



All Cry Chaos

Leonard Rosen

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All Cry Chaos, a debut thriller by the immensely gifted Leonard Rosen, is a masterful and gripping tale that literally reaches for the heavens.

The action begins when mathematician James Fenster is assassinated on the eve of a long-scheduled speech at a World Trade Organization meeting. The hit is as elegant as it is bizarre. Fenster's Amsterdam hotel room is incinerated, yet the rest of the building remains intact. The murder trail leads veteran Interpol agent Henri Poincaré on a high-stakes, world-crossing quest for answers.

Together with his chain-smoking, bon vivant colleague Serge Laurent, Poincaré pursues a long list of suspects: the Peruvian leader of the Indigenous Liberation Front, Rapture-crazed militants, a hedge fund director, Fenster's elusive ex-fiancée, and a graduate student in mathematics. Poincaré begins to make progress in America, but there is a prodigious hatred trained on him—some unfinished business from a terrifying former genocide case—and he is called back to Europe to face the unfathomable. Stripped down and in despair, tested like Job, he realizes the two cases might be connected—and he might be the link.

This first installment in the Henri Poincaré series marries a sharp, smart mystery to deep religious themes that will keep both agnostics and believers turning pages until the shattering, revelatory end. Anyone who enjoys the work of John Le Carré, Scott Turow, Dan Brown, and Steig Larsson will relish Rosen's story telling and his resourceful, haunted protagonist. Others will appreciate his dazzling prose. Still others, the way he bends the thriller form in unconventional ways toward a higher cause, in the vein of Henning Mankell in *The Man From Beijing*. In short, *All Cry Chaos* promises to become a critical success that garners a broad readership throughout the nation and across the globe.

All Cry Chaos Details

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From Reader Review All Cry Chaos for online ebook

Larry says

Henri Poincare is a high-ranking field investigator for Interpol in his late 50s who has spent several years tracking down the worst of the Serb war criminals. Now he faces dreadful retaliation against his family for that success just as he begins an investigation into the causes of the murder of a Harvard mathematician in Holland by means of a bomb. The dead professor worked at the highest level of fractal analysis (the part is the whole, patterns in all objects or constructs seem to be similar, to grossly oversimplify), and that mathematical work, together with the efforts of a messianic doomsday cult whose members are engaged in terrorism on behalf of their vision, come together to present a case of great danger and complexity. Rosen sketches characters deftly. All come alive, even the most minor ones, but Poincare is a real find as a novelistic character. This novel appears to be the first of several more to come, and I hope so, both for the exquisite reading experience and because Poincare deserves to regain some of what he lost in this truly excellent book.

Cheryl says

Loved it! Smart thriller that kept me guessing! Can't wait to meet the author tomorrow!!!!

Bill Lancaster says

"All Cry Chaos" is one of those novels that helps to reshape the mystery genre. While it is ostensibly a straightforward mystery, it is also a novel augmented by ideas and concepts not used everyday by mystery writers.

Henri Poincare is a French Interpol agent on a path to find who murdered an American mathematician in Amsterdam. The goal is to find the person responsible, but primarily it is to also stop further violence conducted in the same precise way — small, highly targeted bombs designed to detonate in a very small area. Poincare's investigation takes him to France, Switzerland, Boston, Los Angeles and St. Paul/Minneapolis.

It involves terrifying personal circumstances, the reflections of an admired agent near the end of his career and some fascinating mathematics. The math is never too difficult - it mostly concerns fractal patterns found in nature and how things are similar to each other and how they are different from each other. It is this exposition of mathematics in the natural world that makes this book so different from other mysteries. It is a wonderfully written book, never dumbing itself down for the reader and a fascinating story with some twisty plot turns along the way.

Linda says

This book came to me on a recommendation from my local mystery bookstore, Once Upon a Crime.

Apparently the author is local.

But I never would have guessed. The incredible detail on international locations and the many customs and languages gave this book a flavor that was far from home. From Paris to Quebec to Amsterdam to Boston, with a short foray to Minneapolis and St. Paul, this was page-turning. I could not figure out how all these disparate narrative threads were going to come together.

I cried in spots and that, to me, is a bit unexpected in a mystery. But Poincare is a very flawed, yet sympathetic hero. However improbable the events here, they all seemed to fall into place in the end. And with very technical details, which I became incredibly engrossed in, we went from the world of mathematics to cardiac care - and somehow, it's all related.

I won't give a synopsis because there would be no way to do that, while still making it understandable, without giving something away.

Suffice it to say I read this in three sittings, and would have read it in one if I could have.

Bonnie says

I really liked this book and found it very moving. A part that I won't go into I found to be truly heartrending and depicted in such a way that it felt very real so that one could feel the real consequences of the evil inflicted on innocent people. I hope Mr. Rosen is going to continue this series. The two books I read seem to be bookends - one (written after the other) a prequel and the other the end of the main character's career.

Lewis Weinstein says

A fractal is a never-ending pattern. Fractals are infinitely complex patterns that are self-similar across different scales. They are created by repeating a simple process over and over in an ongoing feedback loop. Driven by recursion, fractals are images of dynamic systems – the pictures of Chaos.

Jules Henri Poincaré (29 April 1854 – 17 July 1912) was a French mathematician, theoretical physicist, engineer, and a philosopher of science who made many original fundamental contributions to pure and applied mathematics, mathematical physics, and celestial mechanics.

Fractals and Jules Henri Poincaré are two underlying elements of a fascinating detective story imagined and beautifully presented by Leonard Rosen. I always like to learn something and to be challenged to think in new directions, even as horrible murders and very complicated investigations occupy the forefront of the story.

Rosen does something else which is unusual. ALL CRY CHAOS shows an episode towards the end of an investigator's career. Volume 2 in this series titled "The Tenth Witness" (which I have not yet read) takes us back thirty years to the beginning of that career. This leaves lots to fill in if Rosen chooses to do so, which I hope he does.

ALL CRY CHAOS also gives readers who are so inclined the opportunity to ridicule the end-of-days phenomena which seems to infect a surprising number of people from time to time. There is just enough of this thinking presented to suggest the deep despair and hopelessness that induces what most of find to be totally irrational illusions.

Overall, an excellent and compelling read.

Andy says

From the previous reviews, plenty of people love this so maybe you will too, but I didn't.

A detective descendant of the physicist Poincaré investigates a math-based crime with so many people asking him if he's related to the other Poincaré that even he gets tired of answering the question. Is this supposed to be funny or profound? It just seems contrived.

Without giving away the plot, a major part of the book is about a threat to his family; the whole interaction there that sets up the maudlin personal backstory was frustratingly unbelievable. The protagonist's actions are so irresponsible that I found him unlikeable. This poor Poincaré is unhappy in his skin and stumbles about sometimes acting more like Clouseau than Maigret. I guess that makes him "complex", but Harry Bosch, for example, is a complex, tortured detective character, and yet he knows who he is and acts accordingly.

The main plot revolves around unnecessary drivel about religion and math. I appreciate the ambition of trying to pull all that together in a mystery. I like the exploration of Big Themes in novels, but for me, it just didn't work. Fractals are cool but they're not the secret of life, the universe and everything. Something much less cosmic could have driven the plot equally well. I don't get the comparisons to thrillers by Stieg Larsson, Dan Brown, etc. Those universes, while in some ways even more far-fetched, are much more internally coherent.

Hpnyknits says

a good mystery and interesting character but the second plot, with the hero's family was distracting and did not read true.

Markus Himmelstrand says

Leonard Rosen has put together a decent crime novel and the first chapters are pretty exemplary in how he's setting up his characters and their place in the world and the crime to be solved. However neither the characters nor the story has the necessary depth to sustain a whole novel and after a while I began to wonder why everyone kept repeating how good an investigator Poincaré is and how he has 'aged with dignity' (of all things) when he seems to almost deliberately avoid the final conclusion which the reader might guess from the first chapter.

Of course it makes some sense since the real story of the crime is fittingly absurd and naturally Poincaré shouldn't reach it in a sane and real world but Leonard Rosens world is not sane. It is already insane with christian suicide bombers, an end-of-days cult, overly simplistic international conflicts, and war criminals plotting revenge.

It is a personal preference but to me tragedy and crime loses its impact when it is placed on the pile of a hundred other crimes and death is instead more powerful when it strips away the veneer of a just and normal

world. Here this isn't the case, the veneer is never there, and especially the subplot involving Poincaré's family and his behavior following it is so unnatural that I could almost do a one eighty and recommend the book for that story alone because you have to read it to believe how awkwardly written it is.

As to the general math theme that runs through the book I have to commend Rosens attempt at working it into a mainstream novel but it doesn't quite work. For example when Poincaré enters a mathematicians apartment and attempts to describe how pictures on the wall are organized to display the unity of disparate (if not all) concepts in the world I could't help muttering to myself: Isn't this is what an insane person does?

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Henri Poincare, Interpol agent

RATING: 3.5

Henri Poincare is an Interpol agent who is investigating the death of Harvard professor James Fenster. Using chaos theory and the study of fractals, Fenster had uncovered an amazing theory. At the same time, Poincare's family is under threat from a Bosnian terrorist, with terrible results for his family. Poincare does an excellent job of making fractals understandable, and it helps to read a version with illustrations. But even with that the science was a bit over my head and I couldn't put it all together.

Katy says

This was a book I listened to on a road trip. At first I thought it was much too slow. The hero, Henri Poincare, is French; an inspector for Interpol. I had trouble with the foreign names and keeping the characters sorted out. However, once I found my stride with the narrative voice, I was hooked.

The plot features the murder of a mathematician, and the author did a phenomenal job of teaching me a bit about higher mathematics (fractals, anyone?) while he kept his story moving along. I love fiction that teaches me something, and leaves me thinking about theoretic ideas when I'm not reading the book. This one did that beautifully.

Also, the author created a myriad of characters I cared about. Today, two days after I finished, I'm still wondering how they are doing. A great percentage of the characters were revealed to be motivated by good hearted intention, which I think is lacking in much of today's fiction.

I am definitely going to read on in this series.

Naomi says

Lovely mystery with strong theological reflections connected to chaos, the question of why God allows terrible suffering, and fractals. Henri Poincare, the great-grandson of mathematician Jules Henri Poincare, begins this tale an Interpol Inspector. Like all good stories, there's big trouble to wrestle and a fine wrestling it is. Along the way we the readers can join that wrestle and also consider the impact of cruelty and pain across generations and the abuse of power.

Katherine says

First off it is important to note that I'm neither a mathematician nor am I terribly adept in math. I am however a biologist and so this book and its study of patterns, including pictures, totally engrossed me. The mystery is very satisfying and one is immediately drawn to Inspector Poincare of Interpol and his various cohorts, including the young shoot from the hip Paolo Ludovici. The characters are well drawn, the travels to solve a very convoluted case very real and the mystery itself multi-layered. The descriptions of Quebec City and of Amsterdam are spot on. In particular, having just experienced the Doomsday event that didn't happen, the whole descriptive chapter at the end of the book, when all the threads come together in Amsterdam's Dam is particularly well written. A world-wide computer generated enlistment program has culminated in a countdown to the Rapture on August 15--the circus atmosphere is repulsive, amusing, astounding and sad. It is interesting that the date chosen by the author is the Catholic feast day of the Assumption of Mary (the Blessed Virgin) into Heaven. Coincidence? Or that the discussion in the high Alps between Poincare and a math prof who taught in the science center at Harvard should sound so much like Stephen Jay Gould's Punctuated Equilibrium theory of evolution. Another coincidence? Don't know but it was a very interesting book and I really liked it and will read it again--it is one of those.

Monica says

I am not familiar with Leonard Rosen nor his main character in this book. The main character is Henri Poincare. He is an Interpol agent. All Cry Chaos is centered around Henri, his family and his cases.

Poincare is given a case after a mathematician, James Fenster, is murdered on the eve that he is supposed to give a speech at the World Trade Organization meeting. I am no math wiz and found this story interesting and confusing at the same time. When math was being discussed I sometimes found myself reading it again just to make sense of it and other times remembering my times in school and just wanting to get the answer quickly.

Poincare has a long list of suspects. You follow Poincare through all the interviews. Sometimes you were left hanging and felt there was something missing after the interview. There are a few sub-plots in this book. Poincare had caught a high profile murderer and he has threatened his family. Interpol is there to protect him but that is not enough. This is one plot that I found very interesting because of how it affected Henri and his ability to perform his job.

Another sub-plot was the story of 3 orphans. The 3 children became orphans when their parents were killed in a car accident many years before. As the story progressed I found myself trying to figure out who the orphans were. When the end of the book is reached all my questions were answered and some I had figured out before.

If you want a book with intricate story/plot lines, interesting characters with depth then I suggested trying All Cry Chaos.

Judy says

A new author to me and what a writer. After reading Lewis Weinstein's review, (see below) I wondered if I could keep up with the story. It is a bit challenging, but a terrific plot and characters. I'm looking forward to reading Rosens next book in the series and any that he writes.
