



## The Last Oracle

*James Rollins*

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# The Last Oracle

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## **The Last Oracle** James Rollins

In Washington, D.C., a homeless man dies in Commander Gray Pierce's arms, shot by an assassin's bullet. But the death leaves behind a greater mystery: a bloody coin found clutched in the dead man's hand, an ancient relic that can be traced back to the Greek Oracle of Delphi. As ruthless hunters search for the stolen artifact, Gray Pierce discovers that the coin is the key to unlocking a plot that dates back to the Cold War and threatens the very foundation of humanity.

An international think tank of scientists known as the Jasons has discovered a way to bioengineer autistic children who show savant talents -- mathematical geniuses, statistical masterminds, brilliant conceptual artists -- into something far greater and far more "frightening," in hopes of creating a world prophet for the new millennium, one to be manipulated to create a new era of global peace... a peace on their own terms.

Halfway around the world, a man wakes up in a hospital bed with no memory of who he is, knowing only that he's a prisoner in a subterranean research facility. With the help of three unusual children, he makes his escape across a mountainous and radioactive countryside, pursued by savage hunters bred in the same laboratory. But his goal is not escape, nor even survival. In order to thwart a plot to wipe out a quarter of the world's population, he must sacrifice all, even the children who rescued him.

From ancient Greek temples to glittering mausoleums, from the slums of India to the toxic ruins of Russia, two men must race against time to solve a mystery that dates back to the first famous oracle of history -- the Greek Oracle of Delphi.

But one question remains: "Will the past be enough to save the future?"

## **The Last Oracle Details**

Date : Published June 24th 2008 by William Morrow

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Author : James Rollins

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Genre : Fiction, Adventure, Action, Thriller

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## From Reader Review The Last Oracle for online ebook

### Logan says

I absolutely love the Sigma Force novels by James Rollins, and this one was no let down. He is everything Dan Brown wishes he could be. The stories are smartly paced, well researched, intriguing and funny and thrilling and full of heart. The characters are well crafted and we get so caught up in their personalities, even without boring side plots that reveal their relationships. This one picks up after a very intense cliffhanger, so if you're new to the series I wouldn't suggest starting with this one. The first is Map of Bones, and definitely a great intro. That being said, this book can certainly stand alone if you don't mind not knowing the intimate details of their pasts. These books are great fun, and this certainly lived up to the rest of them.

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### Freda Malone says

As the world turns in this series, I am riveted to the next adventure as Rollins continues to capture the characters where they have left off. Monk, one of the leading men of the Sigma Team was lost to us in the previous novel, *The Judas Strain*, and presumed dead. He is back! Yippie!! I love him. He is surrounded by 'gypsy' children who have been genetically altered and kept near Chernobyl where there is a vast amount of radiation, still active. A team of mad scientists have a major use for these autistic savant young ones and the chase is on when a few of the kids decide to enlist Monks help to escape and save the world from disaster.

Just amazing how much talent is present in these Rollins novels. Always fast paced, intense, factual as well as fictional and riveting! I expect at some point this series might wane, fade or fall short, but so far, no, not in this one.

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### Jean says

Sigma Force comes up against an unlikely combination of mysteries in this novel: autism and nuclear radiation. I found the plot of *Last Oracle* to be less tightly-constructed than previous Rollins novels. It took me a long time to get into it because it took so long for the plot to take any sort of shape. The characters were aimlessly following the clues given by a dead man and an autistic child for over half the book, with no clue as to what their goal was.

Oddly enough, I found all the characters (except perhaps Kat, Monk, & Kowalski) to be flatter than ever, even though I "knew" them from previous novels. Most of the new & secondary characters seemed either too over-the-top (especially Mapplethorpe) or too flat (Elizabeth and Rosauro) for me to care one way or another about their fates. The diabolically evil plot was a bit strange; it didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. There were too many holes for things to go wrong, to little connection between what they were doing and what they were trying to achieve (did they really think they'd come to rule the world by spreading chaos? Yeah, maybe, but there are too many variables on how that would turn out), and very little explanation of how the flashbacks to the 1950s related to their actions of the 1990s (I understand how they came to use the children eventually, but why did they steal them in the first place if they didn't come up with their current evil plan

until so much later?)

The best part of the book was the Russian Bad Guys, though. They had more dimension than any other characters in that they were so committed to both the plan and the children even though those concerns came into conflict. You couldn't help but adore Pyotr and Marta and Konstantin. (I don't really know why Rollins included the little epilogue about Pyotr/Marta. It was very emotional and special, but I didn't see the purpose it served, other than Rollins hates to kill off his favorite characters.)

Speaking of killing off characters, we obviously get Monk back, big surprise there. It's a bit crazy how that happens, but that's the fun speculative part of the book: the harnessing of savant intuition and how far that power could stretch. OK. His relationship with the children was touching. He successfully came across as himself, just without his memories. But I was disappointed that Rollins didn't give us any sort of reunion scene for us to witness Monk's initial reaction to finding out who he is.

I could suspend my disbelief for the speculative aspects of the story; that's simply part of reading Rollins' fiction. But I have come to expect a plotline that's more engaging and makes a little more sense within that speculative realm. And while his characters have never been the most compelling, usually they at least serve satisfactorily, unlike this time. Well, it would appear that we'll get some more of the Gray/Seichan storyline next time, which so far has been the most dynamic character relationship. (I just hope Gray perks up a bit and becomes more interesting.)

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James says

Wow. Ok, I read this book because I saw a synopsis of it that said, "An international cabal is using autistic savants to bioengineer the next messiah."

...wait, What!?

Ok, I love the National Treasure movies -that is, I know they aren't good, per se, but I find them very enjoyable and entertaining. Last Oracle sounded like it had that same level of preposterousness, so I gave it a shot.

Meh. Would I watch a movie of it? Yes. But that was almost the problem -at times it felt like it was just a simple description of what's happening to give to the CGI guys -rather than having a literary quality that would lend the impression of this being the finished text that your audience will be reading.

### Character development? Absent!

And, I've been finding that most of the mystery/thrillers I've been trying to get into, despite if they are good or bad, are physically hard to put down. Well, this one was easy.

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## Candace Salima says

James Rollins is one of my absolute favorite of authors and I anxiously awaited the release of this book after turning the last page of *The Judas Strain*, which I reviewed on July 27, 2007. Rollins did not disappoint!

The Last Oracle picks up where The Judas Strain left off. From Rollins website I pulled this description, most of which is also the backliner:

"What if you could bio-engineer the next great world prophet: scientifically produce the next Buddha, the next Muhammad, or even the next Jesus? Would it mark the Second Coming or initiate a chain reaction with disastrous consequences?

"A master at combining historical and religious intrigue with edge-of-your-seat adventure, New York Times bestselling author James Rollins brings back SIGMA Force to battle a group of rogue scientists who've unleashed a bioengineering project that could bring about the extinction of humankind.

"In Washington D.C., a homeless man dies in Commander Gray Pierce's arms, shot by an assassin's bullet. But the death leaves behind a greater mystery: a bloody coin found clutched in the dead man's hand, an ancient relic that traces back to the Greek Oracle of Delphi. As ruthless hunters search for the stolen artifact, Gray Pierce discovers the coin is the key to unlocking a plot that dates back to the Cold War, one that threatens the very foundation of humanity.

"For an international think-tank of scientists known as the JASONs has discovered a way to bioengineer autistic children who show savant talents--mathematical geniuses, statistical masterminds, brilliant

conceptual artists--into something far greater and far more frightening--all in hopes of creating a world prophet for the new millennium, one to be manipulated to create a new era of global peace--a peace on their own terms.

:While halfway around the world, a man wakes up in a hospital bed with no memory of who he is, only that he's a prisoner in a subterranean research facility. With the help of three unusual children, he makes his escape across a mountainous and radioactive countryside, pursued by savage hunters bred in the same laboratory. But his goal is not escape, nor even survival. In order to thwart a plot to wipe out a quarter of the world's population, he must sacrifice all, even the children who rescued him.

"From ancient Greek temples to glittering mausoleums, from the slums of India to the toxic ruins of Russia, two men must race against time to solve a mystery that dates back to the first famous oracle of history--the Greek Oracle of Delphi."

I love the way Rollins takes an incident in history and creates a fascinating, page-turner which you will not put down until you have turned that last page. Yeah, that's what I did. I started *The Last Oracle* while I was waiting in line to see Glenn Beck Live. I stopped only to watch the show, and it was well worth watching, then crawled into bed as soon as I got home and finished reading it.

This man can write! He takes us deep into the mountains of Russia, not far from Chernobyl, tosses megalomaniac Russian determined to rule the world, his crazy mother, secret combinations and organizations, gypsies or Romani and the Greek Oracles at Delphi. Mix it all up with the SIGMA force and you've got a ride that will keep you breathless to the end.

This book is a must read. I thoroughly and completely enjoyed it. And if you've never read James Rollins before then be prepared. Because you're going to head straight to the bookstore or Amazon.com to purchase all his other books. And believe me, you'll like them all. And they'll be a wonderful addition to your home library.

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Purchase *The Last Oracle* here.

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### **Nicole says**

#### **5 STARS (OR SOMETHING VERY CLOSE)**

The *Last Oracle*, more than any of the previous books in this series, is a non-stop rollercoaster ride. There was no time to take a break, have a coffee or even go out to walk the dogs (don't worry, they did get taken out - just not by me) while I was reading this. It was 48 hours of intensive page-flipping with few breaks.

It starts with a single death and ends with many more. Rollins doesn't pull punches with his novels - he takes us close to the darkest depths of humanity and some of the atrocities we as a species are capable of

committing. And if you read the Author's Note at the back, a lot of the experiments Rollins writes about have in fact taken place at some point in our shared history. A scary thought.

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## Shahjahan Shourov says

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## **Fuad Al Fidah says**

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## it'chy says

shades of amazonia:

p306: monk could almost hear his mind flying at speeds beyond normal mentation. after a moment of study, his hands flew over the board, flipping switches with deft assuredness, as if he'd done this a thousand times before.

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## Tim The Enchanter says

### 4 Stars to an Old Friend

When I picked up *The Last Oracle* as my next read, I didn't realize that it had been nearly two years since I read the previous book in the Sigma Series. I was quite surprised to see how far I had fallen behind. Absence, as they say, only made the heart grow fonder. Picking up a James Rollins novel is like sitting down with an old friend. The flow of the story and the likeable characters are comforting and familiar. While re-entering the world of Sigma Force, the Last Oracle does little to shake James Rollins from the top of the Action-Adventure Genre.

The Last Oracle intertwines action with history and science. We receive a brief history in Gypsy or Roma people and their ancient connections. We are also treated to an exploration of the plasticity of the human brain, autism and the scientific connections to things that we may consider "mystical". As always, Rollins has done his research and integrated seamlessly much like Michael Crichton did.

Personally, my favorite Rollins Novels are his stand alone novels. I have never come to love the Sigma force as much as his solo reads. That said, I did name my son Grayson. True story. On one level, this novel follows a similar formula to the others in the series. Generally, this bothers me and leads to the abandonment of series. In the case of this novel and the others in the series, Rollins does a masterful job of crafting an interesting story with an engaging supporting staff.

If you have not read any of the other Sigma Force Novels, do not fret if this is the only one you have to read. This could be read as a stand alone novel. While reading the previous novel would provide context for one thread of the story, the a Sigma Force newbie could read this and enjoy it fully.

Another excellent installment in the Sigma Force Series.

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## Vivone Os says

Jos jedna Rollinsova knjiga pro?itana. Ovaj put nisam sasvim zadovoljna. Ne znam je li knjiga stvarno lošija ili sam se jednostavno zasitila. Možda nisam trebala tako brzo nakon prošle uzeti novi nastavak.

Uglavnom, i ova je brzog tempa, prepuna akcije, Sigma spašava svijet. Poznat Rollinov recept za uspjeh. Me?utim, glavni lik Gray Pierce koji mi je ina?e odli?an, u ovoj knjizi me razo?ara. Kroz cijelu knjigu se baš ružno ponašao prema jednom drugom liku. O?ekivala sam bolje od njega. S druge strane, pozitivno je što je drugi glavni lik, Grayev partner Monk u ovoj knjizi dobio mogu?nost više se razviti kao lik.

?itajući ovu knjigu neke nove stvari sam saznala i nau?ila. Jedno od mjesto radnje bio je ?ernobil i neko

jezero Karachay, koje je najradioaktivnije mjesto na svijetu. Uz ?itanje sam malo i guglala pa sam saznala neke dodatne ?injenice o tim mjestima.

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