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# IL MANOSCRITTO DI VOYNICH



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# Voynich Manuscript

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## **The story of an enigma, from its fifteenth-century origins to the era of artificial intelligence.**

*"The greatest unsolved puzzle in cryptography."* This is how a book of approximately two hundred and forty pages has been described, written in a language no one can read, illustrated with nonexistent plants and women bathing in impossibly green rivers. For over six hundred years, it has resisted every attempt at interpretation. This is its biography.

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# Prologue: The book that cannot be read

There exists, preserved in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University under the bureaucratic and almost disappointing label of *MS 408*, an object that has the extraordinary ability to humiliate anyone who studies it. It is a parchment manuscript, modest in size—little larger than a modern paperback—filled with elegant, flowing script, written by a confident hand that never hesitates, never corrects, never second-guesses. The problem is both simple and profound: **no one, in over a century of systematic study and over three and a half centuries of documented curiosity, has managed to read a single word.**

It's not a lost language like Etruscan, whose alphabet we at least know. It's not an undeciphered writing system like Linear A, of which we possess thousands of inscriptions and archaeological contexts. Voynich is something different and more disturbing: a seemingly coherent text, endowed with...

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