

APPENDICES

1. Dan Brown's Biography



Dan Brown (born June 22, 1964) is an American author of thriller fiction. Brown was born and raised in Exeter, New Hampshire, the oldest of three children. His mother Constance (Connie) was a professional musician, playing organ at church. Brown's father Richard G. Brown taught high school mathematics at Phillips Exeter Academy from 1962 until his retirement in 1997. Richard was a prominent mathematician. He wrote the bestselling mathematics textbook *Advanced Mathematics: Precalculus with Discrete Mathematics and Data Analysis*, and had been offered a job to work at the National Security Agency, but declined because he did not want to move his family out of New Hampshire. Richard was also chosen by President George H.W. Bush to receive the "Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching". Phillips Exeter Academy is an exclusive boarding school, which required new teachers to live on campus for several years, so Brown and his siblings were literally raised at the school. The social environment was

mostly Christian. Brown sang in the church choir, attended Sunday school, and spent summers at church camp. His own schooling was at public schools in Exeter until the 9th grade, at which time he enrolled in Phillips Exeter, as did his younger siblings Valerie and Gregory when it became their turn.

After graduating from Phillips Exeter in 1982, Brown attended Amherst College, where he was a member of Psi Upsilon Fraternity. During his Junior year at Amherst, Brown went to Europe to study art history at the University of Seville in Spain, which is where he first began seriously studying the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. Brown graduated from Amherst in 1986, and then played around with music for awhile, creating effects with synthesizer music, and self-producing a cassette entitled SynthAnimals which included a collection of tracks such as "Happy Frogs" and "Suzuki Elephants." He formed his own (vanity) record company called Dalliance, and in 1990 self-published a CD entitled Perspective, targeted to the adult market, which sold a few hundred copies.

In 1991 he moved to Hollywood to pursue a career as singer-songwriter and pianist. To support himself, he taught Spanish classes at Beverly Hills Preparatory School. While in Los Angeles he joined the National Academy of Songwriters, and participated in many of its events. It was there that he met Blythe Newlon, a woman 12 years his senior, who was the Academy's director of artistic development. Though not officially part of her job, she took on the seemingly unusual task of helping to promote Brown's projects -- she wrote press releases, set up promotional events, and put him in contact with individuals who could be helpful to his career. She and

Brown also developed a personal relationship, though this was not known to all of their associates until 1993, when Brown moved back to New Hampshire, and it was learned that Blythe would be accompanying him. They later married, at a location near North Conway, New Hampshire. Along with helping his singing career, Blythe has also been a major influence on Brown's career as an author, as she assists with much of the promotion involved with his books. She co-wrote both of his early "humor" books, which were written under pseudonyms, and there is speculation that she may have helped with other books as well. In the Acknowledgement for *Deception Point*, Brown thanked "Blythe Brown for her tireless research and creative input." In interviews, Brown says that his wife is an "art historian" and "painter", though there is no record of her having worked professionally in this capacity, aside from her assistance with the book research.

Brown and Blythe moved to his hometown in New Hampshire in 1993. Brown became an English teacher at his alma mater Phillips Exeter, and gave Spanish classes to 7th graders at Lincoln Akerman School, a small school for K-8th grade with about 250 students, in Hampton Falls. Also in 1994, while on holiday in Tahiti, he read Sidney Sheldon's novel *The Doomsday Conspiracy*, and decided that he could do better. He started work on *Digital Fortress*, and also co-wrote a humor book with his wife, *187 Men to Avoid: A Guide for the Romantically Frustrated Woman*, under the pseudonym "Danielle Brown" (one of the 187 items in the book was "Men who write self-help books for women"). The author description on the book said, "Danielle Brown currently lives in New England: teaching school, writing books, and

avoiding men." The copyright, however, is listed as "Dan Brown". It sold a few thousand copies before going out of print. Digital Fortress was published in 1998. Blythe did much of the book's promotion, writing press releases, booking Brown on talk shows, and setting up press interviews. A few months later, Brown and his wife released *The Bald Book*, another humor book. It was officially credited to his wife, though a representative of the publisher said that it was primarily written by Brown.

In 1996, Brown quit teaching to become a full-time writer. His first three novels had mediocre success, but the fourth novel, *The Da Vinci Code* became a runaway bestseller, going to the top of the New York Times Best Seller list during its first week of release in 2003. It is now credited with being one of the most popular books of all time, and as of 2005, has sold more than 25 million copies (mostly in hardcover) around the world. Its success has helped push sales of Brown's earlier books. In 2004, all four of his novels were on the New York Times list in the same week, and in 2005, he made Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the year. Forbes magazine placed Brown at #12 on their 2005 "Celebrity 100" list, and estimated his annual income at \$76.5 million USD. Brown is interested in cryptography, keys, and codes, which are a recurring theme in his stories. He is currently the most famous celebrity in New Hampshire, and his novels have been translated into more than 40 languages.

Brown is working on a new novel, called *The Solomon Key*, which will reportedly take place in Washington DC, and feature the secret society of the Freemasons. He says that he currently has outlines for at least 12 future books, one of

which involves a famous composer's "all factual" associations with a secret society. Speculation is that this may mean Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was also a Freemason.

2. Summary of the Novel

Symbologist Robert Langdon is thrown into a mysterious and bizarre murder. Alongside Langdon is the victim's granddaughter and cryptologist Sophie Neveu, who with Robert discovers clues within Da Vinci's paintings. To further find the truth, Robert and Sophie travel from Paris to London, whilst crossing paths with allies and villains such as Sir Leigh Teabing and Silas. Wherever their path takes them, there is a discovery which is about to be revealed could shake the foundations of mankind.

Professor Robert Langdon is in Paris on business when he's summoned to The Louvre. A dead body has been found, setting Langdon off on an adventure as he attempts to unravel an ancient code and uncover the greatest mystery of all time. The story tells the investigation started by symbolist Robert Langdon and a good-looking cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, around the murder of a Museum Louvre's curator. In fact, the unfortunate murdered man was Sophie's grandfather, and the corpse was found with a series of symbols and codes, like a pentagram and a Fibonacci number sequence. But police detective Fache will begin to chase Langdon, who escapes after receiving a warning about the captain's real intentions. Sophie has with her a kind of key with dots and number 24 engraved on it, which opens to her and Langdon a big complex investigation that involves a supposedly heretic theory: Jesus Christ and

Mary Magdalene were, in fact, a couple who produced a daughter named Sara. A millenarian sect called The Priory of Sion has kept for centuries the secret of that matter. A masochist and kind of psychopath albino monk, Sibilas, an Opus Dei member, will chase Langdon and Sophie as well, in order to impede that they solve the mystery of Christ and Mary Magdalene, and also the real meaning and location of the Holy Grail. A passionate British researcher, will help Langdon in his quest, revealing to them several symbolisms in Da Vinci's master work The Last Supper, traveling to mythical places in the UK, such as The Church Temple, where it is believed that a group of Templars Knights are buried, and Sir Isaac Newton's tomb at Westminster Abbey, where are located some of the main keys to solve the Holy Grail's mystery.

When respected American religious symbology expert Dr. Robert Langdon is summoned to the Louvre by the French version of the FBI, led by Captain BezuFache, he soon discovered that he is the #1 suspect for the murder of a historian Langdon had been scheduled to meet with.. Assisted by a French cryptographer and government agent named Sophie, Langdon is challenged to decipher a chain of cryptic codes and puzzles, all the while trying to stay ahead of Fische's lawmen in a chase through the Louvre, and out into the Parisian cityscape, and finally across the channel to England. Can Langdon and Sophie decipher the nature of a secret dating back to Leonardo Da Vinci and earlier before those responsible for the historian's murder add them to their hit list.

While in Paris on business, Harvard symbolist Robert Langdon is informed that the elderly curator of the Louvre has been murdered inside the museum. Near the body, police have found a baffling cipher. Solving the enigmatic riddle, Langdon is stunned to discover it leads to a trail of clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci - clues visible for all to see, and yet ingeniously disguised by the painter. Langdon joins forces with a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, and learns the late curator was involved in the Priory of Sion - an actual secret society. In a breathless race through Paris, London and beyond, Langdon and Neveu match wits with a faceless power broker who appears to work for Opus Dei - a clandestine, Vatican-sanctioned Catholic organization believed to have long plotted to seize the Priory's secret. Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle in time, the Priory's secret - and a stunning historical truth - will be lost forever.

And the concluding summary by plot synopsis is From the director of Ransom comes a darkly menacing adventure-thriller THE DA VINCI CODE. A murder in the Louvre prompts the Surete' to seek the help of codebreaker-ymbologist Professor Robert Langdon. Detective Captain Fache has already decided that Langdon is guilty, but questions him anyway. Agent Sophie Neveu rescues Langdon from his clutches, and they follow a trail of clues across Europe, pursued by Interpol because they are suspected of murders committed in fact by an assassin of the Opus Dei sect. Clues support hypothesis that the Priory of Sion/Knights Templar have guarded a secret for centuries that would undermine the authority of the Catholic/Christian Church if known, and the Church's mysterious agents are fast suppressing this ancient

knowledge by murdering the only survivors who have access to the knowledge. Sophie is finally revealed to be the last survivor of that knowledge, and is in fact the heir to the bloodline of Jesus Christ. The location of the body of Mary Magdalene is still a secret until the very last scene, where Langdon figures out she is buried under the newest additions to the Lourve.