraftian tome that is determined to survive.

So a day or two ago, I managed to rid my Kindle of this eerie digital novella. (Shortly after doing so, I thought it had somehow managed to put itself *back* on my Kindle after I had removed it, but this was due to setting I had with the Calibre program. I did NOT need that shock!)

So right now, I am trying to find the file where my anti-virus software's quarantine folder, where it places the virus it finds on my computer, to see if I can place my Calibre folder of "The Compendium of Srem" in there. Srem only knows what it might do on my computer where it is now!

As to it's presence on Amazon... *shudder*

NOTE: If *anyone* else has had this experience with the digital edition of this eStory in their eReader, *please* be sure to leave a comment here! I would like to decide how paranoid I should be.

Nick says

A fun story that is constantly references throughout the secret history of the world series. We finally get to see the Inquisitions dealing with the ancient tome!

Marika Charalambous says

Book #2 in the Secret History of the World. Another short quick and fun read.

Marc Cummins says

Great Story

I enjoy pretty much everything by F Paul Wilson so the only reason that I didn't give this five stars is because I would have liked to learn more about the Compendium itself.

Michael says

Part of the Death Sentences series but also F Paul Wilson's Secret Histories series. An excellent story which hints at so much more. Reading it will encourage you (as it did me) to read more of F Paul Wilson's Secret Histories series.

AdiTurbo says

Another success from the great Bibliomysteries series. This time, an engrossing story about a strange book, set against the background of the Spanish Inquisition, with a nice little twist in the end. I use this series as an intelligent and enjoyable palate cleanser between longer books, and up till now, they haven't disappointed me, however different they are from one another.

Johann says

Awesome Tale

No one expects the Spanish Inquisition...and yet the mystery behind the Compendium of Srem throws the Inquisitors fur a loop.
You'll definitely want to come for the ride :)
Pick this up !!!

Angus McKeogh says

A bit of a corny ending. Kind of an extremely brief version of the Da Vinci Code. Nothing terrible but nothing amazing either. Just a quick, semi-entertaining read.

Lance Springer says

This is a little chapbook published independently, but not too hard to find or too expensive. Nice introduction to the Forbidden Book(tm) that appears later in Wilson's work. Glad I added it to my collection.

Not available in ebook format, this is the first hardcopy book I've bought in a quite a while... wow!

John Garrett says

Fascinating background story...

Helping to fill in some of the background of one of the pivotal objects in the Secret History of the World.

Elia says

Secret History of the World Part 2:

This is more like it. I really enjoyed this look into the Spanish Inquisition. Surrounding the plot of an indestructible tome about pre-biblical history (The book referenced by the title), which is probably a key element in the meta plot, there is a rather interesting moral discussion regarding the philosophies at the time, about the dividing lines amongst those in the religion itself and the changing interpretation of the symbols of religion. A story that satisfies on multiple fronts, as a supernatural horror mystery, but also as a reflection of morality and the consequences of blind fervent faith.
