

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF *THE DA VINCI CODE*

The story starts with the murder of a renowned curator in Paris named Jacques Saunière. Robert Langdon, a Harvard Professor, is asked to the crime scene to help crack the message that is left by Saunière. Suddenly, a police cryptographer named Sophie Neveu, Saunière's granddaughter, comes and tells Langdon that the police suspect him as the murderer. She believes that Langdon is innocent and that he may be able to help her find out the message that her grandfather has left for her.

As they escape from the police, the clue which is left on Da Vinci's work leads Langdon and Neveu to a deposit box in the Bank of Zurich. It also reveals that Saunière is the Grand Master of a secret society named Priory, which hides the fact of the existence of Jesus Christ's offspring. There is also information about the keystone to Holy Grail, of which the whereabouts is only known by 4 of the Priory top members. The assassin wants the keystone. With the help of Sir Leigh Teabing, Langdon and Neveu go to London. When Teabing is kidnapped, the police discover that Langdon is not the assassin, which makes it easier for Langdon and Neveu to continue their investigation on the cryptex.

Throughout the ending, it turns out that the mastermind of all the 4 murders is Teabing. The final message in the cryptex leads them to Rosslyn Chapel, where Neveu's long-lost brother and grandmother live. Neveu and her family are Jesus' offspring. After leaving Neveu with her family, Langdon suddenly realises that the location of the grail is in Paris, buried in a miniature pyramid below the Louvre Pyramid.

SYNOPSIS OF THE NAME OF THE ROSE

The story starts with the translation of the manuscript of Adso of Melk. Adso as a Benedictine novice tells in his manuscript what happens in an Italian Abbey in 14th century within a week while accompanying his master, Franciscan William of Baskerville to attend negotiations involving emissaries from the Pope, who is in heated conflict with the Emperor, and the Franciscan order.

There are more books about Christianity and various rare manuscripts in the abbey compared to other libraries. On the first day, Abo, the Abbot of the Italian abbey, asks William to investigate the murder of the assistant librarian, Adelmo. As William and Adso investigate, they find out that Adelmo has killed himself because of his guilt. On the second day, Venantius, the translator is also killed, followed by the death of Berengar, the last assistant of librarian, and both die because of poison. The more they investigate, the more hidden secrets are revealed concerning the hypocrisy of the monks of this abbey. The fourth to die is the herbalist, Severenus, who finds the book which seems to be the motive of all these murders.

Before William gets the book, Malachi, the librarian, takes it and he is next to be murdered. Later, the mastermind of all these murders, the elder blind monk, Jorge, kills the abbot, the last one to know the secret inside the book he wants to hide. To hide the secret, Jorge eats the pages of this book, which have been smeared with poison by Jorge. Jorge dies and the fire from the broken lamp spreads and burns the library and abbey. Including Jorge, there have been 7 deaths in this abbey. Adso parts from his master and a few years later he comes back to the Abbey and finds some books that are not burnt by the fire and he brings them alone back to Melk.

BIOGRAPHY OF DAN BROWN

Dan Brown, the novelist of the bestseller novel *The Da Vinci Code*, was born in Exeter, New Hampshire on June 22, 1964. Brown is the eldest of three children in his family. His father is a mathematician who has received a Presidential Award winning math granted by President George H. W. Bush while his mother is a professional musician in performing sacred music.

Brown graduated from Amherst College with a degree in English and Spanish in 1982. Later, he met his wife, Blythe, who is twelve years older than he is at Los Angeles. She helped him in his musical career there. A few years later, Brown, accompanied by Blythe, moved back to New Hampshire and married her in 1997.

A year after his marriage, he published his first thriller, *Digital Fortress*. Until 2009, he has written 2 humor books (co-written with his wife) and 5 thriller fictions and two of them with the same protagonist: Robert Langdon. These two fictions have

been made into movies with the same title as the novels, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*.

Brown's career revolved around teaching and music but finally he became a full-time writer in 1996. His fourth novel, *The Da Vinci Code* has become the number 1 in New York bestseller list and later on also made a breakthrough for the selling of his three earliest novels, *Digital Fortress* (1997), *Angels and Demons* (2000), and *Deception Point* (2001). His novels have been translated into more than 40 different languages. Brown now lives with his wife in New Hampshire.

(“Dan Brown Biography and Notes”, “Dan Brown – Biography”)

BIOGRAPHY OF UMBERTO ECO

Umberto Eco was born in Alessandria, Italy on January 5, 1932. His father, Giulio Eco wanted him to study law, but instead, he dropped out and studied medieval philosophy and literature in the University of Turin. After receiving his doctorate of philosophy in 1954, he worked as editor for Cultural Programs at Italian state-owned television network, RAI.

Eco's first non-fictional book, which was the extension of his thesis *Il problema estetico in San Tommaso*, was published in 1954 and he also started lecturing in the University of Turin. His second work was published in 1959 at the same time as his losing job at RAI. In the same year, he became the nonfiction senior editor of *Casa Editrice Bompiani*, Milan, until 1975.

Il Nome Della Rosa or, in English, *The Name of the Rose*, is his first novel, which was published in 1980 and put his name on the map of academia. The success

of this novel has caused the novel itself to be made into a movie in 1986. More than 80 of his works have been published, including his novels and academic writings.

His marriage with his wife Renate has given him a son and a daughter. He has received Doctor Honoris Causa from more than 20 universities in Europe and America. He also writes a weekly column for *L'Espresso* called "La bustina di Minerva" and is now a professor at the University of Bologna. He is enjoying his life between staying at his summer home in the hills near Rimini and a residence in Milan.

(Ruch, Liukkonen and Pesonen)