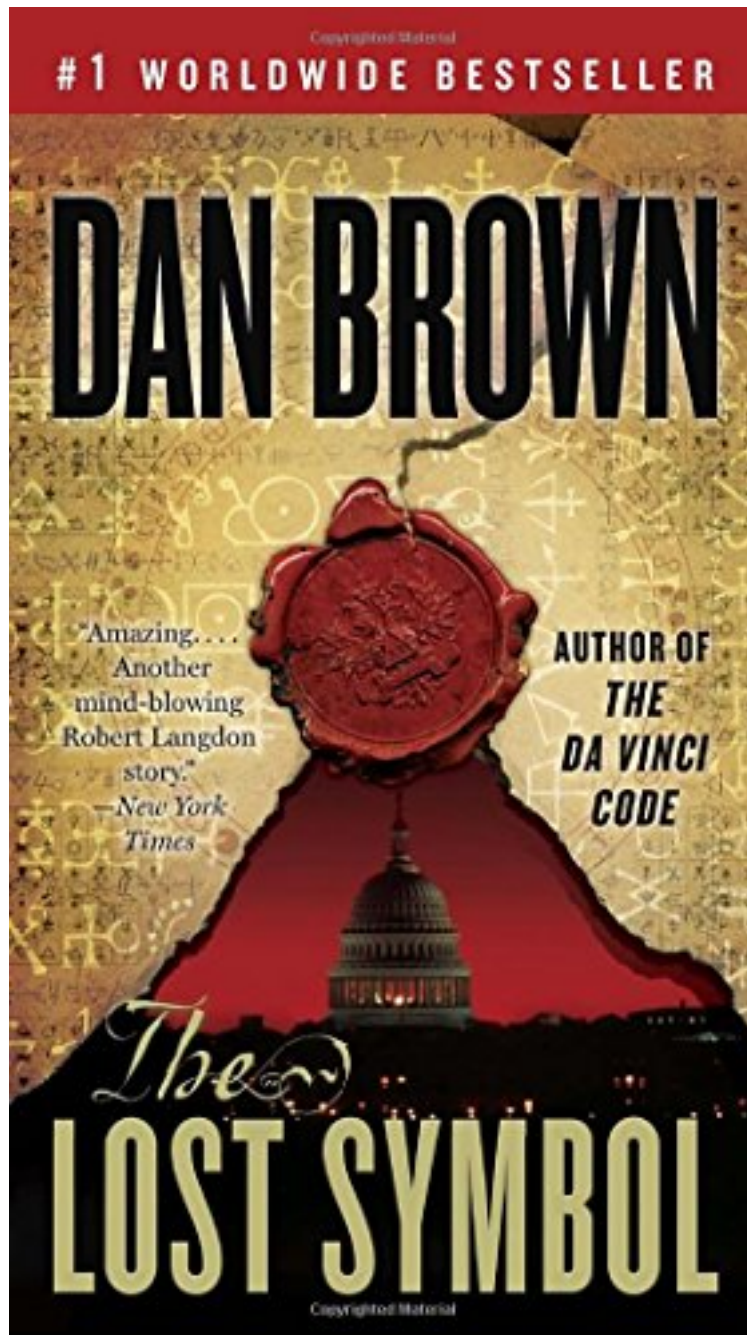


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The Lost Symbol

Dan Brown

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Dan Brown : The Lost Symbol before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and

all praised The Lost Symbol:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Equal parts exciting and dreadful
By BelgarI am a tepid fan of Dan Brown, both AD and DaVinci were fair to good so I thought I would read The Lost Symbol, a little later than the fans but still I have finally gotten around to it. This 3rd chapter in the Robert Langdon series is not as good as the first 2 even if I really enjoyed the Washington DC setting and the premise of the science. It simply doesn't hold together for me, I don't want to give away spoilers but the one of the main characters is telegraphed so far in advance that by the time it is really discussed in the book all but the least attentive readers will have figured it out. How many chapters, there are like 140 of them, have to end with an OMG moment? 75% or better and really did they need to? Nope, it was meant as a page turner but by the time I was half way through I groaned vs turned the page. Many things are told to the reader but I did not read an explanation as to how that came to be. Finally, in my opinion he wanted The Lost Symbol to read like a roller coaster ride, and it does if this roller coaster is made of straw and the biggest drop is 400,000 thousand feet.. again it doesn't hold up. On the plus side, all of the little trinkets of information about DC, about paintings, building, people if even half of them are true it makes for a very interesting visit to the city. Of course I would need to actually spend a little time researching if these things mentioned in the book are the writer's imagination or rooted firmly in real facts. End result is I will get around to Inferno sooner or later and hope that it is as the reviews say a better read.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing
By PatricijaHonestly, I find Lost Symbol somewhat disappointing, to put it mildly. It lacks Browns signature pace and suspense. While Langdons disbelief works as valid plot point in the beginning, its stubborn persistence throughout the novel reduces our favorite imaginary Harvard professor to really thick buffoon. Main villains motives do not seem plausible enough to validate his actions and even twist in the end does not improve overall impression. Author waits way too long to introduce reader with actual stakes. As a result, reader is faced with hundreds of pages of vague and empty hints at nothing. I found myself bored out of my mind through long stretches of useless content, wondering should I persevere or simply give up. At times it seems as if novel will recuperate and kick off in real Brown style only to fall flat again and bore reader for another block of pages. I think cutting out between 150 and 200 pages would dramatically improve quality without losing meaningful content. I know we all have bad day here and there but with 600 plus pages Id say Brown had bad year(s). Hopefully, next novel in Langdon series is significantly better. That is, if I decide there will be next time
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Intriguing
By JahNiqueAnother great read from the brilliant mind of Dan Brown. Using Langdon, Brown has guided us through another exciting journey which prompts the mind to question the "religious truths". I couldn't put it down.

In this stunning follow-up to the global phenomenon The Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown demonstrates once again why he is the worlds most popular thriller writer. The Lost Symbol is a masterstroke of storytelling that finds famed symbologist Robert Langdon in a deadly race through a real-world labyrinth of codes, secrets, and unseen truths . . . all under the watchful eye of Browns most terrifying villain to date. Set within the hidden chambers, tunnels, and temples of Washington, D.C., The Lost Symbol is an intelligent, lightning-paced story with surprises at every turn. This is Dan Browns most exciting novel yet.

.com Let's start with the question every Dan Brown fan wants answered: Is The Lost Symbol as good as The Da Vinci Code? Simply put, yes. Brown has mastered the art of blending nail-biting suspense with random arcana (from pop science to religion), and The Lost Symbol is an enthralling mix. And what a dazzling accomplishment that is, considering that rabid fans and skeptics alike are scrutinizing every word. The Lost Symbol begins with an ancient ritual, a shadowy enclave, and of course, a secret. Readers know they are in Dan Brown territory when, by the end of the first chapter, a secret within a secret is revealed. To tell too much would ruin the fun of reading this delicious thriller, so you will find no spoilers here. Suffice it to say that as with many series featuring a recurring character, there is a bit of a formula at work (one that fans will love). Again, brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon finds himself in a predicament that requires his vast knowledge of symbology and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. The setting, unlike other Robert Langdon novels, is stateside, and in Brown's hands Washington D.C. is as fascinating as Paris or Vatican City (note to the D.C. tourism board: get your "Lost Symbol" tour in order). And, as with other Dan Brown books, the pace is relentless, the revelations many, and there is an endless parade of intriguing factoids that will make you feel like you are spending the afternoon with Robert Langdon and the guys from Mythbusters. Nothing is as it seems in a Robert Langdon novel, and The Lost Symbol itself is no exception--a page-turner to be sure, but Brown also challenges his fans to open their minds to new information. Skeptical? Imagine how many other thrillers would spawn millions of Google searches for noetic science, superstring theory, and Apotheosis of Washington. The Lost Symbol is brain candy of the best sort--just make sure to set aside time to enjoy your meal. --
Daphne Durham More from Dan Brown The Da Vinci Code Angels Demons Deception Point Digital Fortress From Publishers WeeklyStarred . After scores of Da Vinci Code knockoffs, spinoffs, copies and caricatures, Brown has had the stroke of brilliance to set his breakneck new thriller not in some far-off exotic locale, but right here in our own

backyard. Everyone off the bus, and welcome to a Washington, D.C., they never told you about on your school trip when you were a kid, a place steeped in Masonic history that, once revealed, points to a dark, ancient conspiracy that threatens not only America but the world itself. Returning hero Robert Langdon comes to Washington to give a lecture at the behest of his old mentor, Peter Solomon. When he arrives at the U.S. Capitol for his lecture, he finds, instead of an audience, Peter's severed hand mounted on a wooden base, fingers pointing skyward to the Rotunda ceiling fresco of George Washington dressed in white robes, ascending to heaven. Langdon teases out a plethora of clues from the tattooed hand that point toward a secret portal through which an intrepid seeker will find the wisdom known as the Ancient Mysteries, or the lost wisdom of the ages. A villain known as Mal'akh, a steroid-swollen, fantastically tattooed, muscle-bodied madman, wants to locate the wisdom so he can rule the world. Mal'akh has captured Peter and promises to kill him if Langdon doesn't agree to help find the portal. Joining Langdon in his search is Peter's younger sister, Kathleen, who has been conducting experiments in a secret museum. This is just the kickoff for a deadly chase that careens back and forth, across, above and below the nation's capital, darting from revelation to revelation, pausing only to explain some piece of wondrous, historical esoterica. Jealous thriller writers will despair, doubters and naysayers will be proved wrong, and readers will rejoice: Dan Brown has done it again. From Bookmarks Magazine "Together again," proclaimed the Wall Street Journal, "an exciting thriller and a tedious sermon" a view shared by many critics, who remarked on Brown's ability to build suspense into a dizzying, ever-accelerating narrative through short chapters and breathless cliffhangers, but panned his philosophical ruminations and his "habit of turning characters into docents" (Washington Post). Several critics also noted that, while The Lost Symbol shares many of The Da Vinci Code's shortcomings, including melodramatic prose, stock characters, and far-fetched plot devices, it lacks the former novel's emotional punch and audacity. Those who appreciated Symbol most were able to overlook its flaws and lose themselves in the story. Da Vinci Code fans may experience some déjà vu, but they should find this latest novel just as entertaining.