

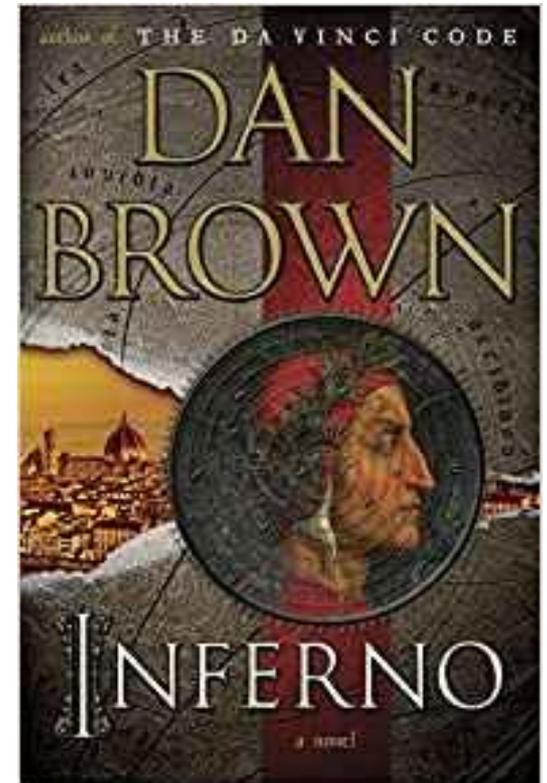
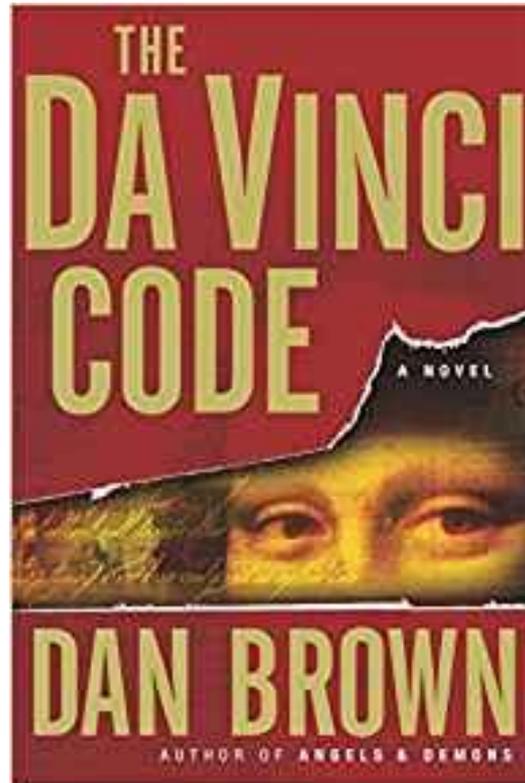
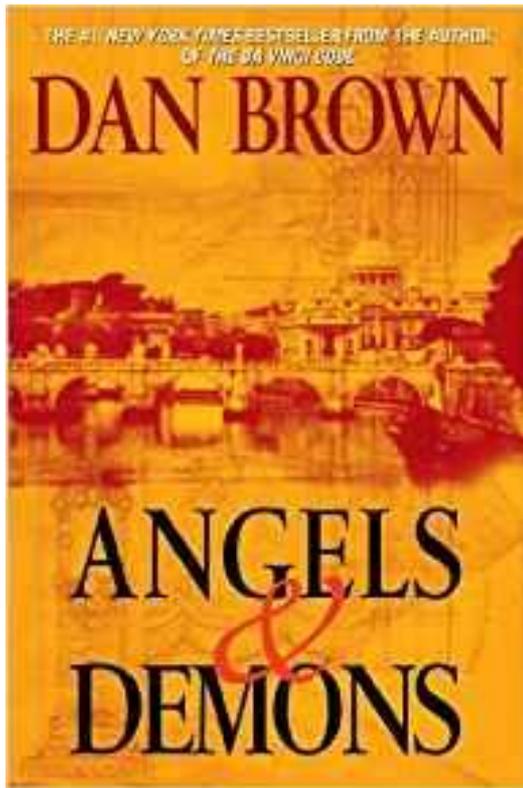
AUTHOR of
THE DA VINCI CODE

DAN
BROWN



ORIGIN

A NOVEL



All three of these Dan Brown books have been made into movies.



Dan Brown's novels are published in 56 languages around the world with over 200 million copies in print.

In 2005, Brown was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME Magazine.

Brown's net worth is estimated at over \$175 million.

Important notice: This review will analyze some of the content of *Origin*, and in so doing will reveal events in the novel, including its main thesis. If you plan on reading the book, you may not want to know some of these details.

Fact:

All art, architecture, locations, science, and religious organizations in this novel are real.

The above notice is printed in the front of *Origin*.



Monastery Catalonia, Spain



Another view of Monastery Catalonia

At the monastery, Edmond Kirsch met with leaders of the three monotheistic world religions.

Kirsch was convinced that “people across the world would realize that the teachings of all religions did indeed have one thing in common. They are all dead wrong.”

Bishop: “You speak as if whatever you are about to show us will shake the foundations of the world’s religions.”

Kirsch: “It will not shake your foundations. It will shatter them.”



Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

At the Guggenheim Museum prior to the lecture, Edmond Kirsch says to Robert Langdon: “How did it all begin? Where do we come from? . . . Where are we going? . . . In our lifetime, the myths of religion would be all but demolished by scientific breakthroughs. . . . I had found the purpose of my life – to employ the truth of science to eradicate the myth of religion.”



Another view of Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

As Kirsch approaches the lectern to speak to the select, invited, guests at the Guggenheim Museum, there are some 3 million viewing the event by streaming live.

Kirsch said in part: “it’s not your fault that we believe the crazy things we believe. . . . we all end up placing our faith in different things because there is no universal truth. . . . Science is the antithesis of faith. . . . The age of religion is drawing to a close.”



Another view of Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

Just before Kirsch was to begin the main part of his lecture, Admiral Luis Avila, member of the Palmarian sect church, assassinates Kirsch using a plastic gun and a bullet hidden inside a large crucifix on a rosary bead chain.



Catedral de la Almudena, Madrid, Spain



An interior view, Catedral de la Almudena, Madrid, Spain



Another interior view, Catedral de la Almudena

The Catedral de la Almudena is adjacent to the Royal Palace of Madrid.



Palacio Real - The Royal Palace of Madrid, Spain



An interior view of Palacio Real

- At first it was thought that the royal family was somehow involved in Kirsch's assassination.



The Cathedral of Palmar de Troya, Andalusia, Spain



A closer view of the Cathedral of Palmar de Troya

The assassin, Admiral Luis Avila, was a member of the Palmarian sect church, an offshoot of the Roman Catholic church, but more conservative, and the sworn enemy of the Vatican.



Casa Mila, Barcelona, Spain

- Langdon searched for the password in Kirsch's apartment in the Casa Mila building.



La Sagrada Familia Basilica, Barcelona, Spain



A closer view of La Sagrada Familia Basilica



An interior view, La Sagrada Familia Basilica, Barcelona, Spain

Langdon continued his search for the password in the library of the La Sagrada Familia Basilica.



El Escorial Monastery, San Lorenzo, Spain



El Escorial Pantheon of Kings



Barcelona Supercomputing Center



An interior view, Barcelona Supercomputing Center



Another interior view, Barcelona Supercomputing Center

Barcelona Supercomputing Center is where Kirsch's message was located. It is also the home of Winston.

Edmond Kirsch's Message

Highlights of Edmond Kirsch's message to the world:

“Where do we come from? . . . The truth is – we come from nowhere . . . And from everywhere. We come from the *same laws of physics* that create life across the cosmos. We are not special. . . . I can tell you with a very high degree of certainty that the human race as we know it will not be here fifty years from now. . . . This new species does not entirely erase us . More accurately . . . It *absorbs* us.”

Kirsch's Message (continued)

What is this new species?

Artificial Intelligence, when it surpasses human intelligence and the two become fused into one.

What about Winston?

HAL

vs.

Winston

2001 (1968)

Origin (2017)

Arthur C. Clarke

Dan Brown

See and hears everything
onboard *Discovery*

Connected to many sensors
worldwide

Highly intelligent

Highly intelligent

More-so than humans

More-so than humans

In *2010* dispassionately
sacrifices himself

Dispassionately allows
to be erased

What About AI?

- What is the fascination with AI?
- Why do some look to a highly evolved AI?
- Where is HAL? This is 2018! Not 2001, or even 2010.

Reality Check

“Contrary to the more fantastic predictions for AI in the popular press, the Study Panel found no cause for concern that AI is an imminent threat to humankind. No machines with self-sustaining long-term goals and intent have been developed, nor are they likely to be developed in the near future.”

Artificial Intelligence and Life in 2030, Stanford University, September, 2016 (a group of over 20 scientists)

https://ai100.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/ai_100_report_0831fnl.pdf

Reality Check (continued)

The link below is on an interview with David Gelernter, professor of computer science at Yale University. He claims that **computer scientists aren't just a long way from devising an AI computer with the ability to think, wonder, dream, and wish. They don't have any idea how it could be done, even in the sense of a theoretical model. Or whether it can *ever* be done.**

<https://evolutionnews.org/2018/06/great-minds-medved-and-gelernter-on-human-exceptionalism-american-exceptionalism>

And What About This?

“How did it all begin? Where do we come from?
... Where are we going?”

Even given that AI will someday mimic human intelligence, but would that tell us about the above questions?

These are questions addressed by philosophy and religion.

Scholarship not Fiction!

Brown's books deal with questions of religion and philosophy, but it must be kept in mind that they are, as I'm sure he would admit, works of fiction. However, they include just enough history and science to make them read as though they are serious investigations into the topics covered: the pure fiction and elements of truth are blended together in such a way that, unless you are an expert or well-read in the area, it may be difficult to separate fact from fiction. Fiction has its appeal, but is without documentation, or serious argumentation.

Resources

Stephen C. Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design*, HarperOne, 2009.

This book is endorsed by Philip S. Skell, member, National Academy of Sciences, and Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University; Scott Turner, professor, environmental and forest biology, State University of New York; Thomas Nagel, professor, New York University; Alastair Noble, former BBC education officer and Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for Science, Scotland; Edward Peltzer, ocean chemistry, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Steve Fuller, professor of sociology of science, University of Warwick; John C. Walton, professor of organic chemistry, University of St. Andrews, Scotland; Norman C. Nevin, professor emeritus in medical genetics, Queen's University, Belfast, fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; and others. This book was a *Times Literary Supplement* "Book of the Year" for 2009.

Resources (continued)

Stephen C. Meyer, *Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design*, HarperOne, 2013.

This book is endorsed by George Church, professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School; Mark McMenamin, paleontologist at Mt. Holyoke College; Scott Turner, professor of biology at the State University of New York; Russell Carlson, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and director of the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center at the University of Georgia; Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig, senior scientist emeritus (biologist) at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany; and others. The book was a *New York Times* “Bestseller” in non-fiction for 2013.

Resources (continued)

Denyse O'Leary, *By Design or by Chance?: The Growing Controversy on the Origins of Life in the Universe*, Castle Quay Books, 2004.

Very accessible, yet very well researched and documented. The book is endorsed by Phillip Johnson, Timothy G. Standish, Jonathan Wells, and William Dembski.

Resources (continued)

Larry D. Paarmann, “Intelligent Design and Natural Law,” presented at the Annual Gathering of American Mensa, Hollywood, FL July, 2017.

This is a well-documented introduction to intelligent design, and the problems of Darwinian evolution. May be downloaded from http://evansig.org/DDocuments/Intelligent_Design_and_Natural_Law.pdf

