



## Ancient Echoes

*Joanne Pence*

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## **Ancient Echoes** Joanne Pence

USA Today bestselling mystery author Joanne Pence presents an intriguing paranormal thriller where past and present collide that will appeal to fans of thrillers by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Childs.

Over two hundred years ago, a covert expedition shadowing Lewis and Clark disappeared into the wilderness of Central Idaho. Now, seven anthropology students and their professor vanish in the same area. The key to finding them lies in an ancient secret, one involving alchemy, gold, and immortality...a secret that men throughout history have sought to unveil.

Michael Rempart is a brilliant archeologist whose colorful and controversial career has earned him admiring fans and implacable foes, but he is plagued by a troubling sense of the supernatural and a mysterious spiritual intuitiveness. Joining Rempart in this adventure are a CIA consultant on paranormal phenomena, a washed-up local sheriff, and a former scholar of Egyptology. All must overcome their personal demons as they attempt to save the students and, ultimately, the world.

From the Journal of Francis Masterson, 1806--

All hope is gone. Evil is victorious.

In the time I have remaining I will, herewith, impart a tale so filled with Dread and Terror that my heart overflows with immeasurable Sorrow to tell it. It began with the highest of Good Will and Promise and, on my part, great Excitement. I can only trust to Providence that one day this small account which I leave in a land of unimaginable desolation and Wildness, may be discovered, and that it will serve to warn others of the wickedness that may ensnare Good men.

Ours was to be a Secret Expedition...

## **Ancient Echoes Details**

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Author : Joanne Pence

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## **From Reader Review Ancient Echoes for online ebook**

### **Connie Kramer says**

#### **Quality fiction with a twist**

One of the things that is important to me is correct spelling and lack of typos in a good read. This one doesn't have distracting typos. Pence created interest, suspense, some outlandish scenarios: it's perfect to escape for awhile.

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### **Phyllis says**

This book was a little different than I usually read. It's part thriller ?sci-fi, mystery and I can't describe what else.

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### **Marie-lynn Bouchard says**

The book strates well love book of archeology strange finds people ready to kill to get the discovery, but then too much people were getting involved too much characters I could survive but when the fourth dimension came in the book that was too much and the end was too much. I would recommend it to people who loves science fiction

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### **L.W. says**

Liked the premise. Well developed characters. Very entertaining read

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### **Mary says**

What an incredible slog! Unsophisticated writing made this overly long story painful to read. By the end of the book I didn't care who lived, who died or how the hell they'd escape their predicament. There were several good ideas but most were poorly developed and executed. What I found most surprising was that occasionally there would be a fairly well written passage. It was almost as if more than one person authored the book. Most frustrating was the amateurish writing of the action sequences. In more adept hands this story could have been a lot more interesting. Ugh, what a disappointment. I'm striking this author from my to-read list permanently.

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### **Rita says**

A very interesting and intriguing book. A story of alchemy and demons. I found this book interesting but way too detailed leading to lengthy parts that could have been shortened. I don't think every minute detail was necessary to the story line. The idea that a scholar would take a group of college kids on an excursion looking for ancient books or artifacts was cool. Learning that the scholar wasn't smart enough to follow the advice of a local guide even works. I think this book intrigued me because I enjoy historical books and this definitely falls into the category. I would say that almost everyone who loves history would enjoy the book as well. I give it a good 4.

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### **Susan says**

Although I had not read any of her other books, I was happy to read *Ancient Echoes* by Joanne Pence. It reminded me of the Indiana Jones franchise, not the least because the main character is likened to a real life Indiana Jones, as he is a peripatetic archaeologist. The book included evil bad guys, ambiguous good guys, spies, megalomaniacs, and great locations. The book initially follows three different people who all come together in wilderness Idaho, which I've visited. The author captured that area well, as she lives not far away in Boise. All the characters are seeking an alchemical bible, ultimately located in Idaho, for varying reasons. Without giving away any twists, some of the good guys triumph, even though my favorite female character dies. Several of the good guys get HFNs, while the MC slinks away to lick his wounds, metaphorically and literally speaking. The novel includes the first chapter of the sequel, which grabbed my interest, as it is set in Florence, which I also have visited. I will be looking for its publication. A friend bought the book based on my recommendation today. A great read with a broader audience than the author's other books.

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### **T.L. Cooper says**

*Ancient Echoes* by Joanne Pence echoes around the world and back keeping the reader entranced in a world and time that is at once real and surreal. Pence creates a cast of characters with myriad agendas who come together in this tale of ancient alchemy that travels through the ages and creates trouble for all touched by it. Charlotte Reed, widowed and numbed, reawakens within the pages as she seeks answers to questions she never realized she had. Michael Rempart discovers he is more than he thinks as he faces his personal and familial demons. Lionel Rempart struggles to be the man he thinks he is. Jake Sullivan, while at times a bit sexist, faces his self-inflicted punishment for his past. Melisse Willis exhibits the strength and ability to overcome at every turn even if she's not exactly the woman she purports to be. Li JinJuan's tenacity, intelligence, and cunning makes the reader glad he's on the side of the good guys. Jennifer Vandenburg strikes the reader as cold and calculating evoking little sympathy even when the reader discovers the reason behind her desire to get her hands on the secrets of alchemy. Calvin Phaylor's manipulative and cunning nature leaves little one can like or even feel sorry for. *Ancient Echoes* engages the reader as it explores greed, deception, love, betrayal, and the human condition through the search for the one thing it seems every generation longs to find: immortality.

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### **Kat Lebo says**

*Ancient Echoes* by Joanne Pence

Minor spoilers included:

Interesting storyline, reminiscent of the "Lost Horizon" fable. I was a little conflicted on my rating. I enjoyed the story, but yet part of me wasn't that fond of it. I finally decided to give the extra star based on what I did like about it.

And that, what I liked, would include interesting characters, great research into the subject of alchemy, good pacing and flow, multiple story lines that Pence combines nicely into a single thread as the story progresses, good editing and proofing, enough backstory to understand main character motivation, and an interesting surprise twist at the end that had enough clues to suspect, but not quite enough to ruin the surprise. Certainly the author wasn't afraid to 'kill her darlings,' as the old writers' saw goes. And, on a personal note for me, there was the name of one of the characters, Melisse. I'd never run across that name before, but have an ancestor who was named May Lissie. I'm not sure if the the author meant the name to be pronounced more like Melissa, but my brain automatically pronounced it like my ancestor's every time it appeared, so I was especially invested in that character's arc.

I'm not even sure of what I didn't like about it. I did notice 3 definite proofing errors, and maybe a 4th, although it could be read multiple ways, so maybe it wasn't an error and just my reading of it. But compared to other novels I've read over the recent past, the proofing was good. I found some of the romantic interactions a bit stiff and trite, but, again, not nearly as stiff and trite, or eye-rollingly off-putting as many other romantic interludes I've soldiered through recently, so that wasn't it, either. I really don't know. I loved "Lost Horizon," so I doubt it was the idea of a doorway into another dimension that wouldn't be spotted by Google Earth. I just know I felt a bit unsatisfied when I finished the novel. Unsatisfied enough that I'm not tempted to shell out the cost of the next book in the series (or at least that features one of the main characters from this novel).

So, lots of good for the book. You may not feel the same as I did.

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### **grundoon says**

What happens when a cozy writer tries her hand in the Seek Ancient Thing of Great Power/Value thriller genre: Mongolia, Jerusalem, Paris, D.C., Idaho, archeologist, arrogant professor, sheriff, customs agent, CIA agent, a gaggle of students, women who can kick ass, guides of questionable repute, a billionaire, a pharma CEO, not one but two groups of mercenaries, alchemy, Mormons, a tomb, a book, a portal, gold, monsters (yes, monsters), and romance (because duh). For starters. Very different writing than her usual, and perhaps unexpectedly competent, if also out-ridiculousing even the ludicrous norm for this type of stuff.

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### **VENKATRAMAN C K says**

It's a fast paced book but too shallow . I don't know what genre the author wanted to slot this book into . It's certainly not horror . True horror books like the Exorcist go deep into the psychological aspects of humans and explore rationality, fear , guilt and the psyche . This book is at a very superficial Level as far as the demons and horror go !!!

I would define this book into the adventure category .

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## **Carol Caldwell says**

This is a strange story that takes the reader off in the wild blue yonder, not where anyone thinks they are going. The story begins like a history tale of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but it slips into science fiction on the way to the end. It's very unexpected and you have to hold your breath a few times while the heroes and villains duke it out. First you have to find out who the heroes and villains are.

Good story with lots of twists and turns.

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## **Eugene Pollock says**

I occasionally can get involved in books grounded in the paranormal, and I thought that, because of its archeological aspect, this might be one of those. But I was wrong. I'm abandoning it, having read 50%. I was no longer able to sustain enough interest in the storyline, though apparently many other readers have done so easily. It involves two brothers linked by their careers in archaeology: a famous Indiana Jones clone on a dig in Mongolia and an overshadowed academic who makes the worst decisions imaginable when he leads a group of students on a field trip into a "Bermuda Triangle" area in the Utah wilderness. Suffice it to say that there is a Stargate-type portal into an alternate reality, man-eating monsters, an ancient alchemical text arguably providing the secret to immortality, a pharmaceutical executive seeking a cure for her daughter's progeria, yadda, yadda, yadda. I think it was just an instance of too much "weirdity" for my taste.

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## **Jen says**

I always like archaeological thrillers. This one just happened to add in alchemy. Very reminiscent of a Preston/Child novel, but that is OK with me. I love the way Pence pulled the main characters in from very different geographical and chronological areas. However, it was a little choppy. I also found that she tried a little too hard to set the players personalities. Instead of telling me how I should view a character, let their actions show their traits. It takes a few more words, but I'll get it. I think this contributed to her characters being a bit too stereotypical as well. That being said, I would pick up another of Pence's books.

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## **M. Sprouse says**

For the first 200+ pages I was enthralled by this book. It fit my reading interest almost exactly. A thriller, fast-paced, some paranormal, exotic locations, a couple of expeditions and it was all crafted together nicely. The last 100 pages were good, but just not as precise as early in the book. A little too much running around the terrain and getting captured time after time. I can see how in a novel of this type how hard it was to engineer a good and believable ending. Again, the ending was fine, just not as captivating as the rest of the book. I will read the next book in what I hope is a series.

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