

CRUZADER

AGENT OF THE VATICAN

An Award-Winning
Comic Book

Graphic Novel: 6 chapters, 140 pages, full color cover & interiors
U.S. Copyright: The Force Media LLC
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Genre: Action/Adventure **Audience:** Mature Themes, PG-13
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Logline: A reluctant priest is re-trained as a Holy Warrior for the Pope; he must embrace his destiny in order to defend the Vatican from an invading army of Muslim terrorists ... who are much more than what they appear.

Synopsis: Antonio is the latest in an unbroken chain of De La Cruz family men to don the mantle of *The CruZader*, invisible hand of the Pope. Wielding an arsenal of precious relics, including the Spear of Christ, the Holy Grail, and the Rights of Exorcism, Antonio struggles with his archaic and often violent vocation. What he really craves is the freedom to choose his own path – a choice taken away by his very namesake.

Each CruZader is orphaned at birth, trained as a priest, then defrocked and forced to procreate until he sires a baby boy. Antonio knows he will never be allowed to raise and love this boy – a ward of the Vatican, the boy is quietly groomed to take his place. What the Pope doesn't know is that Antonio already has a lovechild with a beautiful paramour he hasn't spoken to in 18 years. Secreted away in the United States, Antonio hides his American heir from the Pope and has vowed never to reveal his whereabouts ... until now.

When a radical sect of Muslim terrorists storm and overwhelm the Vatican's defenses, CruZader must press his secret son into service. It is a gut-wrenching decision – to reveal his American son in order to save the church he loves so dearly. In the end, CruZader pays the ultimate price with his death as he defends the Pope from the Mulsim invaders. This leaves the American boy with the same choice that faced his father: rebel against the Pope, or take on the sacred duty the De La Cruz family has shouldered since the Crusades.

The son ultimately chooses duty ... on his own terms, starting a new tradition and an uneasy alliance with a Church and a Pope that owe their survival to this boy and his dead father.