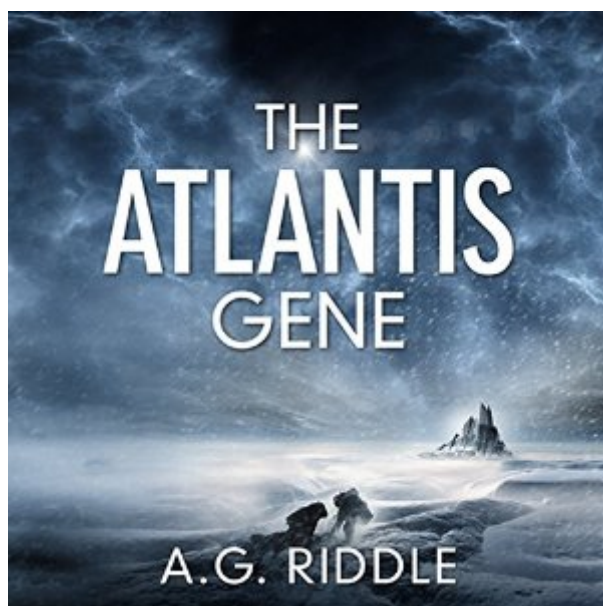


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The Atlantis Gene: The Origin Mystery, Book 1



Synopsis

The greatest mystery of all time...the history of human origins...will be revealed. Seventy thousand years ago, the human race almost went extinct. We survived, but no one knows how. Until now. The countdown to the next stage of human evolution is about to begin, and humanity might not survive this time. The Immari are good at keeping secrets. For 2,000 years, they've hidden the truth about human evolution. They've also searched for an ancient enemy - a threat that could wipe out the human race. Now the search is over. Off the coast of Antarctica, a research vessel discovers a mysterious structure buried deep in an iceberg. It has been there for thousands of years, and something is guarding it. As the Immari rush to execute their plan, a brilliant geneticist makes a discovery that could change everything. Dr. Kate Warner moved to Jakarta, Indonesia to escape her past. She hasn't recovered from what happened to her, but she has made an incredible breakthrough: a cure for autism. Or so she thinks. What she has found is far more dangerous - for her and the entire human race. Her work could be the key to the next stage of human evolution. In the hands of the Immari, it would mean the end of humanity as we know it. Agent David Vale has spent 10 years trying to stop the Immari. Now he's out of time. His informant is dead. His organization has been infiltrated. His enemy is hunting him. But when David receives a coded message related to the Immari attack, he risks everything to save the one person that can help him solve it: Dr. Kate Warner. Together, Kate and David must race to unravel a global conspiracy and learn the truth about the Atlantis Gene...and human origins. Their journey takes them to the far corners of the globe and into the secrets of their pasts. The Immari are close on their heels and will stop at nothing to obtain Kate's research and force the next stage of human evolution - even if it means killing 99.9% of the world's population. David and Kate can stop them...if they can trust each other. And stay alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Atlantis Gene" is the debut novel by A.G. Riddle. It's a Science Fiction thriller that combines elements of the lost city of Atlantis, human evolution, Nazis, conspiracy, alien technology, and end of the world scenarios. The very basic premise (without spoiling anything) is that the human race was on the brink of extinction at one point in the past and somehow, for some unexplained reason, humans made a giant leap forward in the evolutionary ladder that allowed them to not only survive, but to take control of planet Earth. Dr. Kate Warner is a researcher and an expert on human evolution. She is living in Jakarta Indonesia studying and seeking a cure for autism. One day while working on a new treatment with a pair of her autistic children, hooded soldiers move in, ransack the facility, and steal the children. Shortly thereafter, agent David Vale shows up on the scene and he and Kate are sucked into a worldwide race against time to save not only themselves and the children, but quite possibly the whole world. This book was recommended to me by a friend. He raved about it. Told me it was a "must read". After getting through the first half of the book, I found the story to be solid, but nothing necessarily different or special. As a matter of fact, I was a bit disappointed at how similar certain aspects of the plot were to Jeremy Robinson's "Second World" and James Rollins' "Black Order". And when I say similar, I really mean exactly the same. I even called my friend to tell him that I thought the book was average in every way and was a copy of these other books. I pressed on however and fortunately at about the halfway point, Riddle starts to separate his book from the others. The plot thickens, the characters start to develop, and the plot starts to turn.

I'll be honest, the only thing keeping me going with this book was the desire to write an authoritative review of it; to warn others to steer clear. Then, after I was finished, I read the author's note. This is a debut book by an indie author, a guy following his passion, who acknowledges that this is not a perfect book and seeks feedback. And that's part of the reason I picked it up in the first place, I liked the idea of someone with an (overly) ambitious story, bringing it to life and the community (overly) supporting it. So I'm not going to snark out and eviscerate this book as I was planning, but as the author requests, here are my thoughts: 1. Develop the characters and their motivations. This book is

filled with throw away one paragraph backstories that are supposed to completely define the character. It's no exaggeration to say that one of the main character's motivation in the plot was derived from a death in 9/11, that might have had 3 paragraphs written to it in the entire book. There's a huge section of the book devoted to a diary substory, where the diary character is actually developed, you care about what's going on. I found myself disappointed when the focus would shift back to the main plot. Put the same effort into the main characters.² Pass on some ideas. This book is overly ambitious, it tries to account for every conspiracy theory and wrap it up into a single story. The idea sounds fun on paper, but good grief is it a mess in reality. The Nazi religious artifact missions, human evolutionary theories, Atlantis, 9/11, the cause of historic plagues, ancient shadow groups in an endless battle- it's so much, and so much is not necessary. The 9/11 reference is not explained at all, to the point where it's borderline offensive.

OK, first I'm glad there is a forum for new authors, and every author has to write his/her first book. But please, at least have an editor look at it. Not to pick nits, but the spelling and grammar errors were irritating: one peeks at something, one doesn't peak; a chicken lays an egg, a person does not lay about. The anachronisms were irritating: there were no plastic sheets to cover things in 1917. "Branding" in those days meant burning a symbol on a cow. The concept of branding as creating a unique name and image for a product in the consumers' mind is a 21st Century concept. And I think, but I'm not sure, that when a character is resurrected from 1917 and he doesn't know what a computer is, he probably would also not know what medical nanobots are. Now, for more substantive issues. The hero was as dumb as a sack of rocks. I was hoping he at least had a plan when he and the heroine managed to infiltrate (actually, blunder into because the security guards were even dumber than a sack of rocks) the stronghold of the bad guys in China. I was hoping the plan would have some elegance and a bit of cleverness. But as near as I could figure, it consisted of him telling her, "You go find the kids. I'll set off a few diversionary explosions and look for a train to get us out of here." He then forgot all about the possibility of security cameras, so as fast as he planted explosives, the bad guys picked them up, and very quickly cornered him and shot him up. After a totally improbable escape, involving plague-ridden bodies on trains and monks knowing exactly which box car our gravely wounded hero and our heroine happen to be on, and . . . oh, never mind.

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