

'One part THE DA VINCI CODE, one part THE NAME OF THE ROSE ... A blazingly good yarn'

San Francisco Chronicle

Tom Sullivan, about to graduate from Princeton, is haunted by the violent death of his father, an academic who devoted his life to one of the rarest, most complex books in the world.

Coded in seven languages, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, an intricate mathematical mystery and a tale of love and arcane brutality, has baffled scholars since 1499.

Tom's friend Paul is similarly obsessed and when a long-lost diary surfaces they finally seem to make a breakthrough. But only hours later, a fellow researcher is murdered and the two friends suddenly find themselves in great danger. Working desperately to expose the book's secret, they slowly uncover a Renaissance tale of passion and blood, a hidden crypt and a secret worth dying to protect ...

'THE DA VINCI CODE for people with brains' *Independent*

'An assured piece of fiction that weaves together the past and the present seamlessly ... I enjoyed it tremendously'

Observer

'A marvellous book with a dark Renaissance secret in its coded heart' *New York Times Book Review*

'Stunning ... An extraordinary and brilliant accomplishment – a must read' Nelson DeMille

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Van Ditmar

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