PAKAL'S SECRET

By James Leach

Genre: Science Fiction Adventure / Archaeological Thriller

Logline: When a grieving archaeologist discovers an ancient spacecraft buried beneath a Mayan temple, he must decipher its connection to King Pakal while battling a ruthless cartel and government agents determined to seize a discovery that could rewrite human history.

Synopsis

In 657 A.D., a mysterious spacecraft descends upon a Mayan temple in the Yucatán. Its pilot—a humanoid woman wearing advanced technology—is mistaken for a supernatural being and killed by frightened warriors. King Pakal recognizes too late that the visitor was not a god or demon, but a messenger. Her body and spacecraft are entombed and forgotten.

Centuries later, archaeologist **Dr. Oscar Cantrell** searches the Central American jungle for evidence supporting his controversial theories of ancient contact with extraterrestrial civilizations. His obsession once cost him professional credibility, but his greatest loss is personal. Two years earlier, cartel boss **Teo Zaldivar** murdered Oscar's pregnant wife and research partner, during a confrontation at the excavation site.

Working with archaeologist **Geraldine Romano** and local researcher **Jose Diaz**, Oscar discovers an unusual sarcophagus containing a humanoid skeleton and an inexplicable metallic key. Ground-penetrating scans reveal something even more extraordinary beneath the temple: a massive geometric structure resting on landing gear.

It is a spacecraft.

The key opens a hatch into a cockpit covered with strange glyphs. Laboratory analysis of biological and material samples produces impossible results, triggering the attention of U.S. intelligence. Government agents descend on the region just as Teo learns that Oscar has discovered something far more valuable than ordinary antiquities.

Teo kidnaps Jose's son, Guerro, and threatens to kill him unless Jose delivers the key. Caught between protecting his family and betraying his friends, Jose becomes trapped in Teo's scheme while Geraldine begins to suspect that something is wrong.

Meanwhile, Oscar turns to a Mayan shaman for help understanding visions connected to Chara and the spacecraft.

Through a hallucinogenic ritual based upon nine levels of Mayan spiritual awareness, Oscar confronts manifestations of King Pakal, death, fear, and his own grief. He emerges believing the spacecraft cannot simply be operated mechanically. Its pilot must achieve a mental and spiritual alignment with the machine.

As government agents and Teo’s cartel converge on the excavation, Oscar, Geraldine, and Jose devise a desperate plan. Geraldine and Jose use a false artifact to lure the agents away from the temple, sending them directly into Teo’s approaching convoy. The deception erupts into a violent firefight while Geraldine and Jose rescue Guerro.

Oscar returns to the buried spacecraft with the real key.

Using the shaman’s potion and clues hidden within Pakal’s imagery, Oscar positions himself inside the cockpit and finally understands the secret: the ancient symbols are not merely religious representations. They are instructions.

The spacecraft awakens.

It tears free from beneath the temple and carries Oscar across the stars to a distant world with three moons, where an advanced Mayan civilization has flourished for centuries. There, Oscar discovers that the ancient visitor to Earth was part of a larger mission—and that humanity's contact with extraterrestrial civilizations extends far beyond the Maya.

One year later, Geraldine and Jose attend a memorial for the presumed-dead Oscar. A familiar artifact mysteriously appears at his grave.

Inside their waiting limousine, they discover Oscar alive.

He has returned with an extraordinary revelation: the spacecraft's original pilot was sent to help humanity discover evidence left on Earth by other extraterrestrial civilizations. Pakal's secret was never simply the existence of one ancient spacecraft.

It was the beginning of a map to humanity's forgotten past.

Oscar intends to continue the mission and he needs a team.