



## The Rosetta Key

*William Dietrich*

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“An utterly captivating romp from the treacherous tunnels beneath Jerusalem to the lost City of Ghosts (Petra, Jordan) to the tumult of revolutionary Paris....Dietrich spins a merry magical mystery tour, winningly intricate and anchored to actual historical figures and events....Mr. Spielberg! Mr. Lucas! It’s your move.”  
—*Seattle Times*

Dashing and courageous American adventurer Ethan Gage returns in William Dietrich’s *The Rosetta Key*—the thrilling sequel to the Pulitzer Prize-winning author’s acclaimed *Napoleon’s Pyramids*. An eighteenth century Indiana Jones, Gage swashbuckles once again, this time in pursuit of a precious Egyptian relic that would give its owner the power to rule the world. *The Rosetta Key* an adventure in reading that is not to be missed, especially by fans of George MacDonald Fraser’s Flashman novels and aficionados of a grand literary tradition dating back to Jack London, Robert Lewis Stevenson, and H. Rider Haggard, and carried on today by such notables as James Rollins, David Liss, Steve Berry, and Kate Mosse.

## The Rosetta Key Details

Date : Published (first published 2008)

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Author : William Dietrich

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adventure, Thriller, Mystery

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## From Reader Review The Rosetta Key for online ebook

### Grettel Perez says

Libro entretenido, buscare Las Pirámides de Napoleon, donde leo inician las aventuras de Ethan Gage.

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### Lewis Weinstein says

I enjoyed book 1 in this series but not this one ... it is a bad imitation of Indiana Jones

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### Laura says

This book has it all: Indiana Jones-type escapes, the Knights Templar, Petra, Napoleon... all topped off with bad writing and plotting. If you absolutely love this genre, well, I'm sure you'll like the book.

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### Lisa says

Enjoyed the history. The story line was OK. Too many coincidences.

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### T. says

It was entertaining, but when I read stuff from a historical setting, I don't care for it to be farcical unless it a Vaudeville etc act. And the number of times the protagonists escapes from impossible to escape situations is eye-rolling. Still, the story was entertaining.

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### Marie says

Another exciting Ethan Gage adventure! Just a heads up: this is the second Ethan Gage saga, so there may be spoilers to Napoleon's Pyramids in this review.

I'll admit: it took me a minute to warm up to these books. I thought that Ethan Gage was a bit pretentious and the story a little implausible in the first book, and had trouble getting past that. BUT once you decide to just sit back and enjoy the ride, these books are such fun! Yes, Ethan is still a bit pretentious, but I think that's at least partly due to the historicity of the books. They're set in the late 1700s, when upper class white males did honestly think themselves better than most other people. And when Ethan repeatedly refers to himself as a "savant," he's not being snobbish (in that moment); he's using the word in the historic, literal sense, and

telling us that he's well-educated and well-read. The Rosetta Key also continues to be pretty implausible, but it's *fiction*. Go ahead and let yourself be carried along on the adventure and you won't regret it!

The Rosetta Key finds Ethan still in the Middle East, but this time in Jerusalem. He's looking for the Book of Throth, to keep it from falling into the wrong (Napoleon's) hands. Along the way, he also hopes to find Astiza. If you remember, he lost her when she fell from the hot air balloon into the Nile. I assumed her dead.... I have now learned a lesson in keeping up hope! Especially in fiction. ;) Turns out she's alive and well and needs to be found. Ethan practically singlehandedly fights off the British and the French and the king of Egypt in order to outsmart them all in following the clues and finding the Book of Throth. (I warned you that it's slightly implausible.) With this one, though, I let all logic fly out the window and ended up loving seeing how Ethan would tackle each new problem or puzzle that arose. I cheered for him whenever he'd solve a clue or overcome an obstacle, and laughed at some of his naivete in some social situations. There's a whole scene involving two women that I found particularly amusing. :)

Then the book ends... with a heavy hint at the next Ethan Gage adventure! I've already downloaded The Dakota Cipher to listen to next! Got to see where that crazy Ethan Gage ends up.

I listened to The Rosetta Key, as opposed to reading a physical book, and thoroughly enjoyed it. The narrator gives Ethan a voice that seems real, and does believable, noncondescending accent for the foreign characters. The cadence and pacing feel good: not too fast and not too slow. I would certainly recommend this audiobook.

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### **Bob says**

An American gambler and adventurer continues his adventures in the middle east as he continues his search for the ancient Book of Toth while being captured by Napoleon's forces and escaping, searching under the dome of the rick in Jerusalem defending Accra from the French attackers, finding and losing love and generally having a rough time.

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### **Steven Kent says**

A vigorous tale that wraps Napoleon's African conquests, the Rosetta stone, and a former apprentice of Benjamin Franklin into a tale that mixes history and light science into an adventure that is somewhat reminiscent of an Indiana Jones movie.

Ethan Gage, an adventurer with a taste for exotic women, races against the French in search of ancient mysteries which hold the fate of the world.

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### **Iris Anthony says**

Love this series! The author is a genius at never going where you think he will...or want him to.

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### **Christa says**

This sequel to Napoleon's Pyramids is another action packed, fast paced adventure story. I enjoyed this second story of American adventurer, Ethan Gage, and his misadventures. The ending of the book leads the reader to believe that there will be further stories of Ethan. I look forward to the next one.

Ethan Gage accompanied Napoleon Bonaparte to Egypt in Napoleon's Pyramids. Now Ethan is trying to find out if Astiza, the Egyptian woman he has come to love, survived a fall from a hot air balloon into a river. He is also looking for a magical book that is rumored to exist, The Book of Throth. Ethan's quest for the fate of Astiza and the magical book is filled with travel, adventure, and betrayal. Ethan makes new allies and must face his old enemies once again.

The Rosetta Key seemed even more action packed to me than Napoleon's Pyramids. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical adventure stories. I found this book easier to read than Napoleon's Pyramids because it did not have the detailed mathematical explanations that were contained in the first novel. I enjoyed this book, and hope to have the opportunity to read more about Ethan Gage.

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### **Anne says**

I enjoyed this book, but not as much as some other thrillers i have read.

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### **Korin Hall says**

So much adventure set in Jerusalem and surrounding regions. Ethan Gage is a funny, likeable character. Just when you think things have settled down, they start right up again. Non-stop action.

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### **Alan says**

Should only read this after reading Napoleon's Pyramids first. Continues on with historical events and facts bent a little out of shape, and the unbelievable escapades of Ethan Gage. Still, enjoyed it to the end.

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### **Benjamin Thomas says**

This is the second fast-paced rollicking historical adventure featuring Ethan Gage. A former student of Benjamin Franklin, Gage has survived the adventures recounted in Napoleon's Pyramids and has now engaged upon a search for a legendary Egyptian scroll, the Book of Thoth, in the Middle East. The action takes place among the backdrop of Napoleon's 1799 campaign along the coast of Palestine as he tries to emulate the success of Alexander the Great and make inroads to Asia. Ethan and his cohorts participate (sometimes accidentally) in warfare at Acre, Jaffa, and the Battle of Mount Tabor. Several historical personages make an appearance here including Sir Sydney Smith, General Phelipeaux, Haim Farhi, and Djezzar.

Gage's time in the Holy Land is, of course, fraught with danger as one adventure leads to the next. Just when he manages to extricate himself from one near fiasco he falls into the next. He is often driven by his love for a woman...or sometimes, it is for the love of a different woman. Most of what happens to him is not by his own design but somehow always manages to land him where he needs to be. Sort of a cross between Indiana Jones and Maxwell Smart. He suffers from extremely bad luck on multiple occasions but, fortunately, this is balanced by extremely good luck when his life is at stake.

The thing I find intriguing about this character is not so much his swashbuckling adventurer side, but rather, his scientific side. As a student of Ben Franklin, Gage has absorbed a thirst for scientific knowledge as well as a gift for applying his knowledge in practical ways. His innovative use of electricity from crude batteries actually turns the tide of battle in one scene.

I'm enjoying these adventure novels and looking forward to the next.

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### **Dorothy Caimano says**

An Indian Jones type of story set in Egypt, Israel and France, late 19th century. Entertaining. Suspend disbelief before opening the book.

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