

First, I want to give you a short information about the author Dan Brown

He has also written

Angels and Demons, Illuminati and Deception Piont

Dan Brown is graduate of Amherst **College and Philips Exeter Academy**, where he has taught English and creative writing.

Now, he lives with his wife in **New England**

The book received great critical acclaim

The Denver Post said “**Thriller writing doesn’t get any better than this**” and

the New York Daily described “**The Da Vinci Code**” as “**One hell of a read. A gripping mix of murder and myth**”

I think it’s important to know something about the **historical background and facts** of the story

Often, the expression “Priory of Sion” appears in the story
The Priory of Sion

-is an European secret society founded in 1099

-this society really exists

In **1975** the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris discovered documents known as **Les Dossiers Secret**

Les Dossiers identify numerous **members of the Priory**

The most famous members are

-Isaac Newton

-the Italian painter Sandro Botticelli

-the French writer Victor Hugo

-Leonardo da Vinci

Furthermore, the Vatican prelature known as **Opus Dei** is important in the plot of this book

Opus Dei is

-a **Catholic sect**

-it's a controversial organisations owing to reports of **brainwashing** and a practice known as "**corporal mortification**"

Opus Dei has recently completed construction of a \$ 47 million National Headquarter in New York

Last, I want to tell you about the **Holy Grail**

The legend said, that the **Holy Grail is a chalice**, which Jesus used at **The Last Supper**

After Jesus' death it was filled with **his blood**

Many people tried to find the Holy Grail in the past and even today scientists search for it

After that, you know the most important historical things, that build up the base of the plot

Next, I present you the most important characters of the story

One of the **protagonists** is **Robert Langdon**. You can say, that he's the hero of the story.

He's **professor of religious symbology** at Harvard University.

Throughout the plot, he explains the **meaning of many symbols and religious icons**.

It seems that he's very **clever** and **intelligent**.

Sophie Neveu is the **female protagonist** of the story
She's a **French cryptologist** and the **granddaughter of Jaques Saunière**, the curator of the Louvre museum

Then, **Bishop Aringarosa**, who is the leader of Opus Dei and his servant **Silas**, an **albino monk**

Silas is the **murderer of Jaques Saunière**.
He's very **cruel but absolutely religious**

Now, something about the **content**

Professor Langdon is on a **business trip in Paris**

Late at night he gets a phone call from the receptionist of the hotel.

He says, that a policeman of the Direction Centrale Police Judiciaire wants to talk to him.

The reason for that is the **murder of Jaques Saunière**.

Alongside **the corpse** the police have found a **mysterious code**.

It seems like Saunière himself has arranged the sign next to his body before he died.

The code exists **of numbers and words**.

One part of the code is also the **name “Robert Langdon”**.

Because of that, the police **supposes that Langdon has committed the murder of Saunière**.

But the police doesn't tell Langdon about their suspicions.

He thinks, that he should help to decipher the code.

Than **Sophie Neveu arrives** at the Louvre museum and **secretly tells Langdon about the polices' suspicion**, because she anticipates that Langdon is innocent.

Sophie helps Langdon to flee.

During their escape they try to **solve the mystery** of Saunière's murder.

First, they have to spot out, what Saunière wanted to say with this code.

It turns out that the code is intended for Sophie-

Saunière **wanted to pass a secret to Sophie** for which he was the guardian for many years.

Having deciphered the code, **the solution leads them to the next riddle**.

A trip to several locations begins.

Pursued by the police and Interpol, they try to bring light to Saunière's secret, which the **Catholic church fiercely tried to keep**.

This secret tells about the **famous Holy Grail** and where it is located.

But not only Langdon and Sophie search for the Grail, **also Silas wants to find it.**

Slowly it turns out, that some people are disloyal to Langdon and Sophie and the **search gets more and more complicate.**

The end of the **story is surprising and emotional**, but not as specular as expected.

But I don't want to tell you, how it ends.

Maybe, some of you want to read this book for him- or herself.

The **story includes many riddles**. Because of that, I want to show you one of them. This is the code, that the police have found alongside Saunière's corpse

It **is an anagram which** means you can put all the letters in another order to give the anagram a new meaning.

The numbers are the **so-called Fibonacci sequence** and **gives the instruction** how to combine the letters.

The wright order is

Leonardo da Vinci!
The Mona Lisa!

It's the clue for Langdon and Sophie to search for a new hint at the painting

And also some symbols are explained, for example **the original symbols for male and female**

Here you can the the **icon for male** and the opposite-the **original icon for female**, that is also called chalice

The **female icon has a special meaning in the story.**

The symbol is part of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece "The Last Supper"

This painting tells that the Holy Grail is a person.

Here you can see **the red lines that look like a chalice**.
These lines link Jesus and one follower.
This follower is no man, but **Marie Magdalene**.
So, Marie Magdalene is the Holy Grail.

To sum it up, I can say, that my **personal expression of the book is very positive**.

It was very interesting to get so much to know about
history, religious symbology and the legend of the Holy Grail.

This book is not only informative, but also absorbing
and includes a gripping **crime story**.