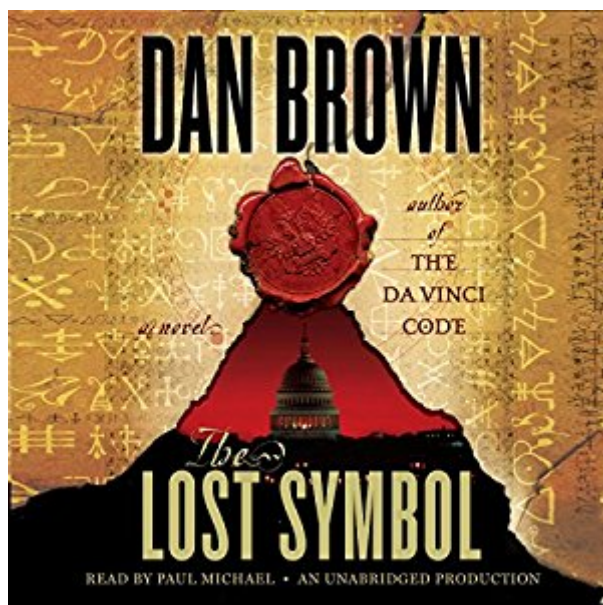


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The Lost Symbol



Synopsis

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 masterpiece 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 Brown's 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 Brown's most exciting novel yet. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Audible.com Release Date: September 15, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Best Sellers Rank: #75 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense
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Customer Reviews

The worst book in the series. What was fresh in the first book and a stylistic choice in the second is a formulaic bore in the third. We open with the ~suspense~, Langdon gets whisked off by a mysterious old person, there's a beautiful woman (who probably has "olive skin") and there's also a giant man, who may or may not be covered in tattoos, and whose loins are described on more than one occasion. I could barely get through this book. It was awful and boring.

With the blank spaces between paragraphs, it was almost impossible to keep up with POV shifts. Some of the dialogue was misformatted, with more than one speaker per paragraph. The book also contains other errors such as hanging or missing quotation marks. This read like a book that

needed to be produced on a deadline. One more go-through by the author or editor would have caught/corrected the errors that made me grind my teeth. The end of the book drags. I'm not sure I'll read the next one.

First Sentence: The secret is how to die. Robert Langdon receives, what he believes to be, a request from an old friend to come to Washington, D.C. Once there, in the Rotunda of the Capitol, is found his friend's dismembered hand. The chase is on; Robert Langdon and his friend's sister, against an unknown villain and members of the CIA. I could go on and on about how bad I thought this book was. The bad guy was way over the top, Langdon seemed flat, and the women were too stupid to live. The geography of Washington had errors. Yes, some of the information on the Freemasons is interesting, as is some of the arcane historical information, but nothing really gels together. There's a federal agency involved without any explanation as to why they are there. There's nothing to grab onto. With DaVinci Code, there was the whole Mary Magdalene theory; with Angels and Demons it was the race against the clock and would the Pope get elected. Here's it's about rescuing a friend of Langdon's whom we've not met and to whom we have no real attachment, and about the great secret protected by the Freemasons. The book is an example of bad dialogue, bloated writing, and repetitive scenes. However, the greatest sin was that I never felt engaged or cared what happened. Nearly every chapter ended with a mini-cliff hanger and didn't add to the plot or the suspense. One or two wouldn't have bothered me but every chapter became absurd and amateurish. Write a good story; I'll keep turning the pages. The only thing I didn't regret about this book was that I bought the Kindle version rather than the \$150 signed edition I was offered. No thanks.

Dan Brown must be a bit mystified if he reads through the reviews on .com. In many ways "The Lost Symbol" is a superior book to "Angels and Demons" and "The Da Vinci Code". Brown has matured as a writer and has honed his craft. Mainly there is less author intrusion . i.e. poor dialogue or scenes that cause the reader to break from the spell that has been cast by the author and think "What? That seems silly/corny/gimmicky/stupid" - in short, it knocks the reader back to the reality that they are reading a book. "The Lost Symbol" has fewer such "Author Intrusions" than Brown's previous novels. Why the bad reviews? I guess there are lots of reasons, but top on the list is that his last two books were quite shocking. Without giving too much away "The Lost Symbol" is just not as shocking. It offers many of the same ingredients but the pie just isn't as filling. The story focuses on Masonic tradition and the geography of Washington D.C. Robert Langdon has been asked to give a keynote speech on the symbolism of DC only to find that he is being pulled into a plot by a madman.

Sound familiar? Langdon unlocks clues that have been entrusted to him by his friend in order to save his life. Other Observations- The last 30 pages are pretty anti-climatic- I agree with the person who said that Dan Brown should consider a new editor- this story was bloated by about 50 pages - which served as a distraction.- Nice plot twists - Dan Brown broke from his formula (see my other Dan Brown reviews) and found a new way of introducing plot twists.- As always, Dan Brown introduces to a series of arcane facts about geography, history, word origins and such - "The Lost Symbol" is an interesting read strictly based on Brown's explanations.- I really don't see "The Lost Symbol" being made into a movie - it just doesn't seem to flow well for a movie. Final Verdict- 90% of "The Lost Symbol" is the best book written by Dan Brown, however I think a majority of Brown fans will disagree. 4 Stars

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