

**Excerpt from “Chaos,” a novel  
Ghost written by The Visions Group**

## ***CHAOS***

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### **PROLOGUE**

A peregrine falcon flies high above a heavily wooded area a few miles northwest of Washington, D.C. The keen-eyed predator is digesting the last of a pigeon snatched from the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant. The peregrine watches for one more target of opportunity before returning to its home, a scrape in the rocks above Mather Gorge, where the Potomac River rages over 20-foot waterfalls and around boulders the size of moving vans.

While the falcon prefers birds, it will take small mammals from time to time. This is what dooms the cottontail darting through short grass along a stretch of pavement leading to a non-descript building hidden in a heavily forested area not far from the Cabin John Bridge. Had the rabbit been aware of the falcon, it could have veered to its left, into high brush and the safety of cover. But the falcon’s dive is silent and into the sun, so its shadow falls behind the rabbit and gives no warning. With the cottontail in its talons, the falcon uses its powerful hooked beak to snap the animal’s spinal cord. The bird wheels on the wind, flattening out its flight path on a vector that will take it directly over the flat grey-green building.

That the structure even exists is known to only a handful of men and women with the nation’s highest security clearance. And most of them don’t know the building’s location.

Within the structure, behind a window of one-way glass, a pair of hooded gray human eyes follows the falcon’s ascent after witnessing the hunt and the kill. The eyes belong to one of the few people familiar with the concealed facility. He wonders if the gory scene outside is a metaphor for his future. And if it is, which role will befall him, predator or prey?

Violent scenarios are very much on his mind at the moment. His top advisors have just briefed him. His worst nightmare is about to come true.

And he knows for a certainty that if the world is to come to an end, this is the building in which the apocalypse might begin.