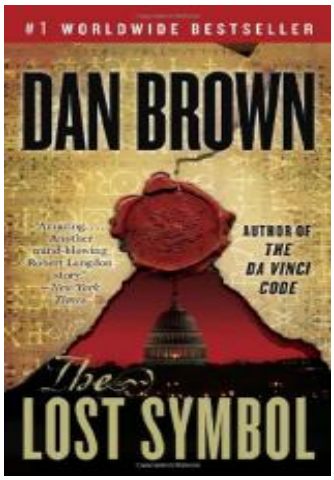
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The Lost Symbol

by Dan Brown



About the Book

In this stunning follow-up to the global phenomenon **The Da Vinci Code**, Dan Brown demonstrates once again why he is the world's most popular thriller writer. **The Lost Symbol** is a masterstroke of storytelling --- a deadly race through a real-world labyrinth of codes, secrets, and unseen truths... all under the watchful eye of Brown's most terrifying villain to date. Set within the hidden chambers, tunnels, and temples of Washington, D.C., **The Lost Symbol** accelerates through a startling landscape toward an unthinkable finale.

As the story opens, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to deliver an evening lecture in the U.S. Capitol Building. Within minutes of his arrival, however, the night takes a bizarre turn. A disturbing object --- artfully encoded with five symbols --- is discovered in the Capitol Building. Langdon recognizes the object as an ancient invitation... one meant to usher its recipient into a long-lost world of esoteric wisdom.

When Langdon's beloved mentor, Peter Solomon ---a prominent Mason and philanthropist ---is brutally kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations --- all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth.

As the world discovered in **The Da Vinci Code** and **Angels & Demons**, Dan Brown's novels are brilliant tapestries of veiled histories, arcane symbols, and enigmatic codes. In this new novel, he again challenges readers with an intelligent, lightning-paced story that offers surprises at every turn. **The Lost Symbol** is exactly what Brown's fans have been waiting for... his most thrilling novel yet.

Discussion Guide

1. How familiar were you with Freemasonry before reading the novel? How did your impressions of the organization

shift throughout the book, from the chilling prologue to Peter Solomon's philosophical comments near the end?

2. How do Peter Solomon's students (including Robert) reconcile their admiration for him with the knowledge that he is a Mason? Did it surprise you to learn about well-known American historical figures who were Masons and to read about scientists who were intrigued by mysticism and other occult belief systems?

3. Discuss the novel's grand theme of architecture. How did **The Lost Symbol** change the way you think about the way buildings are designed and the intention of their architects (creators)? What most surprised you about the tributes to the past?and visions of the future?that are captured in the landmarks of Washington, D.C.?

4. Mal'akh considers the polarity of angels and demons noting that "the guardian angel who conquered your enemy in battle was perceived by your enemy as a demon destroyer." What does this indicate about Mal'akh's perception of himself in the world? How can his evil nature be explained? Why is he only able to consider his own suffering, while relishing the suffering of others?

5. How did you react to Katherine Solomon's work in Noetic Science? What motivates her to investigate the tangible aspects of the human soul (attempting to weigh it, even)? How would it change the world if there were more tangible evidence of the spiritual world? How is Katherine Solomon's perception of science different from Robert Langdon's?

6. At the heart of the novel is a quest to unlock wisdom, and the need to keep it "locked" because it can be used for destructive purposes. Do you believe that freedom of knowledge (Wikipedia, a world wide web) is a blessing or a curse?

7. The novel's epigraph, from Manly Hall's **The Secret Teachings of All Ages**, encourages readers to become aware of the meaning of the world. What mysteries about the world, and life, do you think are the most important ones to explore?

8. How did Mal'akh amass enough power to turn his personal plot into a national security threat? What does his rise to power indicate about the potential of mind over body and a human being's ability to play a variety of roles for unsuspecting audiences?

9. The final chapter raises intriguing questions about the possibility of a multi-faceted God and the potential to find God in all of humanity. Can there be a universal definition of enlightenment?

10. While interpreting the Masonic Pyramid's final inscription, Robert Langdon tries to bring order out of chaos by interpreting each symbol as a metaphor. Peter Solomon instructs him to be literal and accept the inscription as a true map. What does this exchange say about the best way to interpret all sacred messages?

11. What truths do Katherine Solomon and Robert Langdon experience in the epilogue, at sunrise, atop America's ultimate symbol? From your perspective, what does the Capitol symbolize?

12. What does **The Lost Symbol** indicate about the power of the Word?both ancient texts and bestselling twenty-first-century novels?

13. What common thread runs through this and each of Dan Brown's previous works? What makes **The Lost Symbol** unique? How has Robert Langdon's perspective changed from **Angels & Demons** and **The Da Vinci Code**?

Author Bio

Dan Brown is the author of nine #1 bestselling novels, including THE DA VINCI CODE, which has become one of the bestselling books of all time. His Robert Langdon thrillers --- including THE LOST SYMBOL, ANGELS & DEMONS, INFERNO, ORIGIN and THE SECRET OF SECRETS --- have captivated readers worldwide and continue to spark intellectual debate, dialogue and conjecture. Brown's novels are published in 56 languages around the world with over 250 million copies in print.

In 2026, Brown was named ?Global Icon? by *Esquire* magazine in Spain and received the title of ?Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters? by the French government.

Brown has been cited as one of the ?100 Most Influential People in the World? by *TIME* magazine, whose editors credited him with ?keeping the publishing industry afloat; renewed interest in Leonardo da Vinci and early Christian history; spiking tourism to Paris and Rome; a growing membership in secret societies; the ire of Cardinals in Rome; eight books denying the claims of the novel and seven guides to read along with it; a flood of historical thrillers; and a major motion picture franchise.?

The son of a mathematics teacher and a church organist, Brown was raised on a prep school campus where he developed a fascination with the paradoxical interplay between science and religion. These themes eventually formed the backdrop for his books. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Phillips Exeter Academy, where he later returned to teach English before focusing his attention full time to writing. He lives in New England.

Critical Praise

"ROBERT LANGDON REMAINS A TERRIFIC HERO, a bookish intellectual who's cool in a crisis and quick on his feet?. The codes are intriguing, the settings present often-seen locales in a fresh light, and Brown keeps the pages turning."

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