

# Sacramento Book Review



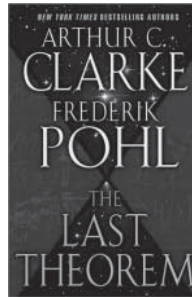
Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

## **The Last Theorem**

*By Arthur C. Clarke and Frederik Pohl*

*Del Rey, \$27.00, 320 pages*

It's hard to give a poor review to a truly great author—or authors, in this case. Especially when one of them just died. *The Last Theorem* is about a Sri Lankan teenage math prodigy (Ranjit Subramanian) who solves Fermat's famous last theorem. At the same time, the alien Grand Galactics have been attracted to Earth by our nuclear explosions and have decided that we are a threat to the universe and need to be exterminated. Under this threat, humanity rises to the challenge, finding new ways to manage international problems, engaging in cooperative projects for the good of humanity, and Ranjit engages in ongoing negotiations with the Galactics to spare the humanity.



The book, itself, is fairly boring, with more math than necessary to move the story and expository material that gets in the way more than it helps. It is also quite preachy in its depiction of how to fix the world's problems. The depiction of Sri Lanka does show Clarke's love of his adopted country, but that just doesn't provide salvation to the book.