

Dante's "Inferno" Rediscovered in Dan Brown's Latest Novel

By Lori Juhlin

Robert Langdon will seek to uncover the mystery surrounding one of the most enduring masterpieces in literary history, Dante's "Inferno" in Dan Brown's latest novel due out May 14th, aptly titled "Inferno."

"Against this backdrop, Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle that pulls him into a landscape of classic art, secret passageways, and futuristic science. Drawing from Dante's dark epic poem, Langdon races to find answers and decide whom to trust . . . before the world is irrevocably altered."

Brown notes that while he studied Dante's "Inferno" in school, "it wasn't until recently, while researching in Florence I came to appreciate the enduring influence of Dante's work on the modern world. With this new novel, I am excited to take readers on a journey deep into this mysterious realm...a landscape of codes, symbols, and more than a few secret passageways."

If you are like me, and never studied Dante's "Inferno" as a student, or just need a refresher, visit the Nebraska Overdrive site and download the e-book of Dante Alighieri's "Divine Comedy" or "Inferno."

As you wait for Brown's latest book to be released, you could always catch up on some of his older titles, including his first novel "Digital Fortress," a fast-paced thriller for those who like hardware with disc drives and rate heroes by big brainpower rather than big firepower.

With his first novel complete, Dan then started the Robert Langdon series, which follows the work of Harvard Professor Robert Langdon as he seeks to uncover the meaning behind symbols and mysteries in some of the world's greatest cities. In "Angels & Demons" a brilliant scientist is found murdered in a Swiss research facility, and Langdon is summoned to identify the mysterious symbol seared onto the scientist's chest.

Next up on the reading list is *Deception Point*, which follows the work of Rachel Sexton, an intelligence officer at the National Reconnaissance Office. She is also the daughter of a Senator currently running for President. One reviewer notes that "as the story progresses, she quickly learns that nothing is what it seems, and, with two civilian scientists, is soon fleeing for her life. Stranded on an ice berg they are rescued in the nick of time by a nuclear submarine, but once back in the US their attempts to expose the plot show them that they can trust absolutely no one."

Brown then returns to the work of Robert Langdon, in the highly successful "DaVinci Code," which finds Robert Langdon in Paris at the famed Louvre Museum, and the prime suspect in a murder investigation. As he tries to prove his innocence he follows a trail that leads to some of DaVinci's most famous works.

Brown then returns to the United States in "The Lost Symbol," where Harvard Professor Robert Langdon discovers a severed hand, encoded with five symbols. Langdon recognizes the object as an ancient invitation meant to guide its recipient into the secretive world of the Mason's.

The book jacket notes that “when Langdon’s beloved mentor, Peter Solomon, a prominent Mason and philanthropist, is brutally kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations, all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth.”

For more information on these titles, as well as other thrilling books, stop by the library or call us at 564-7116.