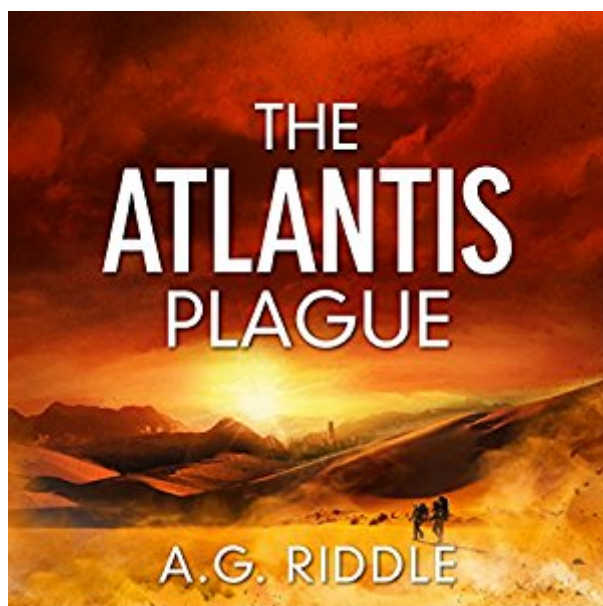


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The Atlantis Plague: The Origin Mystery, Book 2



Synopsis

A PANDEMIC 70,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING WILL CHANGE HUMANITY...FOREVER. In Marbella, Spain, Dr. Kate Warner awakens to a horrifying reality: the human race stands on the brink of extinction. A pandemic unlike any before it has swept the globe. Nearly a billion people are dead--and those the Atlantis Plague doesn't kill, it transforms at the genetic level. A few rapidly evolve. The remainder devolve. As the world slips into chaos, radical solutions emerge. Industrialized nations offer a miracle drug, Orchid, which they mass produce and distribute to refugee camps around the world. But Orchid is merely a way to buy time. It treats the symptoms of the plague but never actually cures the disease. Immari International offers a different approach: do nothing. Let the plague run its course. The Immari envision a world populated by the genetically superior survivors--a new human race, ready to fulfill its destiny. With control of the world population hanging in the balance, the Orchid Alliance and the Immari descend into open warfare. Now humanity's last hope is to find a cure, and Kate alone holds the key to unraveling the mystery surrounding the Atlantis Plague. The answer may lie in understanding pivotal events in human history--events when the human genome mysteriously changed. Kate's journey takes her across the barren wastelands of Europe and northern Africa, but it's her research into the past that takes her where she never expected to go. She soon discovers that the history of human evolution is not what it seems--and setting it right may require a sacrifice she never imagined.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The time it took me to finish this book does not reflect on it, I have just been really busy. This is the second book of this series and so of course I have read them both and do plan on reading the third book as well. I really liked reading *The Atlantic Plague*. I like how fast paced the books are it keeps you feeling like you must know more and more, so you keep on reading. I am also into Sifi general so these books are really appealing to me on that aspect. I love all the characters; especially how they are described and how when you are reading there is a clear mental image of what they look like, even what they sound like. It's really great to find books that give you such clear mental images. The story like is obviously not finished yet, some parts I got confused at or even wished that they were not there but after continuing to read on those parts made more sense and eventually helped to bring this piece of the story together.

Having just finished this book, which I immediately picked up after reading the first book, I was pleased that I picked it up. I find myself really enjoy the story and the overall concept behind the story. The events from the first book have really proven to be world changing, and the second book deals with those changes, and offers more background about what is going on. I am looking forward to the third book in the set, and am interested to see if a couple of "twists" that I am anticipating turn out to be correct. The story is an easy read. It's very approachable. While there are a few parts that delve deeper into science, and more history in this novel, the concepts are provided in a way that you don't need to be a PHD in history or genetics to understand. If you've read the first book and enjoyed it, you'll enjoy this one. If you have read the first book, then pick it up before reading this one. Now, while I enjoyed the story, I must acknowledge that it's still clear that AG Riddle is a relatively new author, and that he is honing his craft before our eyes, so to speak. With that, the narrative seems a bit raw in some places. In a number of ways, the story in book two moves a bit better than book 1, and while pacing remains steady through most of the book, there are times when the narrative explanations slow down the story. It's a shame, that some of these are late in the story, at a time when the pace of action should be picking up, but the novel slows down to have characters explain background about what's happening and why. Though honestly, I'm not sure how I would resolve that. While I'm intrigued at the overall plot concept, I find myself struggling a bit with it. (Being careful not to provide spoilers...) The book involves a plot that spans over 70,000 years, and this passage of time is spoken about as if this was just a day. While for the explanation for the continuity of events for individuals in the story, this makes sense, it doesn't really feel right for the continuity of external events. Even in the first book, characters are dealing with genetic manipulation of the human race as though a genetic mutation is introduced, and it has seemingly

immediately, worldwide effects. The implication is that time dilation gives characters a different view of the timeline and events that are happening. And I can nearly buy that. Unfortunately, there are external forces at play, based on events that occurred a millenia ago, that are still treated as urgent drivers behind motivations of some of the characters. I also have to note one other complain I have. In couple of spots, the author deliberately writes vaguely about events or characters, in order to hide potential twists later in the story. As an example, at the start of this book, he writes a section involving the two Atlanteans, but in the narrative, one is simply referred to (even in her own thoughts) as The Scientist. I would have preferred to have an actual name. That would provide a bit more realism. In another section, some characters refer to "the enemy" or "our enemy". I get the feeling this is being deliberately vague to set up a twist in book 3. But that detracts from the current part of the story. Wouldn't the characters have some name for their enemy? So that I avoid sounding too negative, I want to end in noting that I really have enjoyed the stories and am looking forward to book 3. To AG Riddle: Keep up the good work.

In *The Atlantis Plague*, the follow to *The Atlantis Gene*, author A.G. Riddle doesn't take any time to jump right into the action. We meet back up with David, a kind of black ops superhero, and his arch nemesis Dorian, a despicable Nazi-leaning character straight out of a Golden Age Captain America comic. And both of them continue right where they left off in the first novel, trying to kill each other. Dorian's a nasty slime ball, but he's also exceedingly skilled and appears to have an Atlantean on his side. So he puts a bullet in David's head. David dies but is then resurrected thousands of miles away. This opening battle sequence takes place in a submerged alien spaceship under the Antarctic ice. Meanwhile, back amongst the dead and dying in a converted resort in coastal Spain, Kate and stepdad Martin scramble for a cure of the nastiest pandemic to hit worldwide since the black death back in Medieval Europe during the late 13th century. Martin and his crew fashioned a drug called Orchid that keeps the effects at bay. But he can't cure what turns out to be a bio-engineered DNA converting bug designed to strengthen the population by cleansing it of all who can't survive. What the heck? Another reviewer likens Riddle's pacing and action sequencing to fellow thriller writers Vince Flynn and Lee Child. I tend to agree as I've plowed through all the books each has penned. At times, however, the pace is almost too intense. Like, "What? No!" I'm thinking as I read it during my little 15-minute breaks at work processing grant applications. Good God. I've got to put this down. Like if I got too into it, I'd read all night. As it was I did some serious ignoring of the Winter Olympics and figure skating. So it took me a week to read. The second half is highly satisfying as Riddle makes sense of all the allusions he made in the first book. Now I'm

contemplating just how wild it will get in the third and final installment. Riddle, dude, you really got some of us hooked.

This is the second book in the series. I read all three books in the series. One after the other, staying up till around three in the morning several nights running because I couldn't put them down. The first book is by far the longest, but all three are genuinely of a length you expect to buy, but so seldom get. I enjoyed the multi layered characters, the intricate plot, and the pace was ... like being swept away by a storm. I find it rare, sadly, to find contemporary fiction books of real quality and satisfying length. These books, however, are well written, great plots, many twists and very hard to put down. Thank goodness I discovered them during the holiday season!

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