



## The Atlantis Code

*Charles Brokaw*

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A thrill-seeking Harvard linguistics professor and an ultrasecret branch of the Catholic Church go head-to-head in a race to uncover the secrets of the lost city of Atlantis. The ruins of the technologically-advanced, eerily-enigmatic ancient civilization promise their discoverer fame, fortune, and power—but hold earth-shattering secrets about the origin of man.

While world-famous linguist and archaeologist, Thomas Lourds, is shooting a film that dramatizes his flamboyant life and scientific achievements, satellites spot impossibly ancient ruins along the Spanish coast. Lourds knows exactly what it means: the Lost Continent of Atlantis has been found. The race is on, and Lourds' challengers will do anything to get there first.

Whoever controls the Lost Continent will control the world.

## The Atlantis Code Details

Date : Published November 10th 2009 by Forge books (first published 2009)

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Author : Charles Brokaw

Format : Hardcover 432 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Adventure, Suspense

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## From Reader Review The Atlantis Code for online ebook

### Kimberly says

Atlantis.

Not many words inspire so much wonder and mystery as that one which is why I'm rather obsessed with the myth. I can't help it I love adventure novels that feature the legend so when one of my many library searches led me to The Atlantis Code I was stoked. It sounded awesome and it got reasonably good reviews on Goodreads so as soon as I brought it home from the library I dove into reading it.

Unfortunately diving into it was similar to diving into a pool empty of water. Right from the beginning I was off put by the writing. I hate when author refer to their main characters by their last names, especially when the name is something that sounds kind of pretentious like Lourds (no offense to anyone bearing that last name) but it irked me to know end that the author of the Atlantis Code referred to Thomas the hero of the novel by his last name. I know it may seem like a little thing to people but we all have our pet peeves and the last name referrals are some of my biggest.

Anyways, from the beginning of the novel I was struck by how slow the plot moved. I'm used to my adventure/thriller novels being adrenaline pumping reads pretty much from the get go with expected lulls in the action factor mingled into the plot line which was what I was expecting in this one. While there was some major action in the first 30 or so pages I wasn't satisfied how the first major action scene played out it was very sterile and lacking any feeling which was a feeling that was carried on through out the telling of The Atlantis Code.

The writing was very dense. The story was very detailed, too detailed it was as though the purpose was to explain every little thing to the reader. I like when an author explains certain things in more detail but those things are usually major plot points and things that are extremely relevant to the story but in this case I felt things were needlessly being explained which made the book a very tedious read at times.

The characters were another thing I had issues with and that is because they were all very one dimensional and over the top. Thomas Lourds is a linguist and I do understand that while he is a professor that he doesn't have the typical look of a stuffy old professor but he was far too aloof and unconcerned with his role as the romantic interest to not one but both of the female side characters and was a bit of a playboy but in the stuck up kind of way so there was a ton of eye rolling from me due to his behaviour as well as his overall holier than thou attitude he had about his abilities to solve the code to discover Atlantis.

The other characters were very one dimensional as well. As I mentioned the female leads were overly dramatic and over the top when it came to their character flaws and personalities just like Thomas and it was as though they were ripped from the set of a bad direct to DVD movie. Even the bad guys in the book came across as being inadequate and useless. They were some of the worst villains that I've ever come across in my reading.

The story line though is my main bone of contention. The book was praised as being the next Da Vinci Code while I saw the potential for the story about the myth of Atlantis in the beginning and was willing to look over some things in the beginning by the time I finished the book I felt like I had read a horribly inadequate rip off of The Da Vinci Code. There were some changes but the basic template of that bestseller was one that I saw used in the telling of this book. There were so many things that were similar to the story that they just started piling up in my head and made me more and more anxious to finish the book which I might add had one of the most anti-climatic endings I've ever come across and was such a huge let down but for me the

main thing was that my ordeal with the novel was over.

The plot had so many holes that the amount of details used were pretty much used in place of an actual plot line and the poor characters, dialogue, lack of adventure and the lack of imagination of the actual story line drove me to have a great dislike for this first novel in the Thomas Lourds series. While the book is entitled The Atlantis Code I feel like Atlantis was touched on very little considering that and I felt that that led to much of the deterioration of the plot and characters. However I do realize this was the author's first attempt at a novel so despite my obvious disappointment for it I can see that the bones of a good story were there and I am willing to give the second book in the series a chance and hope that it has more action and less mindless detail than this book.

Overall, I don't think this is one I would read again but I do see how the book does appeal to readers so I'm only going to recommend this on the basis of my believing a book is only as good as the individual reading it thinks it is. While I didn't like it others may find that it's a gem so if you think despite of my review that you make like to try the book out for yourself I say go for it!

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### **Jeannie Mancini says**

The newly released archaeology thriller The Atlantis Code, anonymously penned by Charles Brokaw who is a pseudonym for some famous author, academic, scholar, was a tremendous disappointment. I've always been entranced with the Atlantis myth and usually enjoy all the various twists that authors of this genre are able to concoct around this ever-fascinating lost world. Unfortunately, Atlantis Code didn't offer up anything out of the ordinary.

The premise of this suspense novel revolves around a world renowned archaeologist and linguist named Thomas Lourds. While excavating in Egypt for the lost library of Alexandria, he is shown a mysterious ceramic bell with inscriptions in an ancient language he has never seen before. Unable to find any documentation, he contacts an associate in Russia, who has also found an ancient ceramic musical instrument, a cymbal with the same elusive markings. When the Russian scientist turns up dead with the cymbal stolen, and when Lourds himself is attacked and his bell gone as well, all hell breaks loose as he slowly learns these two musical instruments, along with three others, are the key to the archaeological find of all time, the location of Atlantis.

Other key players that tag along with Lourds on his hunt for answers are a beautiful Russian police woman who is the sister of the Russian scientist seeking revenge, and a pair of young television journalists seeking the story of a life-time. The police woman has the personality of a pit-bull, both journalists are naïve, immature and clueless. I felt throughout the entire book that this motley crew added nothing to the story and felt they often were annoying with their bickering and immaturity. The Russian policewoman offers some humorous entertainment but on the whole, I couldn't find anything really redeeming in any of the characters. Lourds himself is quite the Robert Langdon rip off. He is so close to Dan Brown's character that they could be twins. The jacket blurb touted that Lourds' character was "Indiana Jones without the whip" but I'm sorry to say that I found Lourds so far from Indiana it wasn't funny. He is lifeless, naïve, boring, and impetuous to the point one thinks that for a professor he is just not too bright. Lourds is a womanizer, a bit of a wimp, self absorbed, and a character devoid of a likeable personality.

The writing style of the author is talented, his command of the language reveals he has written other books of some kind. However, the plot is very mediocre, nothing new, and lacked innovation. There are hundreds of these archaeology thrillers being penned now and I felt the Atlantis Code was severely formulaic and predictable, ending with an anti-climactic finale. As most of these stories go; archaeologist finds relic that is

a key to a lost artifact of myth, bad guys and the Vatican both want this item and will kill to get it, archaeologist is tracked and hunted, many chase scenes abound, puzzles and codes to decipher, wonders are found, etc.etc. The Atlantis Code follows this formula outline to the max and offers no surprises, deviation or creativity. If you are reader who is new to this genre, then for sure you will enjoy this action ride. But, if you have read many others in this theme of art/history/religion/artifact hunting thrillers, my guess is you will feel as I do, that this is just average and mildly entertaining.

The ending too was a tremendous let down. The author's presentation of what Atlantis was, and his religious attachment to it was odd. In addition, without giving you details that would be considered a spoiler, the meaning of what is found is not 100% revealed to us at the story's end which just added to my not so positive experience and opinion.

For those of you who love this genre, and crave a creative new twist that shows ingenuity and talent, I strongly suggest reading Terence Lee's Time Camera. Better than The Da Vinci Code and offers a story you will not forget. It's a cut above all the rest at a time when these archaeology novels are being written by the hundreds each year. I just can't say that about The Atlantis Code.

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### **Amy L. Campbell says**

It's nice to see that misogyny is still alive and well. And can apparently even get published. Lourds is a fairly reprehensible character. I had no desire to see him triumph in **any** of his endeavors. And by the end of the book, if they had all died, the only one I would have lamented would have been Gary (who was decidedly less of a character and more of an afterthought tacked on for comic relief). Brokaw's wet-dream written large might have been acceptable if the female characters hadn't actually been worthy of loathing. Of the three (three!) women we meet in this novel, the only one who is remotely likable gets taken out of the story within a span of one or two chapters. And sadly I think the reason she's so likable is that Lourds isn't slavering over her because she is a Wife and a Mother, and therefore immune to his salacious view of women. Oh, and apparently he respects her for her intellect, even though she is a "mere woman."

Leslie was, for some reason, initially represented as being smart and capable, but slowly deteriorates into a brainless harpy as the novel progresses. I think this sentence sums it up pretty well, "*Lourds had to smile at the young woman's naivete. For all that she was a 'worldly' television journalist - and probably well traveled in her own right - the world remain a big unimagined place for her. She hadn't seen as much of it as she believed.*" Okay...so what happened between Chapter 1 and Page 168 (yes it starts that early, earlier actually) where this infuriating line occurs? We meet Natasha, that's what.

Natasha is the antithesis of Leslie. Except she's still willing to sleep with Lourds (why, who knows, because she can and the author wants her to). She's calm and cool and competent and I still don't like her. Mostly because she still thinks Lourds is hot shit, despite the fact that she could do *way* better, and it would be totally out of character for her to actually sleep with someone while her life is in danger. WTF, you people can't keep it in your pants while you're being hunted down by assassins? Priorities.

I'm actually surprised that there wasn't a knock down, epic catfight that turned into a lesbian sex scene between Leslie and Natasha. Maybe Brokaw is too repressed to actually write anything that interesting. Or maybe he's too intimidated by the lack of penis that would be involved in that particular scenario.

Okay, now that I'm done ranting about the bad stuff, I'll move on to telling you what little I actually liked about the novel.

Um.....

The Catholic Church conspiracy was okay. I honestly I think Brokaw could have come up with another well funded group interested in the lost city of Atlantis. I will admit that the mythology created to explain what was in Atlantis was extremely interesting and *why the hell didn't you focus your novel on **that** you big jerk!*. Honestly Father Sebastien's side of the story was much more enjoyable and interesting, he could have taken Lourds out of this novel altogether, skipped the globe- and bed-hopping, and conjured up some more realistic female characters.

I also hope that Lourds was not actually based on Brokaw, because if he is I'm sure he has tenure and I'm sure he gives his female students lesser grades just because they are women. Dear Brokaw, your book sucked and have you ever even talked to a woman since the 1950's?

*The reviewer is a 2009 graduate of Kent State University's Master of Library and Information Sciences program, an alumna of Antioch College, and the author of the blog A Librarian's Life in Books.*

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### Veronica says

I love archaeological books with a bit of mystery and treasure hunting in it but I was disappointed a bit with this book. I wish I could say I really enjoyed it but I didn't. I just could not become interested in the main characters or the story line. I did finish the book but it is not one I would read again.

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### Jefi Sevilay says

Hani pazar günü televizyonu açarsanız, sıradan bir film oynuyordur, yapacak hiçbir şeyiniz olmadı için takılır kalırsanız ya öyle bir kitap işte Atlantis ifresi. Hatta daha da yaklaşıyor "ya bu film Da Vinci ifresi" değil miydi deyip "aa yok değil mi? ama neredeyse aynı? niye bir tane daha yapmıyorsunuz ki" diyorsanız tamamsınız.

Zaten sanıyorum ki bu kitaplar için bir yazma kılavuzu var ve başlamadan sizden bu bölümler doldürmeniz istiyorlar;

- Dilbilimci, Tarihçi ve/veya Arkeolog ve erkek bir ana karakter
- Ona platonik bir hayranlık duyan, kitabın herhangi bir yerinde işi pişirecek kadın yan karakter(ler)
- ?akın ve ürkek bir asistan/kameraman
- Vatikan ve/veya yolundan sapmış din adamlar?
- Kayıp ve mistik objeler
- Tarihsel bir arkaplan

Bunlara cevaplarınız varsa tamamsınız ve kitabı yazmaya başlayabilirsiniz. Bu kitap çok uzun zamandır kitaplarda oldu için okuyup yeni eserlere yer açmak istedim. Yoksa artık alacağım kitabın arkasındaki çevirdiğim zaman eski yazıtlar, kadim bir bilmece, kayıp bir obje, yüzyıllardır saklanan bir sır gibi ifadeleri gördüğüm gibi geri bırakıyorum.

Hani benden başka kimsenin bu kitabı okuyacağını sanıyorum ya, olur da okursanız fazla beklentiye girmeyin, fazla düşünmeyin, aksiyonun keyfini çıkarın ve akışına bırakın derim.

Herkese keyifli okumalar.

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### **Ivy - Hearts Books. says**

I really didn't like this book even though it started off great. Perhaps it was Lourds & Leslie but it was definitely Leslie. It was also borderline unbelievable. Like traveling to several countries without a passport (even when taking public flights - important to point out that it is not set in the borderless past or the future) or leaving everything during the hotel "seige" in Germany & Miraculously having their belongings in France & the author didn't tell us how. Or the burglar being intelligent enough to hack the security company but is clueless about the cctv cameras (really????). Lourds is a loathable character & Leslie too (too many stupid choices) like payback by taking a video broadcasting where you are while killers have chased you on two continents; let us not forget heading home knowing well they had tracked your phones and cards - like they don't know where you live at that point!?!? - oh this one is a doosey; Leslie being Jane Bond in Egypt but in the rest of the book is clueless about guns & bitching about Natashya shooting the bad guys. (REALLY?!). The only redeeming characters are Natashya & Gary(imagine even him huh). It has put me off the author's works for good. The most prominent question you have while reading this is, "Was there an editor who worked on this and how on earth was it given the green light for publication with all the discrepancies in the story?"

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### **Jennifer says**

If I could give this book a lower rating I would. I finished it because it was a free advance copy and I felt compelled to write a review. The characters are one-dimensional, the dialog is trite, and the writing is poor. I did like the premise of this book, which is the discovery of a site in Spain that could be the ancient land of Atlantis. What follows is a silly romp through through 5 or 6 countries to find an artifact that will lead to the secret. And of course the bad guy is a Cardinal in the Vatican who will stoop to evil (including murder when he runs over a young priest with his car) to obtain the ancient artifacts. Even after finishing the book I don't understand why the Cardinal wanted to be first to get the "secret". The website says the author is a scholar and he states that he did research for this book. The research is pretty thin and could have been gained after an hour on Google. The story takes place in 2009 but the technology is basic. One character is using a Micro Flash Drive and another downloads pictures from the Internet to his camera. The reader is not engaged in helping to solve any of the puzzle as in Dan Brown's DaVinci Code. The author's name might also be a trick to draw readers (Brokaw). I need a lot more from a book. To sum up, don't bother.

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### **Pouting Always says**

Lourds is a Harvard linguist who goes up against a secret Catholic church society that is trying to protect it's knowledge. The church has professionals kill people to retrieve two artifacts, one of which Lourds was inspect and the other one of his Russian colleagues. Lourds goes after the artifacts. I personally didn't enjoy this one because I felt it was cheesy with it's church secrets where they're out to kill people over preserving their knowledge from the public and the whole thing where Lourds is a handsome charming Harvard professors who all the women want. In the beginning (view spoiler) and the (view spoiler) like if I wanted this level of cheese I'd go watch Indian Jones. I couldn't buy anything that was happening in the book. This book just wasn't for me, but I'm sure someone else may enjoy it.

## Will says

If I am disappointed in anything it is that I have only one more Charles Brokaw book to read. Atlantis Code was as good if not better than the Lucifer Code.

While Charles Brokaw's books are written by a ghost writer, whoever writes them does a splendid job at keeping the story lines weaved in together with nods to other moments in other books. However if you haven't read all of them you wouldn't be lost at all.

Atlantis Code is laid out very well, characters are described very well with some plot twists being predictable, and others still catching you by surprise.

The final 100-120 pages of this book were an extremely quick read. Everything wrapped up in a decent ending although a little far-fetched to completely enjoy it.

If you like Indiana Jones movies, you will probably enjoy this series.

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## William Bentrin says

The Atlantis Code by Charles Brokaw

Move over Da Vinci Code, another new Vatican centric novel. Mix together a hidden secret, a rogue Cardinal, a world renowned linguist, a TV producer and a Russian cop and you get a mélange of excitement. A simple translation assignment thrusts a college professor into a maelstrom of intrigue.

Brokaw paints vivid characters with strong characteristics. His main protagonist, Thomas Lourds, is a world famous linguist of immense sex appeal who unlike Indiana Jones attempts to avoid any physical confrontation outside of the bedroom. Lourds avoids being a caricature by being rescued from harm by his female companions. Initially Leslie, the TV producer, appears to be violence accomplished and a prime protector of the good Dr. However Natashya, the Russian cop, arrives on the scene and brings new meaning to the words lethal weapon. The evil villains show no redeeming characteristics. In spite of the broad brush, I thoroughly enjoyed this rollicking novel. Don't anticipate a great deal of cerebral activity just lean back and relish the action.

I recommend the book.

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## Laurie says

I had such high hopes for this book. I love anything Atlantis so I was excited to read anything related to it. I had a really hard time finishing this book. I don't know what it was exactly that turned me off, maybe it's predictability? It wasn't terrible but, it wasn't all that good either.

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## James says

3 stars to Charles Brokaw's novel, The Atlantis Code. I was flying to LA for a work trip, leaving from my

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office in NYC, and realized I forgot to bring a book before I left home. At the airport, I checked a few novels out at the bookshop and stumbled across this one.

I love treasure hunter stories. I am fascinated by the connections authors find between history, religion and missing things. This time, it's the lost continent and treasures of Atlantis. I had read another book with a similar theme and wanted to see how they compared. Bought it and boarded the plane shortly afterwards.

I think I read about half on the flight out and finished it on the way home. Was a short 2 day trip and I couldn't read for all 6 hours on the plane... had some work to do, too.

All in all, I liked the book. Lots of great connections. Strong character. Great suspense. Lots of suspicious behavior.

It was your typical novel of this genre. Nothing bad, nothing fantastic. Just a basic good read. And that's a good thing... just cause it's not a 5 or 4 doesn't mean it's not worth the read. You just need to be the right audience. There are a lot of books out there on this topic and in this genre. If you like Atlantis, read it. You'll have a great time. If you don't, maybe pick something else.

It's very dark when it comes to the religious aspects. I liked it for that reason, but it does get overplayed a lot. Villains come in all shapes and sizes. I'd like to see something new in another book like this.

### ***About Me***

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.

[poll daddy poll=9719251]

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### **Briar's Reviews says**

Quick Review:

Four out of five stars - This book reminds me of Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code series. It's definitely a great spin on this genre and was very intriguing. I'm really interested in seeing how this series continues if I ever get my hands on the books!

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### **Chris Nichols says**

If it were possible to give this book half a star, I would. Mediocre writing, predictable plot lines that are straight out of an 80's cheesy action movie, and one dimensional characters made this a book that was almost difficult to read. The author may have done some historical research, but the majority of it are facts someone could easily find on Google. The story was almost exactly like The Davinci Code, an American college professor goes to overseas about an ancient artifact, the Vatican is involved in trying to keep it a secret, there is an evil faction within the church trying to use the secret to gain more power, and the hero must hunt down

a series of clues and other artifacts to figure out what is going on. Not a whole lot of difference going on there. There are various little things within the story line that will leave you wondering what the author was thinking when he wrote them. Such as, in the first couple of pages, he compares Ptolemy watching a wrestling match in a Roman amphitheater to a Harvard linguistics professor going to a professional wrestling event. Then later in the book, has the protagonist talking with a priest about "having dinner" with two different women. (Yes, it was that thinly veiled.) One positive thing I can say about this book is, I now have a new dumbest sentence I have ever read in a book. "Natasha swerved out of danger like Jeff Gordon in the final lap for the Nextel Cup Series Championship." Yes folks, that is actually in the book and is officially the dumbest line I have ever read in a book. To sum it up, avoid this book at a costs, it's not even a good one to blow through on vacation or just a shut your mind off and read.

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## Vicky says

The front cover promised: "If you enjoyed the Da Vinci Code, The Atlantis Code will take you to a new level of mystery, wonder and adventure." I was looking forward to reading this book, just by that statement alone. Good job marketing people! That statement is big shoes to fill. If you compare a book with Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code you had better live up to the hype. Unfortunately, this book falls desperately flat. So I say, If you enjoyed the Da Vinci Code, read it again and pass The Atlantis Code by.

The book had good bones. The premise was promising, yet was very unoriginal. Maybe if Mr. Brown wrote the story it would have been great. Alas... he didn't. (Note: Yes, I'm a fan of Brown's work, although the last book was not his best contribution to literature.)

The characters are one dimensional and do not draw you into the story. The writing style seems awkward and abrupt at times. The sexual tension is mechanical and tossed in as an after thought.

I found myself hoping the villains, who BTW are evil Italians controlled by the Catholic Church (sound familiar), kill the writer (in a figurative way). His characters are already in so much pain just from being written the only just punishment is to "off" the writer.

\*\*\*Spoiler\*\*\* And to my disappointment the characters live to be written about again.\*\*\*End Spoiler\*\*\*

I can't help but wonder if this book was written for the authors enjoyment of telling a tale or for possible movie rights.

I did find the last 20 or so pages interesting. However, I can not be sure if the book actually started to get better or I was excited to almost be done. I would assume the later since the book ended, for me, with yet another eye roll.

The Atlantis Code is a book you can leave alone. For certain it's not a stocking stuffer.

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