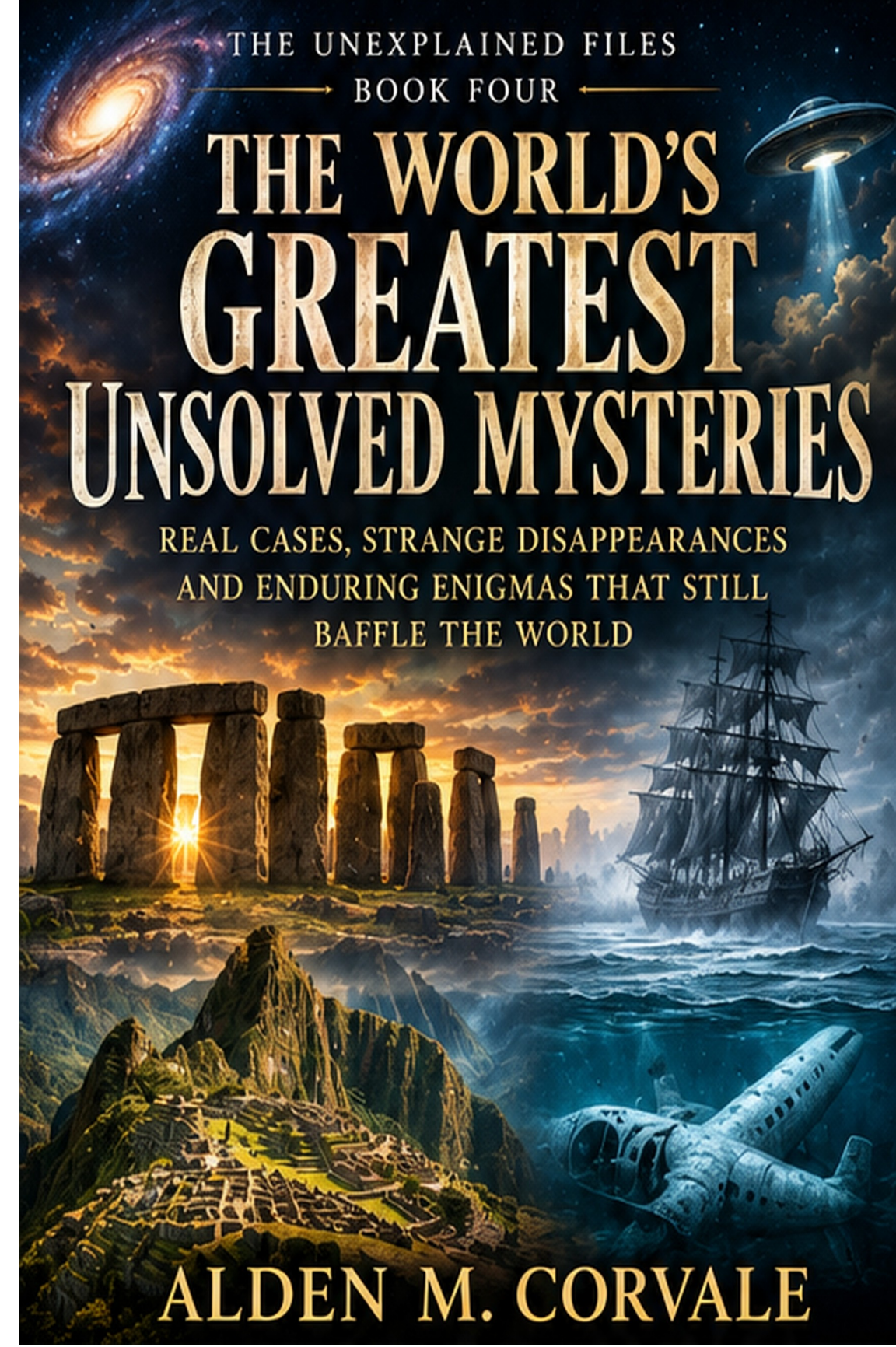




THE UNEXPLAINED FILES

BOOK FOUR

THE WORLD'S GREATEST UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

REAL CASES, STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES
AND ENDURING ENIGMAS THAT STILL
BAFFLE THE WORLD

ALDEN M. CORVALE

THE WORLD'S GREATEST UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

*Real Cases, Strange Disappearances and Enduring Enigmas
That Still Baffle the World*

Book Four of The Unexplained Files

Alden M. Corvale

Updated through August 2026

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This is an original work of popular nonfiction for *The Unexplained Files*. It examines disappearances, crimes, historical puzzles, undeciphered texts, unusual physical phenomena and legendary cases that remain unresolved, partly unresolved, or commonly misunderstood.

An unsolved mystery is not a blank permission slip for any theory. A case can remain open because evidence was lost, because witnesses disagreed, because technology was limited, because records were never created, or because several explanations fit the surviving facts. In other cases, the public version of a mystery becomes more dramatic than the evidence itself.

The rule of this book is simple: the unknown will be treated as unknown. Probable explanations are described as probable, not proven. Hoaxes and legends are identified when the evidence supports that conclusion. A lack of an answer is interesting enough without inventing one.

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Introduction - Why Some Mysteries Survive

A mystery survives when the evidence does not quite close the door.

Sometimes the missing piece is physical. An aircraft vanishes over an ocean and the main wreckage is never found. A person walks into history under an assumed name and leaves behind no verified identity. Thieves carry paintings out of a museum and the works never reappear. A coded message sits in public view for decades, daring thousands of skilled readers to find the method that turns symbols into meaning.

Other mysteries survive because the evidence is abundant but contradictory. The Zodiac Killer left letters, ciphers, fingerprints of uncertain value, witness descriptions, ballistic evidence and a trail of suspects. Jack the Ripper committed murders in a crowded city covered by newspapers and police, yet the surviving record still cannot identify one person beyond reasonable dispute. The Dyatlov Pass incident generated autopsies, photographs, diaries, search records and later scientific modelling, but the exact sequence of decisions on the mountain remains partly inferential.

Then there are mysteries that survive because a story became stronger than the underlying case. The Bermuda Triangle is one of the most famous regions of mystery on Earth, yet many incidents assigned to it have ordinary explanations, inaccurate retellings, bad weather, navigation errors or locations that do not even fit a consistent triangle. Oak Island has generated more than two centuries of digging, engineering, hope and commercial storytelling without producing an agreed treasure chamber. A mystery can be culturally real even when its most dramatic claims are weak.

This book does not treat all mysteries as equal. That would be an error. A missing aircraft with confirmed debris is not the same