



If You Liked *The Da Vinci Code*... Try These!

FICTION

FIC/BERRY, S. *The Amber Room* by Steve Berry

Karol Borya is one of the last people alive to know the whereabouts of the Amber Room, a set of intricately carved panels that was looted and stolen from the Russians by the Nazis during the Second World War. But when Borya is murdered, his daughter, Atlanta court judge Rachel Cutler, joins up with her ex-spouse, Paul, to find out the truth behind the missing work of art. An intriguing thriller with fascinating characters and well-researched passages on art and architecture.

FIC/CASE, J. *The Genesis Code* by John Case

Joe Lassiter, a D.C.-area detective, has just experienced a horrible tragedy: his wife and young son have died in a tragic house fire, along with an Italian arsonist, who was burned beyond recognition. Strangely enough, his wife and child are but two victims out of a total of 34 mothers and toddlers worldwide that died in mysterious fires. When Joe delves deeper into the matter, he finds out that Umbra Domini, a secret Roman Catholic order, is at the center of the arson. A fast-paced, highly unique thriller that feeds into the current trend of Catholicism in fiction.

FIC/ECO, U. *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco

William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk, accompanied by his apprentice, Nigel, arrives at a Benedictine abbey in northern Italy only to discover that the devil is afoot there. A young monk has recently been found dead, apparently having been thrown out of a tower window by an evil force. When William decides to investigate matters for himself, he finds that the root of evil is actually something very real and very dangerous. A fascinating and engrossing novel in which books and manuscripts play a central role.

FIC/GEORGE, M. *Mary, Called Magdalene* by Margaret George

There are many conflicting stories about Mary Madgalene. Margaret George depicts Mary as a married woman, and a mother, who falls under demonic possession and then finds Jesus, who cures her. However, Mary must make a difficult choice: follow the prophet or go back to her husband and child. A well-researched example of historical and biographical fiction that will appeal to those looking to extend their knowledge of one of the most mysterious figures of the Bible.

FIC/GIFFORD, T. *The Assassini* by Thomas Gifford

In Princeton, New Jersey, an activist nun writing a book on the Church's role in WWII is killed. The nun's brother, lawyer Ben Driskill, sets out on an international hunt for the truth behind his sister's murder and the research she left behind. His search leads him to investigate an ancient and deadly secret society that has deep roots in Catholic Church. A thought-provoking suspense/thriller that you will remember long after finishing.

FIC/PEARS, I. *An Instance of the Fingerpost* by Iain Pears

It is the 1660's in Oxford, England, and the political and religious climate is highly charged. Charles II has been restored to the English throne. The Church of England is trying to wipe out opposition from both Catholics and Protestants. It is in this setting that the poisoning of Robert Grove, fellow of New College, Oxford, occurs. His death is explored by four eyewitnesses, who each reveal different circumstances and theories surrounding his death. A stimulating tale of politics, faith, and betrayal with actual historical figures as characters.

FIC/PERDUE, L. *Daughter of God* by Lewis Perdue

Willi Max, a former member of the Nazi Party, gets in contact with art historian Zoe Ridgeway, and asks her for a last, dying wish: to come to Zurich to catalogue his collection of looted treasure from WWII and then return it to its rightful owners. But soon after Zoe reaches her Zurich hotel, she is kidnapped. Zoe's husband, Seth, decides to travel to Europe in search of her and in the process finds out much more about Willi Max's collection. One particular artifact that Seth discovers is a burial shroud, which purportedly shows the image of the "daughter of God," Sophia, a female Messiah born three centuries after Christ, who attracted a very serious following in her time. Once Seth takes possession of this shroud, he becomes the target of an international chase. Why is this relic so coveted? You will find out in this page-turning tale of intrigue, greed, and conspiracy.

PPB P

The Da Vinci Legacy by Lewis Perdue

Vance Erikson, a scholar of Leonardo da Vinci's work, discovers that many pages of the Da Vinci Codex, a collection of the artist's original work, are forgeries. Erikson therefore sets out on a quest to find the genuine documents. However, he soon realizes that he is not the only person in search of the missing pages, and that he has thrust himself in the middle of a dangerous conspiracy. This book, first published in 1983, has recently been reissued following Perdue's suggestion that Dan Brown committed plagiarism in writing *The Da Vinci Code*. Find out for yourself if Perdue has a case.

NON-FICTION

226.092 HIG

Mad Mary by Liz Curtis Higgs

Higgs, author of *Bad Girls of the Bible* and *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*, devotes an entire book to Mary Magdalene, who she argues is not such a bad girl at all. She asserts, for example, that there is no biblical evidence that Mary was a prostitute, and that in fact, she was probably old enough to be Jesus' mother. She also claims that Mary supported Jesus' ministry with financial donations, and that Mary was indeed the person to whom Jesus first appeared after his Resurrection. This is an accessible work that will appeal to those wanting to learn more about one of the most misunderstood women of the Bible.

232.9 BOC

Breaking the Da Vinci Code by Darrell L. Bock

Dr. Darrell L. Bock "answers the questions everybody's asking" about *The Da Vinci Code* in this interesting book. For instance, he explores the identity of Mary Magdalene, questions if Jesus was married, and examines the "so-called Secret, Gnostic Gospels." In the end, Bock discovers a "code" that lies behind *The Da Vinci Code*, a code, he claims, that begins to explain why the book has become such a public phenomenon.

232.9 BUR

Secrets of the Code: The Unauthorized Guide to Mysteries Behind the Da Vinci Code
ed. by Dan Burstein

This collaborative effort from a group of scientists, theologians, archeologists, philosophers, and art historians attempts to provide answers to some of the thought-provoking questions in *The Da Vinci Code*. In addition to exploring the identity of Mary Magdalene and her relationship with Jesus, the authors also explore the larger question of the role of women in church history, and if their contributions have been

deemphasized. The authors also consider the idea of “secret societies,” and question whether major artists and scientists participated in them and communicated their “insider information” through their work. A comprehensive exploration of some of the most fundamental ideas that emerge from *The Da Vinci Code*.

232.9 WEL PB

De-coding Da Vinci: The Facts Behind the Fiction of the Da Vinci Code by Amy Welborn

This book addresses potential “misrepresentation in history, religion and art in *The Da Vinci Code*” in a concise, easy-to-read format. Welborn questions many of the assertions made in Dan Brown’s book, including the usability of sacred texts not found in the Bible. She also includes discussion questions and suggestions for further reading in every chapter. A great place to start formulating a conversation about one of the most talked-about books of all time.

944 BAI

Holy Blood, Holy Grail by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln

In this fascinating read, three authors assert that Jesus may not have died on the cross, but instead lived to marry and father children whose bloodline continues today. The authors use evidence gathered from their explorations into the secretive history of early France to support this radical claim. They also imply that parchments found in the South of France may hold the key to unlocking the secret of the Holy Grail. If you liked the controversy that *The Da Vinci Code* stirred up, then be sure not to miss this equally provocative book.

