

UNLOCKING THE DA VINCI CODE

In the novel *The DaVinci Code*, author Dan Brown promotes the long-ago-exposed hoax that Jesus and Mary Magdalene married and had a child, and that after the Crucifixion Mary and their child fled to Europe where their descendants intermarried with locals and began the Merovingian dynasty of medieval France. This secret—with hints left behind by the master daVinci—is the true Holy grail, that is, the regal bloodline.

This is the stuff fortunes are made of, and Dan Brown has already made a king's ransom on the sale of his "fiction passed off as history". Now with the release of the accompanying movie starring Tom Hanks, Brown's coffers are sure to become even fuller.

I read the book last year and enjoyed the story, but I never once considered it the "gospel truth". Neither does Brown. I'm sure he's laughing all the way to that proverbial bank at the gullibility of his readers.

The truth is, everyone loves a conspiracy. And Brown has devised the "mother-of-all conspiracies. I'm still trying to find out who shot J. R.! And no account of John F. Kennedy's assassination is complete without a new and improved conspiracy like Martians from outer space or some such non sense.

The bottom line is this. No one can (should) improve the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Its long been the greatest story ever told just the way it is. Imagine, God loving us, including Dan Brown, enough to send his one and only son to die in our place. Talk about a great read, this is it. And the end of the story promises a big payoff too, if we just accept it.

Yes, I'm sure I will go to see the movie, but I won't come out and burn my Bible or buy a da Vinci print. I will enjoy the flick and won't lose any sleep over whether the albino is coming to get me. Pass the popcorn please.