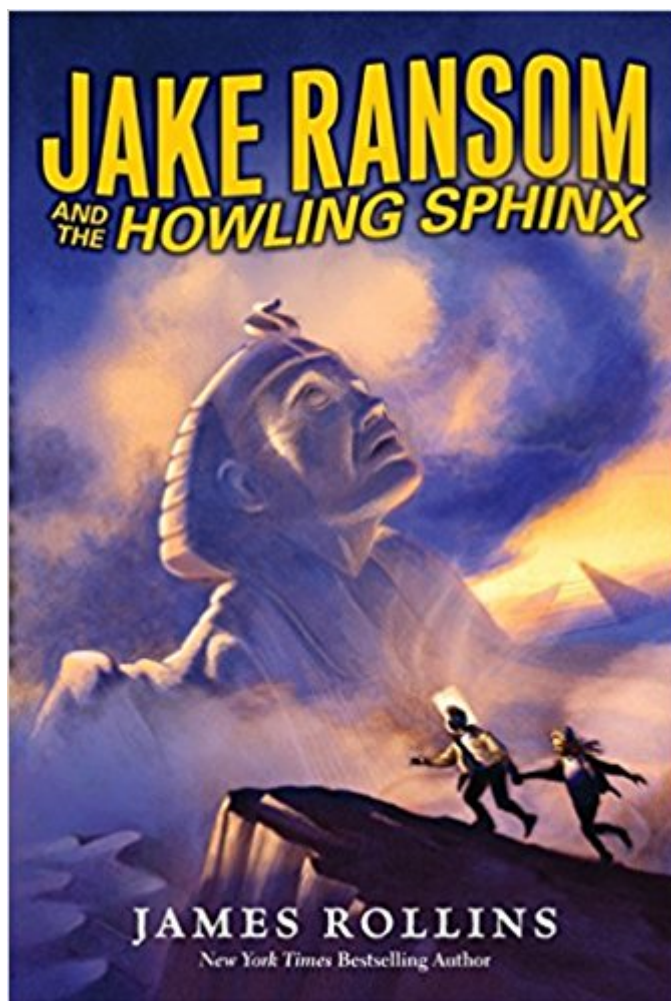




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Jake Ransom And The Howling Sphinx



Synopsis

Using his father's watch as a key, Jake intends to return to Calypsos. Instead he's thrust into a strange desert land where he's joined by his friends Marika, Pindor, and Bach'uuk and his sister, Kady. As they try to figure out what to do next, a surprise attack by the beautiful young Princess Nefertiti takes them all captive. Soon even she is battling the Skull King's minions. For Jake has something the Skull King wants--a prize that will give its owner awesome power, including control of the fearsome Howling Sphinx. In a new pounding adventure, Jake races against time to outfight and outwit Kalverum Rex, knowing that if the Skull King wins, he'll be unstoppable. Filled with unexpected danger, challenging puzzles, and dazzling action, this is a first-rate, fast-paced thriller--a read only James Rollins could have created!

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Exclusive: James Rollins on Writing Jake Ransom and the Howling Sphinx Over the years, I've always included a note at the end of my thrillers, where I address what's true and what's not in my novels so I thought I'd do the same here. But before I get started, a bit about myself.

Though I earned my degree in veterinary medicine, I've always been an armchair archaeologist. I've loved all things buried and lost to time. In fact, I maintain a Cabinet of Curiosities at home, where I display all manner of the weird and strange—from giant fossilized specimens to tiny, pinned insects. And gracing the top of the cabinet is a massive 100,000-year-old mammoth tusk from China. So as you might guess, the young adventurer Jake Ransom is close to my heart—and for Jake, I saved my wildest and best adventure of all. The series is chocked full of the fantastic, but it's also grounded in reality. Each novel centers on a different lost culture from Earth's past. First up are the ancient Maya. Throughout the book appear various Mayan glyphs, the symbolic writing of these Mesoamerican people. The glyphs in the book are real, and each plays an important role in the adventure. Likewise, details of the Mayan culture—from the clothing they wear to their astounding skill at astronomy—are all factual and integral to the story. Additionally, there are several fun facts for kids, too—like how the ancient Maya invented chocolate and chewing gum. Lastly, for this series I've also created my own cryptic language, snatches of which appear in this novel. The alphabet breaks down to English equivalents, so for the more industrious readers, they can translate these bits of language to reveal secret messages. So that's just a hint of the truth behind the fantastic world of Jake Ransom. I hope you grab a backpack and come join me—the adventure is just beginning! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Rollins' second Jake Ransom adventure is tighter, more magical and more thrilling than the series opener. Likely to win Jake more fans, this will have adventure seekers of both genders clamoring for volume three." -- Kirkus Reviews
"A wild ride with some quick-thinking teens fighting for survival." -- Library Journal
"Last, but certainly not least, James Rollins has decided to dominate more than just the adult thriller field...Rollins has taken his love of Indiana Jones and made it fresh and fun for the younger set." --Jeff Ayers, Author Magazine

I am a huge James Rollins literary fan and bought the book without reading the background material. Early into the reading I found it somewhat odd that the main characters were of, I guessed, junior high-school or early teen age. However, the usual plot and character development characteristic of Rollins made the book an enjoyable, even stimulating read. Time travel, portals, evolution, alchemy, you name it! It was only later that I found out that the Jake Ransom series was targeted to the 10+ year's old reader (and I am 64). Oh well. Rollins is an impressive author of this genre and it's encouraging that he is directing his efforts to the next generation of his readers/fans.

Make sure to read the books in sequential order as this is a series in the making. I'm not sure that grandparents read books to their grandkids anymore, but I intend to try. And, if not, we'll wait for Disney or someone else to see the potential of both Rollins and his incredible characters and put the Jake Ransom stories out on DVD's that the entire family can enjoy.

I didn't realize I this I guess is the second book of the series. It's very good. Can't wait now for the next one to come out. Thank you

I loved the idea of the first book in the series. Having a myriad of civilizations living together in, mostly, harmony, being able to communicate with one another through no sort of language barrier, and having action on top of action. This second book is more of the same. Where the first one introduced the characters, plot, and was mainly about the Mayan culture, this book is about the Egyptians. It seems like the next will deal with the Norse. Rollins seems to be focusing on one ancient civilization after another, and that is fine by me. It starts with the watch Jake got from the previous book taking him back to his friends in the different time period. Nefertiti is a key character, and ends up conducting herself as a true warrior princess should. Jake is a great hero, and the other characters compliment him nicely. This story has a lot of intrigue, like the mysterious happenings before the trip back into Calypsos, the ancient world. It brings Jake face to face with his own past, and future as well. Time is a big theme in these books, and this story brings it to light even more. Rollins does a good job of leaving the reader fulfilled with answers, but also leaving the right amount of questions unanswered as well. I like Rollins' adult books better than his young adult, but this is a great read to get adolescents interested in reading, as well as the historical places mentioned throughout.

This was my first James Rollins novel, and yes I read it out of sequence. However, I am a lover of ancient artifacts, cultures, mysticism, mystery, and fantasy, whether it is a YA novel or not. Mr. Rollins was recommended to me by a dear friend, who is also an author and I must say I was not disappointed. From start to finish, it was a delightful, action packed, read that was well researched. The idea of parallel worlds and time not being linear, but instead circular appeals to me. Because I found the book so enjoyable, I have bought a second James Rollins book and foresee that I will be adding to my collection as time goes by. I absolutely recommend this book for the many facets of history, adventure, and mystery that make up this terrific story.

Excellent . James Rollins at his best. One of my favorite authors. I have been a fan for many years.

Just as exciting and adventure filled as the first in this series with a promise of more to come! I like how James Rollins, author of the Sigma Force novels, writing about black ops operations, mixing science, religion and history, made the transition to young adult writing so successfully. The tone and voice are so very much different from his adult novels that sometimes I forget that I am reading a book by James Rollins. Jake Ransom and his sister Kady are on yet another adventure through time to find their parents and stop Kalverum Rex from taking over the world. From the first book in the series to this one, I noticed a growth in Jake - taking more control and becoming a leader even in the face of his fear - which is what I feel makes a true hero. James Rollins weaves a tale and puts together a story that captures your attention from the first word to the last. I am looking forward to the next Jake Ransom adventure!!

gift

Love his work

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