

The Da Vinci Code

The following article named FOCUS, dated June 2004 was received from the Masonic Service Association of North America and is from the Masonic Information Centre.

Though The Da Vinci Code was contentious enough to produce 10 books attempting to discredit it, its author said he left out what likely would have been the most controversial part. Dan Brown said that when he wrote the best seller that dissects the origins of Jesus Christ and disputes long-held beliefs about Catholicism, he considered including material alleging that Jesus Christ survived the crucifixion.

While speaking at a benefit for a New Hampshire writers' group, Brown said the theory is backed by a number of "very credible sources," but that he ultimately decided it was too flimsy. "For me, that was just three or four steps too far," he told the crowd of more than 800 people.

Brown said he is grateful his book is generating so much debate. He said apathy is a constant threat to the study of the uncomfortable relationship between science and religion.

Brown said the movie version of The Da Vinci Code is under way. He mentioned some names that have been battled about for the lead role: George Clooney, Tom Hanks, Russell Crowe, and Hugh Jackman. (Clooney's name drew the loudest response from the audience.) He initially resisted having the book made into a movie, but succumbed when producer Harvey Weinstein told him many people don't read books, but deserve to know The Da Vinci Code story. "He absolutely appealed to my ego," Brown said. "How many chances do you get to fly to Paris to see your book turned into a movie by Ron Howard?"

Brown's discussion of his book, during which he answered audience questions, was a rare public appearance for him. He has declined most requests for media interviews this year, saying he is focusing on writing the sequel to his book.

He said the new book, set in Washington, D.C., would focus on the Free and Accepted Masons, a secretive fraternal organization. He said the architecture in Washington is soaked in symbolism and plays a major role in the novel. He also said the dust jacket of The Da Vinci Code contains a code that reveals information about the sequel.

(Source: Several News Stories)

We will endeavour to bring you a Book Review of '*The Da Vinci Code*' in a subsequent issue. It is as most members would probably already know, a best seller in the book shops.

P.S. Your editor heard yesterday that the sequel, (name unknown), is already on sale. If so, it must be only just out, because the Author's web-site does not yet show the book.

We would have to hope that the content is factual and does not become one of the various past sources of anti-masonry so loved by the gutter press and people such as John Ankerberg, one of the most rabid.