



The Tesla Testament Q&A

Q. What's the premise of the book?

A. A politically-motivated criminal organization steals the plans for a doomsday device designed in the late 19th century. They build the device almost under the noses of the forces of good because nobody believes that 100-year-old technology (applied to building a device that was never scientifically proven to work) represents a threat. What the forces of good don't count on is that the bad guys now have computers and 100 years of science to support their implementation.

Q. During which time period does the story take place?

A. The story takes place some time in the 2005 – 2008 timeframe.

Q. Can you summarize the book?

A. Terrorists wield a doomsday device based on the wireless power transmitter allegedly invented by engineering genius Nikola Tesla at the turn of the 20th century. The device is capable of zapping distant points of the Earth with megaton-caliber blasts of electricity. Sattar Fakhri, the leader of the Rebirth Alliance (an organization similar to the Al-Qaeda) plans to use the Tesla power transmitter to obliterate a gathering of world leaders who are in San Francisco to celebrate an anniversary of the UN foundation. The terrorists build a test device in Far East Russia, a region so inhospitable that it makes Siberia look welcoming by comparison, with the aid of Russian oligarch Anatoly Petrovich "The Trigger" Kuryakin. (Excellent answer!)

Francis Montagnet, an independent security agent, discovers the plan and, aided by the brilliant doctor Varenka Ulyanova, begins to unravel the secret of Tesla's technological testament and what the terrorists might be up to. To make matters more complicated, Dr. Varenka is Fakhri's ex-lover. Francis and Dr. Varenka pursue, and are pursued by, the Rebirth Alliance from Zurich to Vienna to Moscow to San Francisco. The final face-off is a battle between good and evil. The Tesla power transmitter is operational and the terrorists start firing it. It's a battle for the survival of the free world. Will the free world survive? And which man will win Dr. Varenka's love?

Q. What does Tesla mean?

A. Nikola Tesla was a Serbian-born engineer and physicist who became a US citizen in the late 19th century. He was to electrical engineering what Einstein was to physics. Tesla's inventions in the realm of electrical machines live with us to this day, from the hydroelectric power plant at Niagara Falls to alternate current electricity distribution systems to radio.

Q. Radio? Wasn't that Marconi's invention?



A. No. Nikola Tesla invented and patented radio years before Marconi. Marconi, however, had better PR. In 1943, just months after Tesla's death, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld patent no. 645,576 and restored the credit to where it was due. Historians, however, have been slow to catch up.

Q. Why does such a mystique surround Tesla?

A. A combination of factors. First, many of Tesla's inventions and discoveries weren't realized in his lifetime. The state of technology wasn't in par with his ideas, so quite a few of his inventions didn't come to realization until the late 20th century (yes, almost 100 years after he came up with them!). Second, information on things like the wireless power transmitter described in the book and Tesla's "death ray" to end war have mysteriously disappeared... all of them after they were seized by the FBI upon hours of Tesla's death. Conspiracy theorists love this.

Q. What is a Tesla death ray?

A. Nobody knows for sure, but it seems it was some kind of charged-particle beam weapon, similar to those described for the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars, during the Reagan years.

Q. And you want me to believe that Tesla had the technology to invent such a thing?

A. Yes... because that's fully documented. In 1937 Tesla sold the plans for the initial stage of this weapon to the USSR. He had first tried to sell the concept to the US and UK governments, who deemed it too expensive and ignored him. Upon learning of this, the US government "discouraged" Nikola Tesla from proceeding with the project. The complete plans for this are among the missing papers from Tesla's deathbed (<http://www.pbs.org/tesla> and other sources).

The document that describes the Tesla death ray is titled *New Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-Dispersive Energy Through Natural Media*. The first stage of the weapon was tested by the Soviets in 1939 and Tesla received a check for \$25,000. Tesla might have been an engineering genius but his political and PR skills were quite poor.

Q. Did the power transmitter described in your novel ever see the light of day?

A. Tesla built one in Long Island after his wireless power transmission experiments in Colorado Springs were completed. J.P. Morgan financed the first stage of the project but it was too ambitious (Morgan provided \$150,000 in seed capital; Tesla probably needed at least \$1 million). Some have speculated that the Tunguska event of 1908, which resulted in the destruction of thousands of acres of Siberian forest, was a mismanaged power discharge from the power transmitter in Long Island.



Q. OK, I get it... the background is factual. What other things in the book are factual?

A. Well, a lot of research went into making the CIA and NSA settings realistic, as well as the excuse for getting the NSA involved in this caper.

Q. Yes... Francis, the main character, is some kind of NSA agent, not CIA. The CIA normally handles field operators. What's up with that?

A. Because of political circumstances, the CIA has become an intense target of Congressional oversight. The NSA operations, on the other hand, are completely "black" or secret. I don't know of any real-life operations like those described in the novel, but if I believe that, if such an operation were going to happen, it'd be structured like in the book.

Q. Is Francis a good guy then?

A. Sort of. He's not heroic in the traditional sense. He is doing what he thinks it's right, not what his masters at the NSA tell him to do. His sense of righteousness often puts him at odds with the agency, as well as with the FBI, CIA, and other intelligence and law enforcement agencies discussed in the plot.

Q. When does the book go on sale?

A. The Tesla Testament will be on-sale on October 10, 2006 in the US, Canadian, and UK markets. Translations and other international releases are in progress.

Q. Where can I buy the book?

A. According to Forrester Research, 65% of all books sold during the 2005 holiday season were purchased on-line. The Tesla Testament will be primarily sold through these on-line channels:

- Walmart.com
- www.teslatestament.com/buy
- Amazon.com
- bn.com
- lulu.com

The book will also be available through select independent booksellers in all US major markets, Vancouver, and Toronto.

**The Tesla Testament
10.October.2006 - Fiction
Trade paperback - 358 pages - \$19.95 - ISBN: 1-4116-7317-4 – BISAC FIC031000**

###