

*The Da Vinci Code is a mystery thriller novel by Dan Brown. Many critics took issue with the level of research Brown did when writing the story.*

The Da Vinci Code: What is The Da Vinci Code? The Da Vinci Code is a novel by Dan Brown that has held one of the top two or three places on best-seller lists since early summer. More than 3 million copies ed: Sounds like an intriguing bit of lost history. Is the Holy Grail really the "sacred feminine? The idea of identifying it as the "sacred feminine" and tying it into a supposed bloodline emanating from a union of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is lifted whole cloth from the classic of inventive esoteric wackiness, Holy Blood, Holy Grail. Is the "Priory of Sion" a real group? Brown begins his book with a statement, under the title "Fact," that there are documents supporting the existence of the Priory in the Bibliotheque Nationale. These documents have long been understood to be forgeries, placed in the archives by an anti-Semitic supporter of the Vichy government named Pierre Plantard. First, the idea that Da Vinci used any kind of code pertaining to any issue Dan Brown raises is unsupported by art historians. Brown says that in this painting Da Vinci is telling us that the figure always identified as John the Evangelist is really Mary Magdalene, and that these two figures together form an "M," and that, because there is no grail in the picture, Da Vinci is telling us the "grail" is the sacred feminine of Mary Magdalene. Unfortunately for Brown, art historians tell us that the effeminate-looking John is quite a typical representation for the time, as is a Last Supper portrayal emphasizing betrayal rather than the institution of the Eucharist. In addition, the Last Supper is a dramatization of a scene from the Gospel of John, in which the institution narrative is not even described. In context, it makes sense. Who was Mary Magdalene according to the Scriptures? Mary Magdalene is mentioned 12 times in the Gospels. She was healed of demon possession by Jesus Luke 8: Her feast day is celebrated July Who was Mary Magdalene according to Dan Brown? But Mary Magdalene is honored as a saint in the Catholic Church. How is that "demonizing? What is true is that in the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great conflated the figures of Mary Magdalene, the penitent woman in Luke 7, and Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, saying that before her conversion, Mary had been a prostitute or adulteress. This has always been a disputed identification, however. Church Fathers from St. Thomas Aquinas have been undecided on the issue, and in the Eastern Church, the three are seen as distinct figures. This question has never been pushed underground, either, a Dan Brown claims. So, who is Dan Brown? He is a former English teacher who began full-time writing in His second novel, Angels and Demons, featured the Illuminati, a vial of anti-matter and a papal conclave. He holds no advanced degrees in religion. Gnosticism was a dualistic, esoteric mode of thinking that was widespread during the early Christian era, although its influence was not confined to Christianity. The Gnostic Gospels are works reflecting the Gnostic take on Christianity. Some have been known for centuries, but previously unknown works in the Nag Hammadi scrolls were discovered in Egypt in Some modern scholars and religious writers have seized upon various passages from the Gnostic Gospels as indicative of a competing, woman-centered element of early Christianity, especially a passage from The Gospel of Mary in which Jesus kisses Mary and the apostles express envy of His love for her. Brown works this thinking into his novel, but, like many others, ignores a deeply anti-woman passage from another Gnostic gospel, the Gospel of Thomas, in which Jesus says, "For every woman who will make herself male will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Its claims two gods, a belief that the created world was evil were simply inconsistent with the rule of faith, as it was called, handed down from the apostles. The canonical Gospels all date from the middle to late first century. The Gnostic gospels cannot be placed any earlier than the mid-second century. Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene married? The "historical record" to which Brown refers are those 20th-century conspiracy books, not early Christian historical records. When you read the Gospels and the letters of Paul, all of which date from the first century, you see a clear affirmation of Jesus as Lord. The Council of Nicaea in A. This was quickly becoming a popular belief and threatening the unity of Christianity. The Emperor Constantine, aware that disunity in Christianity threatened the empire, convened the Council. Traditional faith was re-articulated in the more precise, philosophical terms that the heresy demanded

and was accepted as the most faithful reading of the evidence about Jesus given to us in the Gospels. Brown indicates that the Gnostic Gospels were widely accepted in early Christianity and that Constantine ordered them destroyed. The process of discerning the authentic Gospels was a lengthy one, but it had already begun in the early second century. Some communities used various other Gospels, but second-century Church Fathers frequently cited the four Gospels as authoritative. Their criteria were apostolic origins and fidelity to the rule of faith, not gender issues. So, the whole "Mary vs. If that were so, why would they have the founder of their faith executed in manner reserved for the most shameful criminals? It also is dependent on the assumption that Peter and his "party" were all about power. For what purpose, we have to ask? Did they get rich from their "version" of Christianity? Were they celebrated in their culture? No, they all died as despised martyrs. The movie rights to The Da Vinci Code have been bought by Columbia, and Ron Howard is set to direct the film, probably to be released in Besides being logically and historically flawed, The Da Vinci Code is filled with more minor, but no less risible, errors. Here are a few: It happened under Theodosius 50 years later. Gothic architecture was not "masterminded" by the Knights Templar, a medieval military order that had nothing to do with the construction of Gothic cathedrals. The Church did not burn 5 million witches during the Middle Ages. During the period , an estimated 30,, people accused of witchcraft 20 percent of whom were men were executed by Catholic and Protestant institutions and governments. The facts behind the fiction of the bestselling novel the pamphlet you have just read by Amy Welborn is available in a package of 50 pamphlets here. The facts behind the fiction. This article is reprinted with permission from Amy Welborn. To subscribe to Our Sunday Visitor click here. She worked as a teacher in Catholic high schools, and a Parish Director of Religious Education and has been writing full time since Amy has written or edited nineteen books including Wish You Were Here: Truth, Legend, and Lies, Prove It! Jesus , Prove It! Church , and Prove It! Amy has five children, ranging in age from 29 to 7. On February 3, , Michael died while running on the treadmill at the gym. Travels Through Loss and Hope, is a memoir of those first few months, which included a sort of crazy decision to travel to Sicily. Visit her blog, Charlotte Was Both, here.

### Chapter 2 : The Da Vinci Code - Wikipedia

*Summaries. A murder inside the Louvre, and clues in Da Vinci paintings, lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years, which could shake the foundations of Christianity.*

Stone Phillips, Dateline correspondent: How important do you think she was to Jesus? Karen King, Harvard Divinity School professor: Few scholars doubt that Mary was an important follower, but there is another label that has stubbornly shadowed her through the ages -- prostitute. Was Mary Magdalene a prostitute? In no text in the New Testament is Mary Magdalene ever said to be an adulterer or a sinful woman. Why would he do that? Many believe he simply mixed her up with another Bible figure, an unnamed prostitute who appears just before Mary is introduced in the Book of Luke. But Pope Gregory the Great identified the two and said they were the same. And from that point on, in the 6th century, it came to be thought that Mary Magdalene must have been a prostitute. In December near the Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi, a peasant smashed open an earthenware jar and pulled out more than 50 ancient texts hidden since the 4th century. These texts have never been recognized by the church, but some scholars say they contain revealing new insights about Mary. We get these later Gospels that elaborate on these possibilities for what Jesus may have told Mary. And later tradition also sees her as someone who was a leader in the church. And that set of images, make for a strong figure. Not the shy, retiring, passive type? Not the shy retiring, passive type. I think most people will be surprised to hear that there is a gospel in which she is foremost among the Apostles. According to this Gospel, Mary was the disciple who understood. And to preach the Gospel.

### Chapter 3 : The Real Story: The Da Vinci Code | Smithsonian Channel

*The Da Vinci Code is a American mystery thriller film directed by Ron Howard, written by Akiva Goldsman, and based on Dan Brown's best-selling novel of the same name.*

Visit Website Did you know? Beginning around age 5, he lived on the estate in Vinci that belonged to the family of his father, Ser Peiro, an attorney and notary. Early Career Da Vinci received no formal education beyond basic reading, writing and math, but his father appreciated his artistic talent and apprenticed him at around age 15 to the noted sculptor and painter Andrea del Verrocchio, of Florence. For about a decade, da Vinci refined his painting and sculpting techniques and trained in mechanical arts. However, da Vinci never completed that piece, because shortly thereafter he relocated to Milan to work for the ruling Sforza clan, serving as an engineer, painter, architect, designer of court festivals and, most notably, a sculptor. The family asked da Vinci to create a magnificent foot-tall equestrian statue, in bronze, to honor dynasty founder Francesco Sforza. Da Vinci worked on the project on and off for 12 years, and in a clay model was ready to display. Imminent war, however, meant repurposing the bronze earmarked for the sculpture into cannons, and the clay model was destroyed in the conflict after the ruling Sforza duke fell from power in Its composition, in which Jesus is centered among yet isolated from the Apostles, has influenced generations of painters. When Milan was invaded by the French in and the Sforza family fled, da Vinci escaped as well, possibly first to Venice and then to Florence. In the past she was often thought to be Mona Lisa Gherardini, a courtesan, but current scholarship indicates that she was Lisa del Giocondo, wife of Florentine merchant Francisco del Giocondo. Today, the portraitâ€”the only da Vinci portrait from this period that survivesâ€”is housed at the Louvre Museum in Paris, France, where it attracts millions of visitors each year. Ironically, the victor over the Duke Ludovico Sforza, Gian Giacomo Trivulzio, commissioned da Vinci to sculpt his grand equestrian-statue tomb. It, too, was never completed this time because Trivulzio scaled back his plan. Da Vinci spent seven years in Milan, followed by three more in Rome after Milan once again became inhospitable because of political strife. He studied nature, mechanics, anatomy, physics, architecture, weaponry and more, often creating accurate, workable designs for machines like the bicycle, helicopter, submarine and military tank that would not come to fruition for centuries. He saw science and art as complementary rather than distinct disciplines, and thought that ideas formulated in one realm couldâ€”and shouldâ€”inform the other. Probably because of his abundance of diverse interests, da Vinci failed to complete a significant number of his paintings and projects. He spent a great deal of time immersing himself in nature, testing scientific laws, dissecting bodies human and animal and thinking and writing about his observations. The Codex Atlanticus, for instance, includes a plan for a foot mechanical bat, essentially a flying machine based on the physiology of the bat and on the principles of aeronautics and physics. He was buried nearby in the palace church of Saint-Florentin.

### Chapter 4 : The Da Vinci Code: The facts behind the fiction

*The Hollywood blockbuster "The Da Vinci Code" captivated audiences worldwide while outraging the Catholic Church. Its plot line, suggesting Jesus was married and fathered children, is presented as fact but how much of the movie is really true? Did da Vinci actually leave hidden clues in his.*

Brown prefaces his novel with a page titled "Fact" asserting that certain elements in the novel are true in reality, and a page at his website repeats these ideas and others. When we talk about da Vinci and your book, how much is true and how much is fabricated in your storyline? All of the architecture, the art, the secret rituals, the history, all of that is true, the Gnostic gospels. But the background is all true. How much of this is based on reality in terms of things that actually occurred? Absolutely all of it. Obviously, there are Robert Langdon is fictional, but all of the art, architecture, secret rituals, secret societies, all of that is historical fact. For example, a front-page article in The Independent on May 10, stated that Ruth Kelly, a senior British Government Minister, was questioned about her affiliations: Sandra Miesel and Carl E. Olson, writing in their book, The Da Vinci Hoax, state the fact that Magdala was located in northern Israel, whereas the tribe of Benjamin resided in the south. The authors also question why if Jesus were merely a "mortal prophet", as the novel suggests, a royal goddess would have any interest in him. I mean, what does that mean? Whatever weight is given to this tradition, however, there is no evidence that it was used to defame Mary, who was considered a saint to whose honor churches were built. Many textual and historical scholars have characterized this claim as being without evidence. For example, there are many mentions of women called "Mary", all designated differently any possible identification with each other notwithstanding. Mary Magdalene stands out from most of the other Marys as she is not directly associated with any man. Robinson, an authority on the gnostic gospels, has responded to this passage by pointing out that "companion" was not necessarily a sex-related term. In addition, "the Gospel of Philip is in Coptic, translated from Greek, so there is no word in the text for Aramaic scholars to consider. According to Religion Facts, the questions discussed by the Council were not whether he was divine, as the New Testament authors already believe that he was, but what his precise relationship to God was. In particular, the Council decided upon the question of whether Jesus was homoousios, "of one substance" with God the Father, or whether instead Jesus was the first created being, inferior to the Father but like him, but still superior to all other beings see Arianism, or whether he was merely of like substance to the father, or homoiousios. In fact, the Gnostic Jesus was less human than the Jesus of orthodox Christianity. While orthodox Christianity generally considered Christ both divine and human, many Gnostic sects considered Christ purely divine, his human body being a mere illusion see Docetism. Many Gnostics saw matter as evil, and believed that a divine spirit would never have taken on a material body. See Marcionism, Aeon, Archon. Early Christian devotion to female martyrs such as Perpetua and Felicity and the apocryphal writings about figures like St. Thecla seem to indicate that women did play a role in the early Church, far more than either Brown or some modern critics of Christianity acknowledge, though historical evidence does not suggest men and women shared all roles of office. Brown echoes scholars such as Joseph Campbell in saying this image of Mary derives from Isis and her child Horus. Judaism is and was a monotheistic religion, and belief in a goddess counterpart to God is both illogical and expressly forbidden. The term describes a spiritual radiance. Critics argue that this comes from an understanding of Kabbalah, which speaks of God as having "male" and "female" attributes in the Sephirot. The other known Gospels, for the most part, treat Jesus as more otherworldly and lack the humanizing detail of the Biblical accounts. The scrolls contain books of the Hebrew Scriptures, apocryphal and pseudepigraphic books, and manuals used by the Jewish community at Qumran. No definite Christian documents—orthodox, Gnostic, or otherwise—have ever been found at this site, [14] perhaps with the exception of 7Q5. In fact, there are no monks in Opus Dei, which has primarily lay membership and whose celibate lay members are called numeraries. But it may be explained by the fact that Silas is referred to as a monk mostly by the protagonists, Langdon and Neveu, who are shown to have little knowledge of Opus Dei. The word numerary is used to refer to Silas, by actual Opus Dei members such as the person at Opus Dei centre in London. Moreover, Opus Dei encourages its lay

members to avoid practices that are perceived as fundamentalist to the outside world. The term personal prelature does not refer to a special relationship to the Pope; it means an institution in which the jurisdiction of the prelate is not linked to a territory but over persons, wherever they be. Some members of Opus Dei do practice voluntary mortification of the flesh, which has been a Christian tradition since at least St. In real life, the head of Opus Dei is usually accompanied by two other priests called custodes or guardians. Decision making in Opus Dei is "collegial": Olson and Meisel respond that points of congruency can be found among many faces, which is how computer morphing of faces is facilitated. The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail The legend of the Holy Grail alleged that a sacred relic in many versions, either the cup used at the Last Supper, or the cup said to have been used by Joseph of Arimathea to collect blood of Christ " or both existed, which would bring untold blessings to any pure knight who found it. In early Grail romances, graal in fact denotes a large dish for fish, itself a Christian religious symbol, but clearly removed from the traditional cup. The cup therefore presented a convenient fusion, like many of the stories that are now associated with the Quest for the Holy Grail and King Arthur, of albeit apocryphal Christian teachings, and pagan traditions. While there is a brass line running north-south through the church, it is not a part of the Paris Meridian. Further, there is no evidence that there was ever a temple of Isis on the site. This note has been on display in the church: No such temple ever existed in this place. It was never called a Rose-Line. It does not coincide with the meridian traced through the middle of the Paris Observatory which serves as a reference for maps where longitudes are measured in degrees East or West of Paris. Please also note that the letters P and S in the small round windows at both ends of the transept refer to Peter and Sulpice, the patron saints of the church, and not an imaginary "Priory of Sion. The Romans, who knew it as Lutetia, captured it in 52 BC under Julius Caesar, and left substantial ruins in the city, including an amphitheater and public baths. The Merovingians did not rule in France until the 5th century AD, by which time Paris was at least years old. Genes, Race, and Our Common Origins, writing in an article in Nature, says that the notion that a small number of people living today could be the only descendants from any particular person who lived millennia ago, such as Jesus and Mary, is statistically flawed. According to Olson, "If anyone living today is descended from Jesus, so are most of us on the planet. Astronomically, due to the location of its orbit between the earth and the sun, Venus is only visible rising in the east early in the morning shortly before sunrise or setting in the evening toward the west shortly after sunset. It is not possible to see Venus rising above the eastern horizon in the evening. Allegations of plagiarism[ edit ] Two lawsuits have been brought alleging plagiarism in The Da Vinci Code. Daniels granted a motion for summary judgment and dismissed the suit, ruling that "a reasonable average lay observer would not conclude that The Da Vinci Code is substantially similar to Daughter of God. Any slightly similar elements are on the level of generalized or otherwise unprotectable ideas. However, the projected court costs of over 1 million pounds outweigh or at least substantially reduce the financial benefit of the lawsuit. The reality of his research is that it is superficial. Throughout the judgment, apparently random letters are italicised and these form the message. The letters in the first paragraphs spell smithy code and the rest appear as follows "jaeiextostgpsacgreamqwfkadpmqzv". This was subsequently decoded to read "Smithy Code Jackie Fisher who are you Dreadnought ", [49] referring to the British admiral whom Judge Smith admires. As with the book, this secret message made use of Fibonacci numbers for its encoding. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Chapter 5 : The Da Vinci Code (film) - Wikipedia

*Question: Is The Da Vinci Code based on a true story? The Da Vinci Code: The Da Vinci Code is a book written by American author Dan Brown. It was first published in and later adapted to a.*

Criticism of The Da Vinci Code The book generated criticism when it was first published for inaccurate description of core aspects of Christianity 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. The 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 Critics accuse Brown of distorting and fabricating history. For example, Marcia Ford wrote: Fiction that purports to present historical facts should be researched as carefully as a nonfiction book would be. The most flagrant aspect This assertion is broadly disputed; the Priory of Sion is generally regarded as a hoax created in 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. 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. He replied "Absolutely all of it. The program featured lengthy interviews with many of the main protagonists cited by Brown as "absolute fact" in The Da Vinci Code. 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. But Gnosticism did not portray Jesus as merely human. Its writing and historical accuracy were reviewed negatively by The New Yorker , [12] Salon. That word is wow. The author is Dan Brown a name you will want to remember. In this gleefully erudite suspense novel, Mr. Brown takes the format he has been developing through three earlier novels and fine-tunes it to blockbuster perfection. The role of the Knights Templar. The principle that everything is connected. I suspect Dan Brown might not even exist. A novel so bad that it gives bad novels a bad name. 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. 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 , 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. Smith also hid his own secret code in his written judgement, in the form of seemingly random italicized letters in the page document, which apparently spell out a message. Smith indicated he would confirm the code if someone broke it. Anikin eventually compiled his research into Leonardo da Vinci or Theology on Canvas, a book published in , 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.

### Chapter 6 : The Da Vinci Code: The True Story | Ancient Origins

*A short summary of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code. This free synopsis covers all the crucial plot points of The Da Vinci Code. , the story's protagonist and a.*

The synopsis below may give away important plot points. Silas is later revealed to be a member of the ultra-conservative Catholic sect called Opus Dei that wishes to annihilate a secret society called the Priory of Sion, who is sworn to protect the Holy Grail. Proof that the Grail exists would ultimately reveal a devastating secret that would undermine the fundamental teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Meanwhile, American symbologist Robert Langdon Tom Hanks , who is in Paris as an AUP guest lecturer on symbols and the sacred feminine, is contacted by the French police, and summoned to the Louvre to view the crime scene. Captain Bezu Fache Jean Reno asks him for his interpretation of the puzzling scene. It begins with the Fibonacci sequence of numbers, but not in the correct order. Silas calls a mysterious man known as "The Teacher", revealing that he has killed all four protectors of the keystone and that all confirmed the same location. He dons a metal cilice on his thigh and proceeds to flagellate himself with a whip for the sins of murder. Facilitated by Bishop Manuel Aringarosa, Silas then travels to Saint-Sulpice and is admitted by an elderly nun; left alone, he excavates beneath the floor of the church to find a stone saying only JOB He confronts the nun, who quotes the passage: There, Sophie meets him and tells him that he is being tracked, a GPS tracking dot has been unknown by him slipped into his jacket and that he is a primary suspect in the murder case because of a line of text found by the corpse "P. Having bought some time by removing the tracking device, the pair begin exploring the Louvre based on their deciphering the message written in blood. It turns out that the part of the message that reads O Draconian devil Oh lame saint is actually an anagram, which, when the letters are re-arranged, spells Leonardo da Vinci and The Mona Lisa. Near that second painting, the pair find a key with a Fleur-de-lis. Pursued by the French police and cut off from the United States Embassy, the pair escape to the Bois de Boulogne where Langdon closely inspects the key. He notices an inscription on the side - an address. The address directs them to the Depository Bank of Zurich where the key is used for a safety deposit box. Inside the box, they find a rosewood container, which contains a cryptex: Using force to open the cryptex would break a vial of vinegar inside, which would dissolve the parchment and destroy the message. Unfortunately, the police are called by a security guard and they are forced to leave. The bank manager, Andre Vernet, assists them in escaping by taking them as passengers in an armoured van to escape the routine checks of the police. In the back of the truck Langdon and Neveu have a lengthy discussion about the cryptex and Neveu says that her grandfather often played games with her involving cryptexes. Langdon says that the cryptex might hold valuable information or another clue about what they are trying to discover. Eventually, they come to a sudden stop and Vernet forces them at gunpoint to give him the cryptex. Langdon tricks Vernet and disarms him and he and Sophie escape with the cryptex in their hands. Langdon suggests that they visit his friend, Leigh Teabing Ian McKellen , for assistance to opening the cryptex. Mary was pregnant at the time, and Teabing tells Sophie that a secret society--the Priory of Sion along with its military arm, the Knights Templar--was formed to protect the descendants of Jesus. Teabing uses his cane to knock Silas out and they escape again, taking the butler, Remy Jean, and Silas with them. This clue was found underneath the rose carved on the wooden box containing the cryptex. The message, which had to be read using a mirror, refers to "a knight a pope interred. The search results made them realize that the pope referred to Alexander Pope, who wrote the epitaph of Sir Isaac Newton the knight. It is revealed that Remy Jean is actually a follower of The Teacher as well, however he is killed by the mysterious man after freeing Silas. Silas is attacked by the police and, in the ensuing gunfire, accidentally shoots Bishop Manuel Aringarosa. In his grief, Silas dies in police-assisted suicide and Aringarosa is taken to the hospital, as well as being arrested by Fache for betraying him. As Langdon gets closer to solving the mystery, he is betrayed by Teabing, who is revealed to be The Teacher. Langdon responds by throwing the cryptex into the air. Teabing catches it, but drops it, and it hits the ground. The vial of vinegar breaks and apparently spreads onto the document, destroying it. After Teabing is arrested, it is revealed that Langdon had cracked the code and removed the clue from the cryptex before

throwing it. The code word had something to do with an orb located somewhere on the tomb, but Langdon later realized that, "There was every orb conceivable on that tomb except one: Work that incurred the wrath of the church until his dying day. At the chapel, they meet other members of the secret organization that protected Mary Magdalene. They vow to keep her safe. As Langdon and Sophie part ways, Sophie sets foot in a pond in an attempt to walk on water. He follows the Rose Line and, realizing that the clue from the cryptex also fits this new location, he determines that the location of the Holy Grail is buried under the pyramid in the Louvre.

**Chapter 7 : The Da Vinci Code - Decoding A Blockbuster Story - Worlds Best Story**

*A Discovery channel documentary on the Da Vinci Code, presenting the fiction and reality of the story.*

He also leaves a code, a line of numbers, and two lines of text on the ground in invisible ink. A police detective, Jerome Collet, calls Harvard professor and symbologist, Robert Langdon, and asks him to come to the Louvre to try to interpret the scene. Langdon does not yet realize that he himself is suspected of the murder. The Teacher sends Silas there. As Langdon and Fache are discussing this, Sophie Neveu, an agent of the department of cryptology, arrives at the crime scene and tells Fache that she had worked out the code and also tells Langdon that he must call the U. When Langdon calls the number Sophie gave him, he reaches her answering service. The message warns Langdon that he is in danger, should not react to the message and should meet Sophie in the bathroom at the Louvre. However, Langdon thinks that P. Sophie returns to the paintings to look for another clue and finds a key behind the Madonna of the Rocks. The police have returned to the Louvre as well, intent on arresting Langdon. An alerted museum guard prevents their escape, but Sophie, by using the painting as a hostage, manages to disarm the police officer and get herself and Langdon out of the building. As Sophie and Langdon drive toward the Swiss bank identified on the back of the key, Langdon explains the history of the Priory of Sion and their armed force, the Knights Templar. He reveals that the Priory protects secret documents known as the Sangreal, or the Holy Grail. Doing so successfully, the safe deposit box reveals a cryptex: If the cryptex is forced open, an enclosed vial of vinegar ruptures and dissolves the message, written on papyrus. Vernet successfully smuggles Sophie and Langdon past Collet in the back of a locked armored car. Teabing shows them the hidden symbols in The Last Supper and the painted representation of the Magdalene. As Langdon is showing off the cryptex, Silas appears and hits him over the head. Silas holds Sophie and Teabing at gunpoint and demands the keystone, but Teabing attacks Silas, hitting him on the thigh where his punishment belt is located, and Sophie finishes him off by kicking him in the face and bind him before he escapes. Sophie reveals the source of her estrangement from her grandfather, ten years earlier. 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. Langdon explains that what she witnessed was an ancient ceremony known as Hieros gamos or "sacred marriage". Sophie also realizes that the writing on the cryptex is decipherable if viewed in a mirror. Langdon remembers that the Knights Templar supposedly worshipped the god Baphomet, who is sometimes represented by a large stone head. The word, unscrambled by the Atbash Cipher, is Sofia. When they open the cryptex, however, they find only another cryptex, this one with a clue about a tomb where a knight was buried by a pope. Fache realizes that Teabing and the rest of them are on a jet. He calls the British police and asks them to surround the airfield, but Teabing tricks the police into believing that there is nobody inside the plane but himself. Silas goes to the church to get the keystone, but when he tries to force Langdon to give it up, Langdon threatens to break it. They go to Westminster Abbey, where Newton is buried. There, the Teacher lures them to the garden with a note saying he has Teabing. They go there only to discover that Teabing himself is the Teacher. Wanting the secret to be public knowledge, he had decided to find the Grail himself. Teabing gives Langdon the cryptex and asks Langdon and Sophie to help him open it. He opens the cryptex and secretly takes out the papyrus. Then he throws the empty cryptex in the air, causing Teabing to drop his pistol as he attempts to catch it and prevent the map inside from being destroyed. Suddenly, Fache bursts into the room and arrests Teabing. Bishop Aringarosa, realizing that Silas has been used to murder innocent people, rushes to help the police find him. When the police find Silas hiding in an Opus Dei Center, he assumes that they are there to kill him, and he rushes out, accidentally shooting Bishop Aringarosa. Bishop Aringarosa survives but is informed that Silas was found dead later from a bullet wound. In the hospital the next day, Aringarosa bitterly reflects that the Teacher tricked him into helping with his murderous plan by claiming that if the Bishop delivered the Grail to him, he would help the Opus Dei regain favor with the Church. The Priory of Sion hid her identity to protect her from possible threats to her life. Sophie and Langdon part, promising to meet in Florence in a month. Back in Paris, Langdon comprehends the real meaning of the poem, which leads him back to the

Louvre, where he is sure 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."

### Chapter 8 : Secrets behind 'The Da Vinci Code' - Dateline NBC | NBC News

*The Da Vinci Code is a deliberate attempt to keep the truth of the Gospel "the Good News of what Jesus has done for you" out of your hands. There is a cover-up taking place, and The Da Vinci Code, ironically, is part of it.*

The Da Vinci Code - is it accurate? Sitting on the back porch of a Nova Scotia bed and breakfast one evening, I was engaged in a rather remarkable discussion with the owner of the house. I think the Knights Templar visited this place and stashed their treasure. But then the story got stranger I think Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, and they had a child. There are lots of ancient documents that have been suppressed by the official church to prove it. As the book hit stores across the nation, a Los Angeles Times book review proposed that the book was, "Enough to seriously challenge many traditional Christian beliefs, if not alter them. No credible historian took it seriously because the weight of historical evidence clearly contradicts it. The Da Vinci Code has sold more than 40 million copies, and Hollywood recently splashed its contents across the big screen. The Da Vinci Code hits a chord This time the strange theory hit a chord with much of the general public. An obscure theory has suddenly been pushed to the forefront of public discussion. Popular news magazines are running stories about it. The television airwaves are full of "davinciesque" specials. Christians, of course, are naturally troubled by the book and for good reason. If the theories presented by Dan Brown are true, then the foundations of a two-thousand-year-old Christianity have been essentially ripped out from under the church. Among other things, the claims presented in the book include: False claims Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered a child with her. Jesus intended for Mary Magdalene to become the head of the Christian church, but because of a patriarchal conspiracy, the concept of the "sacred feminine" was rejected and her role in the formation of the early church was stolen from her. The church has suppressed women ever since. Jesus was never considered to be divine by the early church; this was an idea adopted by the Council of Nicea in A. The four Gospels presented in the New Testament were put there by the Roman Emperor Constantine to cover up what had been done. Many other "gospels" that revealed the truth were covered up. Secret societies, like the Knights Templar and the Priory of Zion a group whose members are said to have included such luminaries as Sir Isaac Newton and Leonardo Da Vinci have carefully guarded these facts for centuries in the face of oppression from the organized Christian church. The book, of course, is sold in the fiction section of the bookstore, and no publisher has yet made the claim that it is historically verifiable. Yet the clever manner in which Dan Brown presents his material has, while not convincing many people, still confused them. The lines between fact and fiction have been carefully blurred, making it seem as if many of the strange theories listed above might actually be true. The reality is that The Da Vinci Code is wildly inaccurate. The Dead Sea scrolls are exclusively Old Testament documents. Additionally, the ancient manuscripts discovered at Nag Hammadi in the s are said to contain the "earliest" Christian documents. The writings of the New Testament were all completed before the first century expired; the books discovered at Nag Hammadi, at the earliest, date back to the late second century. The one exception would be the gospel of Thomas which might date back as early as AD. This still puts it many years after the books of the New Testament were completed. The four gospels The story presented in The Da Vinci Code also seeks to persuade us that the four Gospels we now have in the New Testament are only there because of the political ambitions of the Roman Emperor Constantine. This supposedly happened at the Council of Nicea AD , when the church needed Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to prove their newly-adopted theory that Jesus was divine. They purportedly selected the four Gospels we have today from as many as eighty other "gospels" which told a different story. This assertion is utter nonsense, as any well-versed historian can tell you. There was no occasion on which the church sorted through eighty documents. Additionally, the veracity of the New Testament Gospels had been well established by the Christian church for hundreds of years before the Council of Nicea, which is proven by the fact that earlier church writings make constant reference to them as authoritative documents. The so-called "other gospels" are never mentioned in any list of books considered authoritative for the Christian. There is also no record of the Council of Nicea making the decision that Jesus was divine. This was a doctrine well understood by the Christian church since the first believers wrote about

His miracles and His claims to Godhood. Constantine would have been a relatively easy target for the likes of Dan Brown, because he did make a number of questionable decisions that are well recorded throughout history. We know, for example, that his influence allowed some pagan ideas to drift into the thought patterns of the Christian church. Those notions are utter fiction and a deliberate assault on the well-documented historicity of the Christian faith. Was Jesus really married to Mary Magdalene? And what of the claim that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene? This was supposedly hidden from us for a number of reasons, including the way established Christianity frowns upon sexual relationships—including those found within the context of marriage. While the Christian church at large has, on occasion, taken a less-than-healthy attitude toward positive sexual relationships, this assertion is simply wrong. The New Testament book of Hebrews makes it abundantly clear that "marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled. If Jesus had been married He was, after all, fully human in addition to being fully God, it would not have been a sin. The book of Ephesians—written in the mid-first century—uses marriage as a striking illustration of the sacred relationship of Jesus to His church. Listen to the words of Jesus Himself: And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. How could marriage be considered as defiling when God Himself thought of it? And yet Dan Brown insinuates that the early Christian believers had a poor view of it and covered up the "fact" that Jesus was married. The fact is that Jesus did not marry, and there is not one shred of ancient historical evidence to prove it - in or out of the biblical record. An appeal is made to the ancient Gospel of Philip, which was probably written sometime in the late 3rd century, because of the mention that Mary Magdalene was a "companion" of Jesus, and that He often kissed her. There are a number of things that I should probably point out: Other gospels The gospel of Philip is not an eye-witness account like the four canonical gospels. Even if threads of the genuine story of Jesus can be found in it, it is still a work of fiction. A "companion" is hardly a spouse. Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss on the night of His betrayal. As Christianity spread in the early centuries, so did problems and distortions of the Christian message. Among these groups were the Gnostics, who adopted a rather incredible version of the story of salvation. They believed that an inferior god—known as the Demiurge—created the material world we live in. According to their understanding, this was a grave mistake, because a material existence is less than ideal. We should have never been created to live a physical existence in the first place. The mission of Jesus Christ, in Gnostic theology, was to set us free from the prison of the material world and the mistakes of the Creator. They wrote a number of so-called "gospels" and other books—the vast majority of which were written more than years after the books of the New Testament - to espouse these views. The Gnostic world view The gnostic world view is in direct competition with the view presented in both the Old and New Testaments. See passages like John 1: He came to set us free from the consequences of our rebellion against the Creator through His sacrificial death at the cross, not from the physical, material world. In fact, the Bible clearly indicates that we will eventually be restored to a newly-created world for all eternity once the effects of sin have been eradicated. In reality, the Gnostics spurned the physical world including sexual relationships, and demeaned women to a degree that would have been unimaginable for the early Christian church. Take, for example, this saying taken from number from the gospel of Thomas: Simon Peter said to him, "Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of life. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven. In other Gnostic writings found at Nad Hammadi, Jesus warns his disciples to pray somewhere that women are absent and to destroy the "works of womanhood. In the New Testament Gospels, you will never find a statement from Jesus that demeans women. The term gospel "Good News" is not just a Christian term, but rather one that was already in use in the Greco-Roman world Emperors were lauded for their good deeds of benefaction and their triumphs in wars. The "gospel" was good news about actions taken on behalf of the people by the emperor or another wealthy person. When early Christians picked up the term gospel, they had in mind the good news of things Jesus had done, while also including some of his teachings. Intervarsity Press, , p. His teachings are emphasized, but they inevitably lead us to the cross and what Christ accomplished there in our behalf. They underscore the fact

that we cannot save ourselves, so God did something to save us. That is why these four books are gospelsâ€”Good News. The gnostic "gospels," on the other hand, do not tell the story of God becoming man and giving His life to save sinners. Instead, they present a different Jesus, one who speaks in mysterious riddles and vague philosophical sayings. This is because the Gnostics, far from being more pluralistic and accepting than the early Christians, were terrible elitists who believed that only people who were mentally capable of achieving hidden mystic knowledge would find salvation. The door was not open to all; others were despised as inferior and unworthy. The Gnostics essentially left you on your own to find salvation. The God who created you, they said, was incompetent and made a terrible blunder when He did it. That is not good news. It is not a gospel. The Da Vinci Code: Why would somebody choose to reject the real good news of Christian beliefâ€”the divinity of Christ and His victory over the grave in our behalf?

**Chapter 9 : History vs The Da Vinci Code**

*Da Vinci Code History - A Little Research Reveals the Truth about the Priory of Sion If the history of the Da Vinci Code is based on the Priory of Sion, then the historical veracity of the novel's premise rises and falls with the truth of that so-called secret society.*

Their investigation carries them from France to England. The revelations they unearth there plunge them ever deeper into the mystery of the true origin of the Holy Grail. Cinematically, the film looks good, but Ron Howard depends too much on documentary flashbacks to fill the backstory. Consequently, one of the problems with the movie is that the whole is less than the sum of its too many parts. The scenes lack narrative and personal tension. The most exciting—and best filmed—sequence in the movie ensues when Sophie careens her mini car in reverse down a crowded street. Furthermore, Howard fails to substitute a cinematic cleverness sharp enough to entertain the audience. Tom Hanks as Robert Langdon is a disaster. In the book, the two end up having sex. There are no compliments, no wisecracks, no arch glances. What they neglect to point out is that Hanks and Neveu never laugh and rarely smile. Consequently, without any casual sexual flirtation, or any evidence whatsoever that they are attracted to one another, the movie is emotionally flat and completely humorless. By comparison, Ian McKellen brings depth to his role by the revolutionary expedient of smiling and even chuckling. He takes charge of his character and animates Teabing beyond the two-dimensional cardboard cutout found in the novel. Hanks and Tautou lack the talent or the insight or the sheer acting brio to do this with their characters. Howard is to blame also. Teabing denies the divinity of Jesus and rejects the truth of the gospels. But McKellen shows why he is probably the greatest role player in film today. Interestingly, just as Jehoiakim cut and burned the words of God Jeremiah 36, McKellen claims to rip out the pages of Leviticus that condemn homosexuality whenever he finds a Bible in a hotel room [http: It would be difficult to find a better metaphor for the movie: God out; sex in.](http://) McKellen is well-known as a gay activist and has complained about his role in the new X-Men movie because he wanted there to be a gay sex scene. The lovely Audrey Tautou is wasted in this part. She has the thankless job of having everything explained to her for nearly excruciating minutes. Rather than enhancing the role, the role diminishes her. Even an ancient actress like Judy Dench would have been more believable because the role, as enacted in the film, calls more for the authority of smarts than it does for the authority of beauty. For all its talk about sex, the movie is perversely puritanical. Sex becomes religion and religion becomes sex and the movie manages to make both boring. It appears that Ron Howard got so caught up in the pompous material that he forgot that it is fiction, that he works in Hollywood, and that his primary responsibility is to entertain not to preach. If it were only dull, I could recommend it to Christian audiences without reservation. However, there are two extremely offensive scenes in the movie. These occur when Silas Paul Bettany, the albino, stands naked in front of a crucifix of Jesus and violently flagellates himself. The homoerotic overtones in the scenes are so obvious that the intent to offend is itself offensive. Because of those scenes, I cannot recommend the movie for conservative Christian audiences. For those who can tolerate male nudity albeit not frontal, the greater danger is the naked boredom they will have to endure for two and a half hours. The lesson that Christians can derive from the film is this: Fortunately for Christians, it will be difficult for anyone to take the movie seriously. In other words, the movie is generating leaden reports of disappointment and derision rather than sparks of controversy and excitement. The buzz is all about the torpor of its reception rather than the stimulation of its transmission. There are no major spoilers in what follows, but viewers who have not read the book will have a difficult time understanding the movie without some preparation. The following points constitute the major assertions that are either explicitly stated or alluded to. Major assertions of the book Jesus was viewed as a prophet by his followers, not as the son of God, until Constantine and Council of Nicaea declared him divine in A. Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married, uniting two Jewish royal lines, Jesus intended for Mary Magdalene to lead the church after his death Mary Magdalene escaped to Gaul present day France and gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Mary Magdalene is the real divinity, not Jesus. The Knights Templar were ordered to retrieve the documents of proof and to protect her tomb. They were later

exterminated by an evil Pope. What is not explained in the movie about the points above, but made clear in the book, are the following key false claims: The Star of David is actually a composition of two triangles superimposed on one another and representing the male and female genitalia. The Catholic Church saw the ability of individuals to experience the divine on their own, with women, as a threat to its existence and demonized women i. But if you skipped reading all the above points, you can understand why the movie is a tedious experience for those who did not read the book. As a counter to the misinformation given in the movie and book, I recommend readers visit one of the many sites which debunk in detail each assertion. Here are two excellent sites: