



2007

The Chaos Code

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Richards, Justin. *The Chaos Code*. Bloomsbury, 2007. ISBN 9781599901244. \$17.95. 388 p.

Reviewer: Rachel Wadham

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Adventure stories; Detective and Mystery stories; Occult fiction;

Subject: Ciphers--Juvenile Fiction; Adventure and adventurers--Juvenile Fiction; Supernatural--Juvenile Fiction; Atlantis (Legendary place)--Juvenile Fiction; Mystery and detective stories--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Shipped off to live with his archeologist dad for the summer, Matt arrives only to find his father has mysteriously disappeared. Finding and decoding a secret message sets Matt out on a mysterious adventure to discover the hidden treasure that his father was tracking. Aided by his Aunt Jane and her enigmatic employer Julius Venture and his equally mysterious daughter Robin, Matt travels around the globe to uncover ancient secrets that will either change or destroy the world. Well researched historical fact and fiction along with real and pseudo-science combine to give this novel a fast paced page turning plot. Exotic locations add flair to the novels' constantly changing settings. Sadly, Richards goes just one step too far, combining one too many outlandish elements so that by the end credibility and belief are forced. In addition, the books cast of characters while starting out vibrant and interesting loose luster and sincerity in the end. Despite its flaws this novel will certainly appeal to adventure fantasy genre fans and reluctant readers who are looking for something fast and fun.

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