

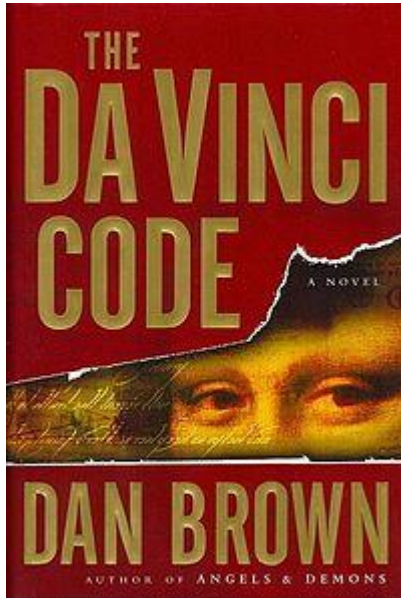
# *The Da Vinci Code*

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This article is about the novel. For other uses, see [The Da Vinci Code \(disambiguation\)](#).

## *The Da Vinci Code*



First U.S. edition cover

<b>Author(s)</b>	<a href="#">Dan Brown</a>
<b>Country</b>	<a href="#">United States</a> <a href="#">United Kingdom</a>
<b>Genre(s)</b>	<a href="#">Mystery</a> , <a href="#">detective fiction</a> , <a href="#">conspiracy fiction</a> , <a href="#">thriller</a> <a href="#">Doubleday Group</a> ( <a href="#">United States</a> )
<b>Publisher</b>	Transworld Publishers, UK  <a href="#">Bantam Books</a> ( <a href="#">United Kingdom</a> )
<b>Pages</b>	454 (U.S. hardback) 489 (U.S. paperback) 359 (UK hardback) 583 (UK paperback)
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<b><a href="#">OCLC Number</a></b>	<a href="#">50920659</a>
<b><a href="#">Dewey Decimal</a></b>	813/.54 21
<b><a href="#">LC Classification</a></b>	PS3552.R685434 D3 2003
<b>Preceded by</b>	<a href="#">Angels &amp; Demons</a>

Followed by *[The Lost Symbol](#)*

*The Da Vinci Code* is a 2003 [mystery-detective novel](#) written by [Dan Brown](#). It follows [symbolologist Robert Langdon](#) and [Sophie Neveu](#) as they investigate a murder in [Paris's Louvre Museum](#) and discover a battle between the [Priory of Sion](#) and [Opus Dei](#) over the possibility of [Jesus](#) having been married to [Mary Magdalene](#). The title of the novel refers to, among other things, the fact that the murder victim is found in the Grand Gallery of the Louvre, naked and posed like [Leonardo da Vinci's](#) famous drawing, the [Vitruvian Man](#), with a cryptic message written beside his body and a [pentacle](#) drawn on his chest in his own blood.

The novel is part of the exploration of alternative religious history, whose central plot point is that the [Merovingian kings of France](#) were descendants from the bloodline of [Jesus Christ](#) and [Mary Magdalene](#), ideas derived from Clive Prince's *[The Templar Revelation](#)* and books by Margaret Starbird. Chapter 60 of the book also references another book, *[The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail](#)* though Dan Brown has stated that this was not used as research material.

The book has provoked a popular interest in speculation concerning the [Holy Grail](#) legend and Magdalene's role in the [history of Christianity](#). The book has been extensively denounced by many [Christian denominations](#) as an attack on the [Roman Catholic Church](#). It has also been consistently criticized for [its historical and scientific inaccuracies](#). The novel nonetheless became a worldwide [bestseller](#) that sold 80 million copies as of 2009<sup>[1]</sup> and has been translated into 44 languages. Combining the detective, [thriller](#), and [conspiracy fiction](#) genres, it is Brown's second novel to include the character [Robert Langdon](#), the first being his 2000 novel *[Angels & Demons](#)*. In November 2004, [Random House](#) published a Special Illustrated Edition with 160 illustrations. In 2006, a [film adaptation](#) was released by [Sony's Columbia Pictures](#).

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## Plot summary

[Louvre](#) curator and [Priory of Sion](#) Grand Master Jacques Saunière is fatally shot one night at the museum by a man named Silas, who is working on behalf of someone known only as the Teacher, who wishes to discover the location of the "keystone," an item crucial to the search for the [Holy Grail](#). After Saunière's body is discovered in the pose of the [Vitruvian Man](#), the police summon [Harvard](#) Professor Robert Langdon, who is in town on business. Police Captain Bezu Fache tells him that he was summoned to help the police decode the cryptic message Saunière left during the final minutes of his life. The note also includes a [Fibonacci sequence](#), left as a code. Langdon explains to Fache that Saunière was a leading authority in the subject of goddess artwork and that the pentacle Saunière drew in his own blood represents an allusion to the goddess and not "devil worship", as Fache believes.

A police [cryptographer](#), [Sophie Neveu](#) secretly explains to Langdon she is Saunière's estranged granddaughter, and that Fache thinks Langdon is the murderer, because of the note her grandfather left saying to "find Robert Langdon," which she says Fache had erased prior to Langdon's arrival. Sophie is troubled by memories of her grandfather's involvement in a secret pagan group. However, she understands that her grandfather intended Langdon to decipher the code, which she and Langdon realize leads them to a safe deposit box at the Paris branch of the Depository Bank of Zurich, which Sophie and Langdon go to after escaping the police. In the safe deposit box they find the keystone: a [cryptex](#), a cylindrical, hand-held vault with five concentric, rotating dials labeled with letters that when lined up properly form the correct password, unlocking the device. If the cryptex is forced open, an enclosed vial of vinegar ruptures and dissolves the message, which was written on papyrus. The box containing the cryptex contains clues to its password.

Langdon and Neveu take the keystone to Langdon's friend, Sir Leigh Teabing, an expert on the Holy Grail. There, Teabing explains that the Grail is not a cup, but the tomb containing the bones of Mary Magdalene. The group then flees the country in Teabing's private plane, on which they conclude that the proper combination of letters spell out Sophie's given name, "SOFIA." Opening the cryptex, they discover a smaller cryptex inside it, along with another riddle that ultimately leads the trio to the tomb of [Isaac Newton](#) at [Westminster Abbey](#).

During the flight to Britain, Sophie reveals the source of her estrangement from her grandfather, ten years earlier. Arriving home unexpectedly from college, Sophie secretly witnesses a spring fertility rite conducted in the basement of her grandfather's country estate. From her hiding place, she is shocked to see her grandfather making love to a woman at the center of a ritual attended by men and women who are wearing masks and chanting praise to the goddess. She flees the house and breaks off all contact with Saunière. Langdon explains that what she witnessed was an ancient ceremony known as [Hieros gamos](#) or "sacred marriage".

By the time they arrive at [Westminster Abbey](#), Teabing is revealed to be the Teacher for whom Silas is working. Teabing wishes to use the Holy Grail, which he believes is a series of documents establishing that [Jesus Christ](#) married [Mary Magdalene](#) and bore children, in order to ruin the [Vatican](#). He compels Langdon at gunpoint to solve the second cryptex's password,

which Langdon realizes is "APPLE." Langdon secretly opens the cryptex and removes its contents before destroying it in front of Teabing. Teabing is arrested by Fache, who by now knows that Langdon was innocent. Bishop Aringarosa, realizing that Silas has been used to murder innocent people rushes to help the police find him. Silas is found hiding in an Opus Dei Center, when he realizes that the police have found him, which causes him to rush out and accidentally shoot Bishop Aringarosa. Bishop Aringarosa survives but is informed that Silas was found dead later, apparently by suicide.

The final message inside the second keystone leads Sophie and Langdon to [Rosslyn Chapel](#), whose docent turns out to be Sophie's long-lost brother, whom Sophie had been told died as a child in the car accident that killed her parents. The guardian of Rosslyn Chapel, Marie Chauvel, is Sophie's long-lost grandmother, and the widow of Jacques Saunière. It is revealed that Sophie is a descendant of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. The Priory of Sion hid her identity to protect her from possible threats to her life.

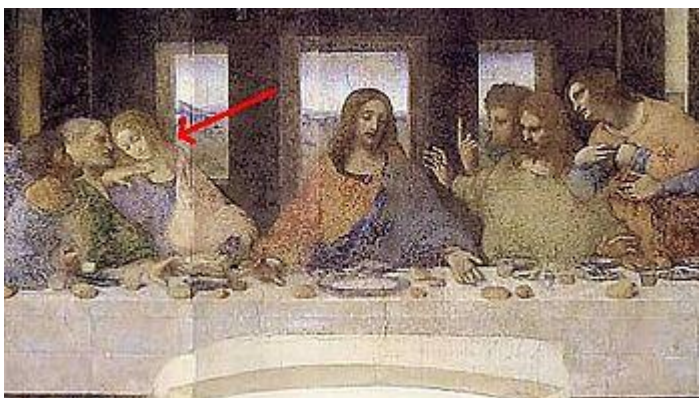
The real meaning of the last message is that the [Grail](#) is buried beneath the small [pyramid](#) directly below the [inverted glass pyramid](#) of the [Louvre](#). It also lies beneath the "Rose Line," an allusion to "Roslyn." Langdon figures out this final piece to the puzzle in the last pages of the book, but he does not appear inclined to tell anyone about this.

## Characters

Main article: [List of The Da Vinci Code characters](#)

- [Robert Langdon](#)
- Jacques Saunière
- Sophie Neveu
- Bezu Fache
- Silas
- Manuel Aringarosa
- Sister Sandrine
- André Vernet
- Leigh Teabing
- Rémy Legaludec
- Jérôme Collet
- Marie Chauvel Saint-Clair
- Pamela Gettum

## Secret of the Holy Grail



Detail of [The Last Supper](#) by [Leonardo da Vinci](#)

In the novel Leigh Teabing explains to [Sophie Neveu](#) that the figure at the right hand of [Jesus](#) in Leonardo da Vinci's painting of "[The Last Supper](#)" is not the [apostle John](#), but actually [Mary Magdalene](#). Leigh Teabing says that the absence of a [chalice](#) in Leonardo's painting means Leonardo knew that Mary Magdalene was the actual [Holy Grail](#) and the bearer of Jesus' blood. Leigh Teabing goes on to explain that this idea is supported by the shape of the letter "V" that is formed by the bodily positions of Jesus and Mary, as "V" is the symbol for the [sacred feminine](#). The absence of the Apostle John in the painting is explained by knowing that John is also referred to as "[the Disciple Jesus loved](#)", [code](#) for [Mary Magdalene](#). The book also notes that the [color scheme](#) of their garments are inverted: Jesus wears a red tunic with [royal blue](#) cloak; John/Magdalene wears the opposite.

According to the novel, the secrets of the [Holy Grail](#), as kept by the [Priory of Sion](#) are as follows:

- The Holy Grail is not a physical chalice, but a woman, namely [Mary Magdalene](#), who carried the [bloodline of Christ](#).
- The [Old French](#) expression for the Holy Grail, *San gréal*, actually is a play on *Sang réal*, which literally means "royal blood" in Old French.
- The Grail relics consist of the documents that testify to the bloodline, as well as the actual bones of [Mary Magdalene](#).
- The Grail relics of [Mary Magdalene](#) were hidden by the [Priory of Sion](#) in a secret crypt, perhaps beneath [Rosslyn Chapel](#).
- The Church has suppressed the truth about Mary Magdalene and the Jesus bloodline for 2000 years. This is principally because they fear the power of the [sacred feminine](#) in and of itself and because this would challenge the primacy of [Saint Peter](#) as an apostle.
- [Mary Magdalene](#) was of [royal descent](#) (through the Jewish [House of Benjamin](#)) and was the wife of [Jesus](#), of the [House of David](#). That she was a [prostitute](#) was [slander](#) invented by the [Church](#) to obscure their true relationship. At the time of the [Crucifixion](#), she was pregnant. After the Crucifixion, she fled to [Gaul](#), where she was sheltered by the [Jews](#) of [Marseille](#). She gave birth to a daughter, named [Sarah](#). The bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene became the [Merovingian](#) dynasty of [France](#).
- The existence of the bloodline was the secret that was contained in the documents discovered by the [Crusaders](#) after they conquered [Jerusalem](#) in 1099 (see [Kingdom of Jerusalem](#)). The [Priory of Sion](#) and the [Knights Templar](#) were organized to keep the secret.

The secrets of the Grail are connected, according to the novel, to [Leonardo Da Vinci's](#) work as follows:

- Leonardo was a member of the Priory of Sion and knew the secret of the Grail. The secret is in fact revealed in [The Last Supper](#), in which no actual chalice is present at the table. The figure seated next to [Christ](#) is not a man, but a woman, his wife [Mary Magdalene](#). Most reproductions of the work are from a later alteration that obscured her obvious female characteristics.
- The [androgyny](#) of the [Mona Lisa](#) reflects the sacred union of male and female implied in the holy union of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Such parity between the cosmic forces of masculine and feminine has long been a deep threat to the established power of the Church. The name *Mona Lisa* is actually an anagram for "Amon L'Isa",

referring to the father and mother gods of [Ancient Egyptian religion](#) (namely [Amun](#) and [Isis](#)).

## Reaction

### Sales

Brown's novel was a major success in 2004 and was outsold only by [J. K. Rowling's \*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix\*](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The book appeared on a 2010 list of 101 best books ever written, which was derived from a survey of more than 15,000 Australian readers.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Criticism

The book was not generally well received by critics, and it has been the subject of numerous negative appraisals concerning its literary value and its portrayal of history. Its writing and historical accuracy were reviewed scathingly by [The New Yorker](#),<sup>[4]</sup> [The New York Times](#),<sup>[5]</sup> and [Salon.com](#),<sup>[6]</sup> among others.

### Historical inaccuracies

Main article: [Inaccuracies in The Da Vinci Code](#)

The book generated criticism when it was first published for inaccurate description of core aspects of Christianity, the history of the [Catholic Church](#), and descriptions of [European art](#), history, and architecture. The book has received mostly negative reviews from Catholic and other Christian communities.

Many critics took issue with the level of research Brown did when writing the story. [New York Times](#) writer Laura Miller characterized the novel as "based on a notorious hoax", "rank nonsense", and "bogus", saying the book is heavily based on the fabrications of [Pierre Plantard](#), who is asserted to have created the Priory of Sion in 1956.

Critics accuse Brown of distorting and fabricating history. For example, Marcia Ford wrote:

Regardless of whether you agree with Brown's conclusions, it's clear that his history is largely fanciful, which means he and his publisher have violated a long-held if unspoken agreement with the reader: Fiction that purports to present historical facts should be researched as carefully as a nonfiction book would be.<sup>[7]</sup>

[Richard Abanes](#) wrote:

The most flagrant aspect ... is not that Dan Brown disagrees with Christianity but that he utterly warps it in order to disagree with it ... to the point of completely rewriting a vast number of historical events. And making the matter worse has been Brown's willingness to pass off his distortions as 'facts' with which innumerable scholars and historians agree.<sup>[7]</sup>

The book opens with the claim by Dan Brown that "The Priory of Sion — a European [secret society](#) founded in 1099 — is a real organization". This assertion is broadly disputed. Some critics claim that the [Priory of Sion](#) was a hoax created in 1956 by [Pierre Plantard](#). The author



also claims that "all descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents ... and secret rituals in this novel are accurate", but this claim is disputed by numerous academic scholars expert in numerous areas.<sup>[8]</sup>

Dan Brown himself addresses the idea of some of the more controversial aspects being fact on his web site, stating that the "FACT" page at the beginning of the novel mentions only "documents, rituals, organization, artwork and architecture", but not any of the ancient theories discussed by [fictional characters](#), stating that "Interpreting those ideas is left to the reader". Brown also says, "It is my belief that some of the theories discussed by these characters may have merit." and "the secret behind The Da Vinci Code was too well documented and significant for me to dismiss."<sup>[9]</sup>

In 2003, while promoting the novel, Brown was asked in interviews what parts of the history in his novel actually happened. He replied "Absolutely all of it." In a 2003 interview with CNN's [Martin Savidge](#) he was again asked how much of the historical background was true. He replied, "99% is true ... the background is all true". Asked by [Elizabeth Vargas](#) in an [ABC News](#) special if the book would have been different if he had written it as [non-fiction](#) he replied, "I don't think it would have."<sup>[10]</sup>

In 2005, UK TV personality [Tony Robinson](#) edited and narrated a detailed rebuttal of the main arguments of Dan Brown and those of Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln, who authored the book [Holy Blood, Holy Grail](#), in the programme *The Real Da Vinci Code*, shown on [British TV Channel 4](#). The program featured lengthy interviews with many of the main protagonists cited by Brown as "absolute fact" in *The Da Vinci Code*. Arnaud de Sède, son of [Gérard de Sède](#), stated categorically that his father and Plantard had made up the existence of the [Prieuré de Sion](#), the cornerstone of the [Jesus bloodline](#) theory - to quote Arnaud de Sede in the program, "frankly, it was piffle". The program also cast severe doubt on the [Rosslyn Chapel](#) association with the Grail and on other related stories, such as the alleged landing of [Mary Magdalene](#) in France.

According to *The Da Vinci Code*, the [Roman Emperor Constantine I](#) suppressed [Gnosticism](#) because it portrayed Jesus as purely human. The novel's argument is as follows.<sup>[11]</sup> Constantine wanted Christianity to act as a unifying religion for the [Roman Empire](#). He thought Christianity would appeal to [pagans](#) only if it featured a [demigod](#) similar to pagan heroes. According to the [Gnostic Gospels](#), Jesus was merely a human prophet, not a demigod. Therefore, to change Jesus' image, Constantine destroyed the [Gnostic Gospels](#) and promoted the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which portray Jesus as divine or semidivine.

According to Tim O'Neill, Gnosticism did not portray Jesus as merely human.<sup>[12]</sup> All Gnostic writings depict Christ as purely divine, his [human body](#) being a mere illusion (see [Docetism](#)).<sup>[13]</sup> Some Gnostic sects saw Christ this way because they regarded matter as evil, and therefore believed that a divine spirit would never have taken on a material body.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Literary criticism

The novel has also attracted criticism in literary circles regarding artistic and literary merit, and its representation of British and French characters.

[Salman Rushdie](#) claimed during a lecture, "Do not start me on 'The Da Vinci Code,' A novel so bad that it gives bad novels a bad name."<sup>[14]</sup>

In an interview in [The Paris Review](#), [Umberto Eco](#), whose novel [Foucault's Pendulum](#) has been compared favourably to *The Da Vinci Code*, remarked, "Dan Brown is a character from Foucault's Pendulum! I invented him. He shares my characters' fascinations—the world conspiracy of Rosicrucians, Masons, and Jesuits. The role of the Knights Templar. The hermetic secret. The principle that everything is connected. I suspect Dan Brown might not even exist."<sup>[15]</sup>

[Stephen Fry](#) has referred to Brown's writings as "complete loose stool-water" and "arse gravy of the worst kind."<sup>[16]</sup> In a live chat on June 14, 2006, he clarified, "I just loathe all those book[s] about the [Holy Grail](#) and [Masons](#) and [Catholic](#) conspiracies and all that botty-dribble. I mean, there's so much more that's interesting and exciting in art and in history. It plays to the worst and laziest in humanity, the desire to think the worst of the past and the desire to feel superior to it in some fatuous way."<sup>[17]</sup>

[Stephen King](#) likened Dan Brown's work to "Jokes for the John," calling such literature the "intellectual equivalent of [Kraft Macaroni and Cheese](#)."<sup>[18]</sup> [The New York Times](#), while reviewing the movie based on the book, called the book "Dan Brown's best-selling primer on how not to write an English sentence".<sup>[19]</sup> [The New Yorker](#) reviewer [Anthony Lane](#) refers to it as "unmitigated junk" and decries "the crumbling coarseness of the style."<sup>[4]</sup> Linguist [Geoffrey Pullum](#) and others posted several entries critical of Dan Brown's writing, at [Language Log](#), calling Brown one of the "worst prose stylists in the history of literature" and saying Brown's "writing is not just bad; it is staggeringly, clumsily, thoughtlessly, almost ingeniously bad."<sup>[20]</sup> [Roger Ebert](#) described it as a "potboiler written with little grace and style," although he did say it did "supply an intriguing plot."<sup>[21]</sup> In his review of the film [National Treasure](#), whose plot also involves ancient conspiracies and treasure hunts, he wrote: "I should read a potboiler like *The Da Vinci Code* every once in a while, just to remind myself that life is too short to read books like *The Da Vinci Code*."<sup>[22]</sup>

## Lawsuits

Author [Lewis Perdue](#) alleged that Brown plagiarized from two of his novels, *The Da Vinci Legacy*, originally published in 1983, and *Daughter of God*, originally published in 2000. He sought to block distribution of the book and film. However, [Judge George Daniels](#) of the [US District Court in New York](#) ruled against Perdue in 2005, saying that "A reasonable average lay observer would not conclude that *The Da Vinci Code* is substantially similar to *Daughter of God*" and that "Any slightly similar elements are on the level of generalized or otherwise unprotectable ideas."<sup>[23]</sup> Perdue appealed, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the original decision, saying Mr. Perdue's arguments were "without merit".<sup>[24]</sup>

In early 2006, Baigent and Leigh filed suit against Brown's publishers, Random House. They alleged that significant portions of *The Da Vinci Code* were plagiarized from [Holy Blood, Holy Grail](#), violating their copyright.<sup>[25]</sup> Brown confirmed during the court case that he named the principle Grail expert of his story "Leigh Teabing", an anagram of "Baigent Leigh", after the two plaintiffs. In reply to the suggestion that Lincoln was also referenced, as he has medical problems resulting in a severe limp, like the character of Leigh Teabing, Brown stated he was unaware of Lincoln's illness and the correspondence was a coincidence.<sup>[26]</sup>

Because Baigent and Leigh had presented their conclusions as historical research, not as fiction, Justice Peter Smith, who presided over the trial, deemed that a novelist must be free



to use these ideas in a fictional context, and ruled against Baigent and Leigh. Smith also hid [his own secret code](#) in his written judgement, in the form of seemingly random italicized letters in the 71-page document, which apparently spell out a message. Smith indicated he would confirm the code if someone broke it.<sup>[27]</sup> Baigent and Leigh appealed, unsuccessfully, to the [Court of Appeal](#).<sup>[26]</sup>

In April 2006, Mikhail Anikin, a Russian scientist and art historian working as a senior researcher at the [Hermitage Museum](#) in [St. Petersburg](#), stated the intention to bring a lawsuit against Dan Brown, maintaining that he was the one who coined the phrase used as the book's title, and one of the ideas regarding the Mona Lisa used in its plot. Anikin interprets the Mona Lisa to be an Christian allegory consisting of two images, one of Jesus Christ that comprises the image's right half, one of the Virgin Mary that forms its left half. According to Anikin, he expressed this idea to a group of experts from the Museum of Houston during a 1988 [René Magritte](#) exhibit at the Hermitage, and when one of the Americans requested permission to pass it along to a friend, Anikin granted the request, on the condition that he be referenced in any book using his interpretation. Anikin eventually compiled his research into *Leonardo Da Vinci or Theology on Canvas*, a book published in 2000, but *The Da Vinci Code*, published three years later, makes no mention of Anikin, and instead asserts that the idea in question is a "well-known opinion of a number of scientists."<sup>[28][29]</sup>

## Parodies

- The book was parodied by [Adam Roberts](#) and Toby Clements with the books [The Va Dinci Cod](#), and [The Asti Spumante Code](#), respectively, both in 2005.
- A 2005 [telemovie](#) spin-off of the Australian television series [Kath & Kim](#) parodied the film version as [Da Kath and Kim Code](#) in 2005.
- The 2006 [BBC](#) programme [Dead Ringers](#) parodied *The Da Vinci Code*, calling it the "Da [Rolf Harris](#) Code".
- [South African political cartoonist Zapiro](#) published a 2006 book collection of his strips entitled *Da Zuma Code*, which parodies the former [deputy president Jacob Zuma](#).
- A 2006 independent film named [The Norman Rockwell Code](#) parodied the book and film. Instead of that of a curator in the Louvre, the murder is that of a curator at the [Norman Rockwell Museum](#) in [Stockbridge, Massachusetts](#).
- [The DiCaprio Code](#), a 2006, seven-part animated series by [Movies.com](#) and Scrapmatron.
- The book was parodied in the 2007 [South Park](#) episode "[Fantastic Easter Special](#)" and [Robert Rankin](#)'s novel *The Da-da-de-da-da Code*.
- The characters Lucy and Silas are parodied in the 2007 film [Epic Movie](#), which begins with a scene similar to the opening of *The Da Vinci Code*, with Silas chasing the orphan Lucy.
- *Szyfr Jana Matejki* ([Jan Matejko's Cipher](#)) is a 2007 Polish parody by [Dariusz Rekosz](#). A sequel, *Ko(s)miczna futryna: Szyfr Jana Matejki II (Co[s]mic Door-frame: Jan Matejko's Cipher II)*, was released in 2008. The main character is inspector Józef Świenty, who tries to solve The Greatest Secret of Mankind (*Największa Tajemnica Ludzkości*) - parentage of [Piast dynasty](#).
- The book was parodied in the 2008 [American Dad!](#) episode "Black Mystery Month", in which [Stan Smith](#) searches for the controversial truth that [Mary Todd Lincoln](#) invented peanut butter.

- In 2008, it was parodied in the second series of [That Mitchell and Webb Look](#) as "The Numberwang Code", a trailer for a [fictional film](#) based on a recurring sketch on the show.
- The book's plot is parodied in "[The Duh-Vinci Code](#)", an episode of the animated TV series [Futurama](#).
- The book was parodied in the [Mad](#) episode "The Da Grinchy Code/Duck," in which the greatest movie minds try to solve the mystery of the [Grinch](#).

## Release details

The book has been translated into over 40 languages, primarily hardcover.<sup>[30]</sup>

In reference to [Richard Leigh](#) and Michael Baigent, two of the authors of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, Brown named the principal Grail expert of his story "Leigh Teabing", an anagram of "Baigent Leigh". Brown confirmed this during the court case. In reply to the suggestion that Lincoln was also referenced, as he has medical problems resulting in a severe limp, like the character of Leigh Teabing, Brown stated he was unaware of Lincoln's illness and the correspondence was a coincidence. After losing before the [High Court](#) on July 12, 2006, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh appealed, unsuccessfully, to the [Court of Appeal](#).<sup>[31][32]</sup>

Following the trial, it was found that the publicity had actually significantly boosted UK sales of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*.<sup>[33]</sup>

Major English-language (hardcover) editions include:

- (US) *The Da Vinci Code*, April 2003 (First edition), Doubleday, [ISBN 0-385-50420-9](#).
- *The Da Vinci Code, Special Illustrated Edition*, November 2, 2004, Doubleday, [ISBN 0-385-51375-5](#) (as of January 2006, has sold 576,000 copies).
- (UK) *The Da Vinci Code*, April 2004, Corgi Adult. [ISBN 0-552-14951-9](#).
- (UK) *The Da Vinci Code: The Illustrated Edition*, October 2, 2004, Bantam Press. [ISBN 0-593-05425-3](#).
- (US/Canada) *The Da Vinci Code* (Trade Paperback edition), March 2006, Anchor Books.
- On March 28, 2006, Anchor Books released 5 million paperback copies of the book, and Broadway Books released 200,000 paperback copies of *The Da Vinci Code Special Illustrated Edition*.
- On May 19, the day of the film's release, Doubleday and Broadway Books released *The Da Vinci Code Illustrated Screenplay: Behind the Scenes of the Major Motion Picture*, by [screenwriter Akiva Goldsman](#), with the introductions by Ron Howard and Dan Brown. It included film stills, behind-the-scenes photos and the full script. There were 25,000 copies of the hardcover, and 200,000 of the paperback version.<sup>[34]</sup>

## Puzzles

### Book jacket



This unreferenced section requires [citations](#) to ensure [verifiability](#).

Part of the [advertising campaign](#) for the novel was that the artwork in the American version of the bookjacket held various [codes](#), and that the reader who solved them via the author's website would be given a prize. Several thousand people actually solved the codes, and one name was randomly chosen to be the winner, with the name announced on [live television](#), [Good Morning America](#), in early 2004. The prize was a trip to Paris.

The five hidden puzzles reveal:

- That the back of the book jacket conceals [latitude](#) and [longitude](#) coordinates, written in reverse, [light red](#) on dark red. Adding one degree to the latitude gives the coordinates of the headquarters of the [Central Intelligence Agency](#) in [Northern Virginia](#), which is the location of a mysterious sculpture called [Kryptos](#). The coordinates were taken from part of the decrypted text of part 2 of the sculpture (part 4 has never been solved). When asked why the coordinates are one degree off, Brown's reply has been, "The discrepancy is intentional".
- Bold letters are present on the book jacket. There is a secret message hidden in the text of the book flaps. The message: Is there no help for the widow's son (a reference to [Freemasonry](#)).
- The words "only WW knows" can be seen on the back cover. It is a phrase printed invertedly, in the torn part of the [book cover](#). This too is a reference to part 2 of the *Kryptos* sculpture.<sup>[35]</sup>
- A circle with numbers, between the [Doubleday](#) logo and the barcode, reveals a secret message. These are the chapter numbers where the initial letters are arranged in [Caesar box](#) format, revealing the code "E Pluribus Unum".
- There is reverse writing on the cover of the book, which is the riddle for the first cryptex.

Brown, both via his website and in person, has stated that the puzzles in the bookjacket give hints about the subject of his next novel, [The Lost Symbol](#). This repeats a theme from his earlier novels. For example, [Deception Point](#) had an encrypted message that, when solved, said, "*The Da Vinci Code will surface*".

In the [simplified Chinese](#) version of *The Da Vinci Code*, the cover has a secret text; however, this text can be easily seen. It reads: "13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5 O, Draconian devil! Oh, Lame Saint! P.S. Find Robert Langdon." This is the multiply encrypted clue written in [invisible ink](#) next to the dead body in the museum, which kicks off the plot of the entire novel.

## Pages

All of the puzzles listed below can be found within the page headers in the Mass Market US Paperback edition of *The Da Vinci Code*.

- Page 60: "Ankh Fendile" (anagram of "knife handle") in place of "Dan Brown"
- Page 95: "De Lants" (anagram of "candles") in place of "Da Vinci"
- Page 138: "Das Brilli" (anagram of "billiards") in place of "Dan Brown"
- Page 141: "La Sufrete" (anagram of "true/false") in place of "Da Vinci"

- Page 155: "[sos](#)" in place of page number
- Page 192: "Reon Tigaldo" (anagram of "[Golden Ratio](#)") in place of "Dan Brown"
- Page 217: "De Ysossy" (anagram of "odyssey") in place of "Da Vinci"
- Page 262: "Mer Reve" (anagram of "[Vermeer](#)") in place of "Dan Brown"
- Page 322: page number replaced by three [asterisks](#)

## Film

Main article: [The Da Vinci Code \(film\)](#)

[Columbia Pictures](#) adapted the novel to [film](#), with a [screenplay](#) written by [Akiva Goldsman](#), and [Academy Award](#) winner [Ron Howard](#) directing. The film was released on May 19, 2006, and stars [Tom Hanks](#) as [Robert Langdon](#), [Audrey Tautou](#) as [Sophie Neveu](#), and Sir [Ian McKellen](#) as Leigh Teabing. The film had an opening weekend gross of \$77,073,388 and grossed \$217,536,138 in 2006, making it the fifth highest grossing movie of 2006. The film did very well overseas, grossing over \$758,239,852 worldwide. On November 14, 2006 the movie was released on [DVD](#).

## See also



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