



A novel with a scenario of coping with Cascadia, a Ring of Fire group of geological plates spanning 600 miles of North America. This latent devastating power has spawn decades of planning for the mammoth needed response.

9.OH!

By Rich Ormbrek

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RICH ORMBREK

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First Edition

A Ring of Fire Divorce

Chance Morrissey looked at his unique calendar. He had created it from an inspiration of pop art in Everett, Washington. At the intersection of Wall and Colby, two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle sculpture sat serenely separated.

Each month of Chance's calendar featured representations of evidence in jigsaw form, still stuck snugly together as befitting a Cascadia Subduction marine-geologist. But near edges of the calendar were asperities, with puzzle pieces slightly separated mimicking condensed fracturing on the Juan de Fuca and North American plates.

This month's image conveyed more than geology to its creator. The Neskowin Ghost Forest on the north Oregon coast reminded him of his great grandfather's sojourn into hell on Omaha Beach in World War II. The remnants of Oregon trees only seen at low tide were analogous to the Nazi's idea of construction: beach obstacles to an incoming, overwhelming force.

Above the calendar were gauges and alarms linked to seismic-reflection imaging and ocean bottom wave recording hydrophones. Depending on the variants of increases and decreases in the tension heat of the plates, the puzzle calendar would open or contract. The twelve images were the historical proof of the 1700 total 9.0 subduction slip. The gauges were both imminent and distant: frantic and numbing.

As Professor Morrissey got on his computer, he reflected on his segmented avocation. Daily he needed to check incoming data from colleagues dealing with atmospheric and oceanic pressure, where weather reports and tide tables provided increased accuracy. That

information was available to laymen on the hour and half hour news. But there was a hidden pressure on what people took for granted as stable: the earth itself. Its calendar was marked in centuries: like the unseen admonition *none will know the hour*.



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