

Angels & Demons Study Guide

Angels & Demons by Dan Brown

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Plot Summary

Angels & Demons brings an ancient secret organization, the Illuminati, and the Vatican together in a present-day battle for control. Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon must join forces with scientist Vittoria Vetra in a frantic race to save the Vatican from a powerful bomb which threatens to destroy it and the cardinals who have gathered within the Sistine Chapel to elect the next Pope. Their journey takes them across Rome and into cathedrals, secret archives and the Illuminati lair. Along the way, they uncover many secrets, including who is responsible for the threat to the Vatican. In the end, they save the Vatican and the cardinals from harm.

Langdon is summoned to Switzerland when it is discovered that an Illuminati brand was used to mark a dead man's chest. He meets Vittoria, the dead man's daughter, and Maximillian Kohler, the director of CERN, the *Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire*, or European Council for Nuclear Research. Vittoria and her father have created a sample of antimatter, a highly unstable material, which has been stolen. They receive a call from the Vatican, stating that they have an unknown canister with CERN's logo on it. Langdon and Vittoria race to Rome, only to find that the canister endangers not only the physical structures there but also the College of Cardinals, who have gathered to elect a new Pope. Four cardinals are also missing.

The camerlengo, who is in charge of the Vatican until a new Pope is elected, receives a call from someone who claims that the Illuminati are behind all of the actions that night. He says that he will kill one of the missing cardinals each hour. Langdon and Vittoria think that if they can capture the killer, they can find the location of the antimatter. They find an ancient booklet which points to four sites called the Altars of Science. These sites form a pathway to the Church of Illumination, the Illuminati lair.

At each site, Langdon and Vittoria find one of the dead cardinals, branded with another Illuminati brand. The cardinals are killed in ways that correspond to the four brands: earth, air, fire and water. Vittoria is captured by the killer at the third site. Langdon continues to follow the clues, fighting with the killer at the third and fourth sites. He finally locates the Church of Illumination, and he and Vittoria kill the assassin, or killer.

Kohler arrives at the Vatican, saying that he has information. Langdon believes that he is behind the plot. Kohler is killed in the camerlengo's office, but he gives Langdon a tape before dying. The camerlengo has been branded. He seems to have a vision from God and rushes from St. Peter's Square into the basilica, returning with the canister of antimatter. He and Langdon climb in a helicopter. As time runs out on the antimatter canister, the camerlengo jumps from the helicopter. Langdon also jumps, although he does not have a parachute. The antimatter explodes high above Rome.

The camerlengo glides down to land on top of St. Peter's Basilica. People worldwide believe that a miracle has occurred. Langdon lands in the Tiber River and is taken to a hospital. There, he discovers the tape from Kohler. He takes the tape to the Sistine Chapel, where the College of Cardinals is set to elect the camerlengo Pope. The tape



contains a recording of the camerlengo admitting that he planned everything in order to bring people back to the church. The camerlengo lights himself on fire. The Vatican asks Langdon and Vittoria to keep quiet about what really happened that night if they feel that this is right in their heart.



Prologue and Chapters 1-10

Prologue and Chapters 1-10 Summary

Angels & Demons brings an ancient secret organization, the Illuminati, and the Vatican together in a present-day battle for control. Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon must join forces with scientist Vittoria Vetra in a frantic race to save the Vatican from a powerful bomb which threatens to destroy it and the cardinals who have gathered within the Sistine Chapel to elect the next Pope. Their journey takes them across Rome and into cathedrals, secret archives and the Illuminati lair. Along the way, they uncover many secrets, including who is responsible for the threat to the Vatican. In the end, they save the Vatican and the cardinals from harm.

Leonardo Vetra smells burning flesh and knows that it is his own. A dark figure looms over him, demanding the password. Vetra cries that there is no password. The figure produces a blade and brings it to Vetra's face.

Robert Langdon wakes to the sound of the phone ringing. The voice on the other end introduces himself as Maximillian Kohler, a discrete particle physicist. When Langdon questions whether he has the right number, Kohler tells him that he is looking for Langdon, who is a professor of religious iconology at Harvard. The caller tells Langdon that he needs to see him, but Langdon hangs up.

Langdon wanders through his home in Massachusetts. His fax machine rings. The image is of a corpse with the word "Illuminati" burned onto the man's chest. Langdon realizes that whoever sent the image is still on the line, and he picks up. Kohler asks if he has Langdon's attention now. He's sent a plane for Langdon. Langdon agrees to meet with him. Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, two men meet in the dark. One tells the other that he has been successful. The second man says that phase two of the plan will begin soon.

Langdon drives to Logan Airport and finds the hanger that Kohler has told him to go to. The pilot meets him and leads him to a plane that looks like a huge wedge or a space shuttle with a flat top. The pilot calls it a High Speed Civil Transporter. They climb in and get ready. The pilot tells him that they are flying to Geneva, Switzerland and will arrive in an hour, since the plane does Mach fifteen.

Vetra's killer winds his way down a European street. His employer first made contact fifteen days ago, telling him that the brotherhood still existed and that he needed the killer to get a certain item for him. At first the killer thought that the item will be impossible to get, but now he has acquired it. He has delivered the item to Janus, his employer, whose identity he does not know. The killer's ancestors formed a small, deadly army known as *Hassassin*, now pronounced assassin.



Langdon steps off the airplane sixty-four minutes later in Switzerland. The pilot escorts him to a sedan parked by the control tower. They speed down the valley floor to a cluster of buildings, which bears the name of CERN. A man in a wheelchair comes out of the main building and introduces himself as Maximillian Kohler.

Kohler takes Langdon around the building, but he does not immediately bring him to the man pictured in the fax. Langdon senses a rumbling ahead, and Kohler tells him that it is the Free Fall Tube. As they pass, Langdon peeks in through a small window and sees three people floating around. One woman is wearing a miniature parachute, and Kohler tells him that this is for friction. One square yard of drag will slow a falling body by twenty percent.

Kohler and Langdon emerge from the back of CERN's main complex, and the scene in front of him reminds Langdon of an Ivy League campus. Kohler tells him that the scientists at CERN are working with particle physics, trying to find answers to the questions that people have been asking since the beginning of time. "Mr. Langdon, all questions were once spiritual. Since the beginning of time, spirituality and religion have been called on to fill in the gaps that science did not understand...Science has now provided answers to almost every question man can ask. There are only a few questions left, and they are the esoteric ones. Where do we come from? What are we doing here? What is the meaning of life and the universe?" (pg. 25). Kohler says that these are the questions that CERN is answering.

In several more minutes, Langdon and Kohler arrive at a large dormitory. They go to the top floor. Kohler says that Vetra was supposed to meet with him, and when he didn't, Kohler came to the apartment to check on him but found him dead. Langdon feels a chill knowing that he is about to see a dead body. When Langdon questions him, Kohler says that he has not called the police. Vetra's daughter, whom he worked with, is away, and Kohler doesn't want the police involved until she makes it back later that day and has a chance to check their shared office.

The body on the floor is stripped naked, his neck broken and his head twisted backward. On his chest is the symmetrical wound. Although the Illuminati emblem is legendary, no academic has ever seen it. Modern symbologists have tried for years to forge the word into a perfectly symmetrical style, but they have failed. Kohler asks who the Illuminati are, and Langdon responds that in the 1500s, a group fought back against the church in Rome. The group included physicists, mathematicians, astronomers and others - Europe's most learned minds. It grew to include academics from all around Europe. The scientists met in Rome at a secret place they called the Church of Illumination. Galileo was a part of the group, and he tried to soften the church's position on science by claiming that science reinforced the existence of God. He argued that science and religion were not enemies but two different languages telling the same story. The church tried Galileo as a heretic and found him guilty, sentencing him to permanent house arrest. In the upheaval, the church learned about the Illuminati and captured four members, who were branded alive with the symbol of the cross during torture. The Illuminati went underground, and over the years, a new Illuminati emerged. It was darker and more powerful, vowing to take revenge on the church someday.



Prologue and Chapters 1-10 Analysis

The beginning chapters set the stage for the events in the rest of the novel. Vetra's murder begins the action, but we don't know why he is killed or the larger context of how this will tie in or lead to future events in the novel. His death does introduce Langdon, and from the beginning chapters, it is evident that Langdon will be the main character in the novel.

The first chapters also give the reader clues to what the broader narrative will be about. Brown tells us that Vetra's death is only one phase in a larger plan by a group that seems to be tied somehow to the Illuminati. These connections will help form the plot for the novel and tie Langdon's character to the plot. As an academic who has studied the Illuminati, Langdon's presence within the plot is believable.

The setting of CERN to open the novel is also important to note. CERN, along with the antimatter, will symbolize science and technology throughout the novel. The narrative relies on the historical tensions between science and religion. Vetra had been trying to reconcile the ideas of religion and science, showing them to be comparable in explaining Genesis. Others in the novel, however, will play on the tensions and sometimes hostilities between the two.



Chapters 11-20

Chapters 11-20 Summary

Langdon continues, telling Kohler that the Illuminati symbol was created by an anonymous sixteenth century artist and that it was kept secret. Kohler asks if the symbol's appearance means that the Illuminati is resurfacing, but Langdon thinks that this is unlikely. He tells Kohler that when the Illuminati fled Rome, they were taken in by the Freemasons. For a time, the Illuminati used the Masons as a front, gradually taking over the positions of power. There has been no sign of the Illuminati for over a century, and Langdon says that most scholars think that it is defunct. Langdon suggests that another organization has the Illuminati brand and is using it for its own purposes. He also says that the Illuminati wielded their influence in politics and finances, not through terrorist attacks. As they held men of science in high regard, it would be unlikely that they would kill a fellow scientist.

Kohler takes Langdon to Vetra's study. It contains a startling mix of artifacts, both religious and scientific. Kohler explains that Vetra was a Catholic priest and that he sought to fuse science and religion in his work. "Leonardo believed his research had the potential to convert millions to a more spiritual life. Last year he categorically proved the existence of an energy force that unites us all. He actually demonstrated that we are all physically connected...that the molecules in your body are intertwined with the molecules in mine...that there is a single force moving within all of us" (pg. 45). Kohler says that Vetra had many enemies in the scientific world who thought that Vetra shouldn't be using physics to support religious principles.

Kohler says that Vetra told him that he was working on something groundbreaking. The two walk from Vetra's study back into the living room where the body lies. Kohler tells Langdon that something has been stolen from Vetra, and he tells Langdon to look at Vetra's face. Langdon kneels down, and Kohler moves Vetra's head. Langdon sees a face covered in blood and a single hazel eye. The other eye socket is empty.

Langdon and Kohler go back outside, and Kohler takes him toward the airfield where Ms. Vetra, Leonardo's daughter, is expected soon. A helicopter lands. Kohler tells Langdon that Vittoria Vetra is a Bio Entanglement Physicist, studying the interconnectivity of life systems. He also says that she is a vegetarian and the resident guru of Hatha yoga.

As Vittoria approaches them, Langdon can see that she has been crying. Kohler tells her that he hasn't reported her father's murder yet because when he does there will be an investigation. He wants to give Vittoria a chance to keep private whatever highly secretive project Vittoria and Vetra have been working on. Vittoria says that no one knows what they were working on, so it couldn't be the reason for her father's murder. The trio goes to the lab that Vetra and Vittoria have been using. Kohler says that CERN



has a particle accelerator, a huge circular tube for smashing particles. The elevator takes them underground.

Hundreds of miles away, a technician presses a button on his walkie-talkie transmitter and tells the person at the other end to look for camera #86. The man says that the camera isn't in the spot where it should be. Because it is still transmitting, the technician knows that the camera is still inside the complex and that it could be hidden anywhere. Security is very important for his employer, particularly today. He calls his superior.

Vittoria Vetra can remember the day when she met her father. She was eight years old, living in a Catholic orphanage near Florence, Italy. She was outside in the courtyard, staring up at the raindrops. A young priest that she didn't know came to get her. Instead of taking her inside, he laid down next to her. They talked about the raindrops and gravity. The young priest was Leonardo Vetra, and he took the young girl under his wing. One day, he told her that he was moving to Switzerland to study physics at the University of Geneva and that he wanted to adopt Vittoria and take her with him. Three years later, he was hired by CERN.

Vittoria feels numb as they move through the tunnel. She received word about her father's death at 10 a.m. in the Balearic Islands where she was working. She realizes that she will be revealing her father's greatest achievement to Langdon and Kohler without him there. When they reach the lab's door, Vittoria says that they replaced the keypad security with a retina scan. Langdon is horrified, as he remembers Vetra's empty eye socket. He tries to shut out the drops of blood on the floor by the scanner.

When the trio enters the lab, Kohler asks if anything has been stolen. She says that she doesn't see anything gone. She begins to tell them about her father's research. A Catholic monk proposed the Big Bang Theory in 1927. Hubble later proved that it was scientifically possible. The church claimed victory, but scientists mathematicized it to take away any religious connotations. She says that Vetra created an experiment to prove that Genesis was possible and that he created a universe from nothing. She explains further, saying that both the Big Bang and Genesis can be explained by accepting the presence of a huge energy source. She shows them canisters that contain matter not present anywhere else on earth. She also says that when her father did the experiment, two types of matter were created, including the world's first specimens of antimatter.

The Hassassin strides into a dark tunnel. Two weeks ago, he would have thought his mission impossible. Janus changed that, sharing secrets with the Hassassin to help him carry out his task. Janus has assured him that someone on the inside will make all the arrangements.

Chapters 11-20 Analysis

Leonardo Vetra exists within the novel as a bridge between religion and science. He wanted his discovery to bring people to greater faith and belief and to prove that science

and religion could coexist. As the events of the novel will show, this places Vetra in a perilous position. Many within the scientific community do not want him to use science for religious purposes. Some within the religious community feel that his research is playing God and that it will lose all religious meaning as science takes over. His position between these two areas contributes greatly to his death.

There are possibly several dangers soon converging. A technician discovers that a camera is missing, although it is still within the complex. This revelation lends a certain amount of suspense to the novel at this point. The reader also finds further information on the Hassassin, who is working with someone named Janus. From the previous sections, it is clear that the Hassassin killed Vetra and that his eye was probably used to steal something from his lab. The knowledge that someone on the inside of what will turn out to be Vatican City is helping the Hassassin ups the suspense and drama even more.



Chapters 21-30

Chapters 21-30 Summary

Vittoria says that antimatter is the opposite of matter, balancing the physical equation. She tells Kohler that her father devised a way of pulling the antimatter from the matter before it was destroyed. The antimatter can be stored in canisters as long as it doesn't touch the canisters or any other matter. She shows them a canister holding five thousand nanograms of antimatter. Langdon sees a shimmering glob of mercury-like liquid, hovering in the middle of the canister. Vittoria explains that antimatter is highly unstable, canceling out any matter that it comes into contact with. She believes that it is the energy source of the future since it is completely efficient with no byproducts or radiation.

When Vittoria takes the canister from the podium, she explains that the battery on the canister will run for twenty-four hours before it needs to be recharged. Then, it needs to be placed back on the podium. She shows them an annihilation tank and puts in the canister. When she presses the button, a brilliant light shines from the canister and then explodes outward. The light burns for a few seconds and then rushes back inward, collapsing into a tiny speck and then into nothing.

Vittoria demands to see her father. When Kohler argues that they should have told him about the antimatter immediately, Vittoria responds that the antimatter should be licensed since it's dangerous. Her father wanted to present the antimatter at the appropriate time. He didn't want the religious implications lost in commercialism. Vittoria says that she had less lofty goals, wanting to use the antimatter discovery to help the environment as a better energy source. She tells Kohler that they are also using the lower lab as well to store antimatter. The specimen there is larger than the ones in the upper lab. It is a quarter of a gram, or five kilotons, enough to annihilate anything within a half-mile radius.

The trio travels to the lower lab in an elevator. Vittoria senses fear in both of the men with her. She aligns her eye with the retinal scanner but notices that the lens is spattered with something. She turns back to Kohler and Langdon, confused. She follows their eyes to a hazel eyeball on the floor.

Hundreds of miles away, the security technician holds his breath as his commander looks over his shoulder at the computer screen. The object that they look at is a canister of some sort. Inside is a droplet of metallic liquid, which seems to float in the middle of the canister. The technician lightens the contrast, and they can see a four-letter acronym printed by the LED.

In the lower lab, Vittoria stumbles forward, as her father's eyeball stares up at her. Yet, she senses that an even more terrible horror awaits her inside the lab. She sees that the recharging podium is empty, and the canister is gone. She feels an enormous stab



of guilt, knowing that she convinced her father to create the larger specimen. Now, he has been killed for it.

Langdon doesn't know what to do. He lays his handkerchief over Vetra's eyeball and tries to focus. He says again that he doesn't believe that the Illuminati have resurfaced. He tries to imagine what the Illuminati would want with the antimatter if they have resurfaced. Finally, he says that the antimatter could have been stolen by the Illuminati for money. Kohler and Vittoria remind him that the canister needs to be recharged within twenty-four hours and that it is unlikely that someone could build one within that time. Vittoria wants to call the authorities, but Kohler is worried about CERN's reputation.

The Assassin stands at the end of a stone tunnel. Janus has promised that someone on the inside will open the door. Minutes later, he hears the locks disengage. He waits for five minutes as he has been told to do, and then he pushes the door open.

Vittoria tries to call out for the authorities, but her cell phone isn't working. Kohler keeps trying to stop her. Finally, Kohler tells her that they already know who killed her father. He explains that Langdon is a professor of art history at Harvard and that he specializes in cult symbology. He tells her that they believe that a group called the Illuminati killed Vetra. Kohler shows her a copy of the fax he sent to Langdon earlier.

The trio goes up to ground level. When they step off the elevator, they hear a call for Kohler over the intercom. He answers and tells the person at the other end that they shouldn't discuss this over the phone and that he will meet the person at Leonardo da Vinci airport in forty minutes. Langdon suddenly realizes the target. Kohler has a coughing fit, and two paramedics rush up to give him oxygen. He tells Vittoria and Langdon to go to Rome to meet the Swiss, before he trails off. Langdon explains to Vittoria that they are going to meet the Swiss Guard, the sentinels of Vatican City.

Chapters 21-30 Analysis

Antimatter symbolizes science and technology within *Angels & Demons*. It represents man-made creation and scientific thought. Throughout the novel, antimatter stands to potentially eradicate the symbol of religion and faith, Vatican City. Its presence there builds on the historical tensions between religion and science and illustrates the threat that some religious individuals and organizations feel from science and technology. They believe that science has the potential to destroy religion.

Vittoria, Langdon and Kohler discover that someone has used Vetra's eyeball to steal the largest specimen of antimatter. They also realize that its intended use is probably some form of terrorism, since if the person who took it holds it for ransom or to make money, the timer will likely run out. The situation looks to be dangerous, particularly since they don't know where the antimatter is.

The theme of secrets begins to play itself out in the beginning chapters. Vittoria and her father have been keeping their research a secret from everyone else because they recognized the danger that it might pose. The Illuminati is a secret society, and its aims

in killing Vetra and taking the antimatter are unknown. Janus's identity is also a secret and will remain so until the end of the novel.



Chapters 31-40

Chapters 31-40 Summary

Langdon and Vittoria fly toward Rome. Langdon is horrified that the antimatter threatens not only human life, but also the world's largest art collection at the Vatican Museum. Vittoria asks him if he believes in God. He replies that he wants to believe. She says that faith is universal, although the specific methods are arbitrary. She asks how he became interested in the Illuminati, and he tells her that it was when he learned the dollar bill was covered with Illuminati symbolism, including the pyramid.

The plane lands at the airport in Rome. A helicopter is there to take them to the Vatican. From the air, they see St. Peter's Basilica and Vatican City. The pilot tells them that // *Conclave* is set to take place. Langdon remembers that fifteen days ago, the Pope died. Now, according to sacred tradition, the most powerful men in the Catholic Church gather to elect a new Pope. He realizes that every cardinal is in Vatican City today.

Cardinal Mortati gazes at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, trying to find some quiet reflection. He is to oversee the election of the new Pope. During the conclave, the cardinals will have no contact with the outside world. Now, four cardinals are missing from the chapel, and he feels disconcerted even though he knows that they can't have gone far. The cardinals missing are the chosen four, and one of them is expected to become the next Pope.

Langdon and Vittoria land on the Vatican's helipad. They are escorted to the Office of the Swiss Guard. At a steel door, the guard types in an entry code, and the door slides open. Inside is a room that looks like a Renaissance library although it also contains high-tech gear. Langdon realizes that the people in the room are still in search mode, which is not good news. A commander approaches and introduces himself as Commander Olivetti. He shows them a screen with an image of the CERN antimatter canister. The remote camera on the canister is hidden somewhere in Vatican City. Vittoria notes that they have until midnight, less than six hours away. The commander tells them that they haven't started to search for the canister yet since they have other pressing matters, and he doesn't know what the canister is. Vittoria shares with him that the canister will vaporize the complex if they don't find it. Olivetti maintains his position, refusing to postpone the conclave. He locks Langdon and Vittoria in his office.

Vittoria tries to think of a solution to the problem facing them. She decides to call the camerlengo, thinking that Olivetti probably has a direct line to the Pope's office where the camerlengo is. She tries using speed dial for number one, but it isn't the Pope's office. The guard outside the door raps on the glass with his gun and then begins talking on his walkie-talkie. Vittoria calls the Vatican switchboard and asks to be connected to the camerlengo. Olivetti opens the door to the room where Vittoria and Langdon are. He rips the phone out of her hand, only to find that she is on the line with the camerlengo already. He promises to bring them to the camerlengo.



The Office of the Pope is huge, adorned with frescoes and a giant chandelier. The Camerlengo introduces himself as Carlo Ventresca. Langdon hands him the fax he received with the photo of the dead Vetra. They tell the camerlengo about the threat. A Swiss Guard calls in to report that they have received a bomb threat and that the caller mentioned antimatter. They were not able to trace the call. The caller wants to talk to the camerlengo, who pushes the speaker phone button and asks the caller who he is.

Chapters 31-40 Analysis

Throughout the novel, Vatican City will symbolize religion and faith. It represents an earthly sacred site of God, believers worldwide and the beliefs of Christianity. Antimatter, as a symbol of science, threatens to destroy the Vatican, or religion. As such, antimatter threatens not only the physical structure of the Vatican and the individuals inside it, but also the faith of believers worldwide. Brown draws on the historical tension between the church and science to help create suspense and grounding for the book. The Vatican is a natural choice for the Illuminati to target as the Catholic Church vigorously hunted down members of the Illuminati in the past. Vittoria and Langdon's conversation about belief illustrates the very thing that the camerlengo hopes to achieve by his actions. Langdon says that he wants to believe. The camerlengo's aim is to create an instance where people will be drawn back to faith and belief.

This section also shows the theme of devotion through Langdon and Vittoria's introduction to the Swiss Guard. The guards are dedicated to protecting the Pope and Vatican City. Even in the face of extreme danger, the guards are concerned with following their orders and keeping protocol. For example, Olivetti apologizes to the camerlengo for allowing Vittoria's shorts within the complex. He also refuses to interrupt the sacred traditions of the conclave because of the threat of the antimatter. He believes that some traditions and rituals are more important than the potential for danger at this point. While the guards are certainly concerned about the cardinals' safety, they also know that the conclave must proceed as normal for as long as possible.



Chapters 41-50

Chapters 41-50 Summary

The caller's voice is cold and arrogant with an accent that Langdon thinks might be Middle Eastern. He says that he is a messenger for the Illuminati and that the Illuminati have infiltrated elitist organizations, including the Vatican. The caller also says that he has the four missing cardinals, and he plans to kill them one by one before midnight. He is going to put their bodies in public locations around Rome as the Catholic Church did to four Illuminati in *la purga*.

Cardinal Mortati is sweating in his black robe because the conclave is set to start in twenty minutes, and the four cardinals are still missing. One of them, Cardinal Aldo Baggia, is expected to be named the next Pope. The camerlengo is torn between his duty to elect a new Pope and his desire to keep the cardinals safe. Olivetti suggests sealing the conclave and saying nothing to the cardinals, saying that this will buy time for other options. Vittoria says that they have four hours to find the canister since they need to fly it back to CERN in order to recharge its batteries. She thinks that if they can catch the killer, they can make him tell them where the antimatter is.

At the central office of the British Broadcast Corporation (BBC) in London, a phone rings. The voice says that he has a breaking story and tells the editor that there is a threat to the conclave in Rome. The editor gives the man the number for the reporter in Rome.

Vittoria doesn't think that Olivetti's plan will work. She thinks that there are too many people in the conclave and outside the basilica to risk not finding the antimatter. Robert suddenly bolts to his feet and tells the camerlengo that he needs access to the Vatican Archives. He thinks he may be able to figure out where the four cardinals are to be killed. The camerlengo finally agrees to let Langdon and Vittoria into the archives. He tells them that a Swiss Guard will meet them at the entrance.

The archives are large and secretive, rumored to hold unpublished books of the Bible and missing diaries from Leonardo da Vinci. Langdon and Vittoria walk quickly toward the entrance. Langdon says that they'll be looking for a book by Galileo that is supposed to contain a sign to the secret location of the Illuminati. Because the location had to remain secret but because potential members had to be able to find out how to get there, the Illuminati created a kind of map directing scientists to the location. The group placed statues that looked like religious art and referenced the four elements of science (earth, air, fire and water) at four places in the city to guide scientists. The Illuminati called the four churches where the statues were placed the Altars of Science. Langdon fears that the killings will also include the brands, each created in perfect symmetry for earth, air, fire and water. They meet the Swiss Guard at the door to the archives. He says that he is leaving them inside since he is not cleared for access there.



Camerlengo Ventresca walks slowly, wanting time to collect his thoughts. After the Pope's death, he personally confirmed his death by the traditional rituals. There was no autopsy by law. The conclave is the final hurdle in his duties. He wonders if Mortati is panicked about the missing cardinals yet. The camerlengo arrives at the top of the Royal Staircase, and he can hear the 161 cardinals below him. As a child, he was the sole survivor of a terrorist bombing that collapsed a chapel where he and his mother were attending mass while on vacation. He spent two years in the reserve military starting at sixteen before he entered the seminary.

The BBC journalist, Gunther Glick, sits in the network van by St. Peter's Square. In the backseat is his camerawoman, Chinita Macri. The van's cell phone rings. When Glick answers, the man on the line says that he is going to change Glick's life.

Langdon and Vittoria stand outside the double doors leading to the inner sanctum of the Secret Archives. The vaults are dark and hermetically sealed to prevent humidity and heat erosion. The computer catalog system requires a password, which they don't have. The stacks are labeled but not in alphabetical order. Langdon thinks the classification system might be thematic. He explains that they are looking for an obscure booklet written by Galileo called *Diagramma della Verita*, which translates into Diagram of Truth. This booklet is Galileo's most secretive work, and it is supposed to contain the sign or clue to the Path of Illumination. Only one copy of this work survives, and it is in the archives.

Vittoria discovers that Vault 10 contains the information about the Galileo Affair. Langdon goes into the vault, and the door shuts behind him. He realizes that the air inside is thinner than he'd anticipated. Vittoria enters and has some physical reactions to the thin air as well. Langdon takes white cotton gloves from a box by the door. They have twenty minutes before the air will be used up, since there is no curator to turn on the reoxygenation system.

Chapters 41-50 Analysis

One of the aspects of modern life that this section emphasizes is the increasing media presence in everyday life and in religious life. Media crews gather outside St. Peter's Basilica to wait for the election of the Pope. Their presence by the Vatican means that whatever happens at the Vatican this evening will be broadcast around the world. The Hassassin will make use of the media presence to bring attention to the cardinals' deaths and his plot. He alerts Glick and Macri not only about where they should go for the first death but also whom he is supposedly working for. This brings the religion and science battle to the forefront of the media once again. The camerlengo will also use the media for his own purposes later in the evening. Not only will he give an address to the people about the situation, but he will also use the cameras to his advantage when he reappears after the antimatter explosion.

The past proves to be helpful as Vittoria and Langdon search through the archives, hoping to discover the location of the first Altar of Science. The tension between religion



and science is present again since they have to look for clues that scientists hid from the Vatican. Due to the fear of persecution, scientists in the Illuminati relied on secret means to find each other. Langdon and Vittoria now try to follow in their footsteps. The archives themselves represent a commingling of religion and science. While many of the documents in the archives deal with the Catholic Church and other religious matters, they are protected by new technologies and inventions. The vaults themselves are creations of science, and now science is used to protect the valuable documents within.



Chapters 51-60

Chapters 51-60 Summary

Gunther Glick stares at the phone in his hand before hanging it up. When Macri asks what's wrong, Glick tells her about the four missing cardinals and that they are to be murdered at four different churches that night. He says that they are going to be given the exact location for the first murder.

Vittoria and Langdon look for the booklet in Vault 10. It is not where Langdon thought it might be among Galileo's work. Vittoria finally calls that she has found it. Langdon takes the pouch to a table and opens it. Using pincers, he pulls the bag from the papers. They look for math in the book but don't find anything. Vittoria suggests that the clue might not be mathematical, but Langdon says that the numbers might be written out. He suggests splitting up the task. Both begin to feel short of breath. Meanwhile, somewhere in a tunnel beneath Rome, a dark figure makes his way to four voices. As he rounds the corner, he sees four old men held as he left them, in a stone cubicle by rusted iron bars.

Langdon continues to look through the pages of the booklet. Vittoria finds a footnote, partially obscured in a crease. Vittoria reads, "The path of light is laid, the sacred test" (pg. 216). The line is written in English. Langdon realizes that the clergy in the 1600s would not have spoken English, and so it was a language not controlled by the Vatican. He realizes that the line is in iambic pentameter. Vittoria finds that there are more lines on each of the margins. The lines are a poem by John Milton. Vittoria grabs the paper and heads for the door.

Vittoria and Langdon run from the archives building. Langdon tells her that he's deciphered the clue. The verse reads, "From Santi's earthly tomb with demon's hole, / 'Cross Rome the mystic elements unfold. / The path of light is laid, the sacred test, / Let angles guide you on your lofty quest" (pg. 222). Langdon thinks that the Path of Illumination begins at Santi's tomb and then markers will guide them. He tells Vittoria that Santi is Raphael's last name and that he's buried at the Pantheon. They go to the Office of the Swiss Guard.

Twelve Swiss Guards along with Olivetti, Langdon and Vittoria race toward the Pantheon. Olivetti tells them that they'd better be right since he's pulled men off the other searches for this. Langdon realizes that the Path of Illumination was created many years ago and may not be intact anymore. All the statues at the Pantheon were removed and destroyed in the 1800s. Olivetti calls the mission to a halt. Vittoria gives some examples of how the killer could kill one of the cardinals there, and the commander agrees to continue.

Maximillian Kohler is in a private room at the CERN infirmary. He is breathing normally again. He pulls himself to the edge of the bed and dresses. He climbs into his wheelchair and wheels himself to the door, slipping out of the infirmary.



The Swiss Guards position themselves outside the Pantheon. Vittoria and Langdon get out of the car, ignoring Olivetti's protests. Vittoria tells Olivetti that she has her cell phone with her and will call him if she sees anything suspicious. Olivetti gives Vittoria a gun. They pretend to be tourists as they head toward the Pantheon.

Captain Elias Rocher, the second in command of the Swiss Guard, addresses the assembled men. Rookie Lieutenant Chartrand stands at the back of the room wishing that he wasn't there. He's only been a part of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican City for three months. Rocher says that they will be killing power in selected areas in hopes that the canister will be easier to detect. Langdon and Vittoria approach the Pantheon. Langdon worries that perhaps he got it wrong and that this isn't really the site.

Chapters 51-60 Analysis

In many ways, these chapters serve as a transition from the introductory chapters to the chapters where the meat of the action will take place. By now, Brown has revealed much of the situation facing the Vatican and those inside of it. Four cardinals are missing, and it appears that the Hassassin plans to kill them one by one, leaving their bodies by the Altars of Science. An antimatter canister is somewhere in Vatican City, and it will explode in a few short hours. Adding to this danger is the fact that the College of Cardinals is currently sequestered within the Sistine Chapel for conclave. Langdon and Vittoria have found Galileo's hidden clue to the location of the Altars of Science, and Langdon believes that he knows where to start. They believe that their only hope is to find the killer and make him tell the guards where the cardinals and antimatter canister are.

The theme of secrets and hidden things is again present in this section, as it is in most chapters within the book. Galileo hid his "map" to the Altars of Science within a book, and this secret guide provides Langdon and Vittoria with a place to start their search for a solution. The cardinals in the Sistine Chapel are also kept uninformed of the danger surrounding them. While they know that the four cardinals are missing, they do not know about the antimatter, the killer's call or the plot to kill the missing cardinals.



Chapters 61-70

Chapters 61-70 Summary

Langdon feels a chill as he and Vittoria enter the Pantheon. They look around. Langdon suggests that they look in the recesses in case someone is hiding in one of them. They each go in different directions. The *cicerone* approaches Langdon and begins telling him about the Pantheon. Across the room, Vittoria is looking around. The only thing that feels right with her is the presence of Robert Langdon, and she is glad that he is here. She approaches the tomb of Raphael Santi and reads the descriptive plaque. She calls for Langdon.

Langdon prepares to look into the final alcove, and the guide continues to follow him around. Vittoria grabs Langdon and tells him that she needs to see Galileo's booklet. After looking at it, she tells Langdon that they are in trouble because the dates don't match. Raphael wasn't buried at the Pantheon until 1759, after Galileo wrote and published the booklet. Vittoria runs to the guide and asks where Raphael's body was before that. He says that it was at Urbino, his birthplace, but Urbino is outside of Rome. It can't be Santi's earthly tomb. The docent says that the only Santi he knows was the architect, and Langdon remembers that Santi designed tombs too. Vittoria asks if any of the tombs have an oculus. The docent says that a demon's hole also refers to a massive burial cavity in a chapel under another tomb. He tells them that there is one called the Chigi Chapel, a tomb for two brothers who were patrons of the arts and sciences. The chapel also contains pyramids. He also remembers that the chapel used to be called the Capella della Terra. Langdon and Vittoria call Olivetti and tell him that they are in the wrong place. They run to a taxi and take off.

Gunther Glick and Chinita Macri peer at the computer screen showing the BBC database. The BBC has run six stories in the past ten years on the Illuminati. The history shows that prominent people warned of growing Illuminati control in the 1920s. They look through several old articles.

Langdon and Vittoria arrive at the Piazza del Popolo just before eight. The Church of Santa Maria del Popolo stands at the southeast corner of the piazza. They race toward it. The church has been closed for renovation, and Langdon realizes that this would make it easier for a killer. The door is locked, so Langdon and Vittoria move through the alley, looking for another entrance. Vittoria whispers to Langdon and points to the back of the church. There is another entrance, technically an exit. Langdon goes through first, going into the tunnel.

The interior of the chapel is dark and looks more like a subway station with the work being done in it. Langdon and Vittoria gaze around the inside but nothing moves. She holds the gun in front of her. Langdon checks his watch and sees that it is after eight. Vittoria asks where the Chigi Chapel is, and Langdon remembers that Renaissance cathedrals often have multiple chapels. He sees four recesses on each side wall, all



covered with polyurethane because of the construction. Vittoria sees a decorative tile with a pyramid beneath a shining star.

A piece of metal clatters to the floor. Vittoria whips the gun around while Langdon pulls her behind a pillar. There's a rustling. A huge rat emerges dragging a half-eaten sandwich in paper. Vittoria lowers the gun. The Chigi Chapel, Langdon sees, is the third of four recessed alcoves. Vittoria moves toward it first. They move to a corner of the opening, and Langdon pulls back the covering. Vittoria says that it is empty and lowers the gun. Inside, a stone was lifted off the floor, revealing a dark opening, the demon's hole. They can't see down, so Vittoria goes to find a flashlight. She returns with a blowtorch. Langdon takes it and points it into the hole. He sees a naked body, which appears to be standing up. They call down but get no answer. Langdon goes down the ladder.

Gunther Glick is looking at his map of Rome. The caller told them to go to the church at Piazza del Popolo. Four Alfa Romeos tear past them, taking the same route that Glick was going to. He follows them. Meanwhile, Langdon descends slowly into the hole. He gets to the bottom and sees that the man has been buried up to his waist. His hands are tied behind his back with a cardinal's sash. Langdon almost gags when he sees how the man died. The man's mouth has been packed with dirt, and Langdon realizes that the man suffocated on dirt or earth. One of the four elements is earth. The man has also been branded on his chest. The brand is a symmetrical "earth."

Cardinal Mortati is on edge as the conclave has officially begun. Half an hour ago, Carlo Ventresca arrived and gave the opening prayer. He told the group to proceed without the four missing cardinals, telling the men that he wasn't sure when they would return. The doors to the Sistine Chapel were sealed, and the only way they will be opened was if they elect a Pope or if someone becomes deathly ill. The cardinals begin the first vote. He extracts each ballot one at a time and reads the name aloud before marking it in a logbook. He senses almost immediately that the vote will be a failure. The ballots from this vote are placed into the fire with a chemical to make the smoke coming from the chimney black. The world is alerted that a Pope has not been elected.

Langdon struggles to the top of the pit. Olivetti and several Swiss Guards are inside. Olivetti is yelling at Vittoria. When he finishes, Vittoria goes to Langdon and tells him that they have forty minutes to find the next site. She says that the unknown Illuminati sculptor is Bernini. Langdon is dismayed at this since Bernini created more sculptures than any other artist during the 1600s. Bernini was also favored by the Vatican and almost lived within the Vatican. Vittoria suggests that this made a perfect cover for him. Langdon realizes that Bernini was Illuminati. He designed the Illuminati ambigrams, and he laid out the Path of Illumination. He looks at the pyramids in the chapel and decides that they are not what they are looking for. Vittoria points to the far wall where a marble sculpture is partially hidden in its niche. Langdon moves closer and sees that the sculpture is a Bernini. He recognizes it as Habakkuk and the Angel. He knows that this has to be the first marker. Both figures have their arms outstretched, pointing into the distance. They point in opposite directions, but Langdon remembers the poem, which said to let the angels guide.



Gunther Glick and Chinita Macri sit in the van at the far end of the Piazza del Popolo. They saw many Swiss Guards surround the church, with some of them going in. Now, they wait to see what will happen next. Langdon rushes down the steps and into the middle of the piazza outside the church. He orientates himself and pictures the angel inside. He decides that the angel is pointing southwest. He thinks about the four elements and tries to think about what the next marker might be. Air is the next element. He goes back inside and asks Olivetti for a map of all the churches in Rome. He sees the scaffolding, rising six stories, and decides to climb up for a better view.

Chapters 61-70 Analysis

Langdon and Vittoria find the first cardinal, but they are too late to save him or to catch the killer. The tension between religion and science is felt as the first Altar of Science is found inside a church. Science invaded the sacred space of the church at some point in the past for its own purposes: to guide scientists to the Church of Illumination. This secret path was laid within churches to disguise it from the Vatican, which ruthlessly sought scientists involved, killing or imprisoning them. As Langdon discussed earlier, the tensions between the Vatican and the Illuminati are long, and they run deep.

The death of the first cardinal foreshadows some of the events to come. From the killer's call, Langdon and the others know that he intends to kill the cardinals. When Langdon finds the first man who has been killed by "earth" and branded with the corresponding brand, it becomes apparent that each cardinal will be killed in a way connected with the word on the brand. This foreshadows the deaths to come and the ways that they will happen.



Chapters 71-80

Chapters 71-80 Summary

Langdon scans the rooftops for a church, seeing nothing. He tries again, thinking that all churches might not have visible spires or bell towers. He knows that Rome has changed dramatically since the 1600s, so the church might not even be standing anymore. He wonders how the Swiss Guard is faring in their search for the antimatter.

Glick and Macri continue to watch the church, where the Swiss Guards are preparing to do something. Macri trains the camera on the line that forms from the church to the back of a vehicle. She sees a dead body. Meanwhile, at CERN, Maximillian Kohler wheels into Leonardo Vetra's study and begins shifting through files. Not finding anything, he moves on to other rooms. He finds what he is looking for in the top drawer of the bedside table.

Langdon drops back to the ground. Vittoria is looking at a map but hasn't found anything either. Olivetti traces a line from where they are to the southwest, passing through St. Peter's Square. Langdon doesn't think this is the church because it needs to be public. Vittoria suggests the square, as it is public. There is a monolith there as well, but Langdon says that it has nothing to do with air. A guard speaks up and says that there is a bas-relief tile showing the West Wind there. Bernini designed St. Peter's Square. They race toward the site, not noticing that they are being followed.

Arriving at St. Peter's Square, the Swiss Guards split up, and the men spread out. Olivetti has also radioed for undercover guards to be placed near the piece of artwork. Olivetti tells Langdon and Vittoria that he wants them right by the piece and to pretend to be tourists again. They reach the white marble ellipse. Vittoria turns to Langdon and tells him that someone is following them. It's a woman with a BBC camera. The bells suddenly chime the hour, but the area seems calm to Langdon. Then, a child screams.

Langdon reaches the screaming girl. At the base of the obelisk, a man looking like a homeless drunk slumps on the stairs. Blood flows from the man, and Langdon runs to him, full of dread. "Air" has been branded onto the man's chest. Swiss Guards race up. A tourist nearby explains that a dark-skinned man only minutes before helped this man across the square. Vittoria rips off the rags around the man, finding two puncture wounds just below his rib cage. She begins to administer mouth to mouth, but as she blows, the man's midsection hisses and sprays blood. Vittoria realizes that his lungs have been punctured. Langdon looks up and sees the woman with the BBC camera, realizing that she's gotten it all on film.

Macri turns and bolts. She has the story of her life. A Swiss Guard moves toward her. She takes the videocassette out of the camera and puts it in her belt, hiding the cassette with her coat. She slips a blank cassette into the camera. She's thirty yards from the van when two guards stop her and demand the film. One grabs the camera



from her, while the other man grabs her arm. She feels someone groping around under her coat and the film being taken. She whirls around to see Glick dissolving into the crowd.

In London, a BBC technician dashes across the control room to the office of the editor-in-chief. She tells him about the conversation she just had with Glick and how she's been able to get positive ID on the victim in St. Peter's Square.

Langdon and Vittoria are in the Office of the Pope again. Camerlengo Ventresca enters, and Olivetti briefs him on what has happened. A soldier enters and gives Langdon a map with a line running from the Bernini ellipse. He tells Langdon that the line runs through about twenty churches. Vittoria asks Langdon to think about anything that might be related to "fire" near the line. Langdon asks for a reference book just as someone enters and tells them to turn on the television.

Langdon goes back to the Vatican Secret Archives. Inside one of the vaults is a list of everything Bernini created while under Vatican patronage. The Swiss Guard with him has to leave.

Chapters 71-80 Analysis

The symbol of religion and faith, the Vatican, has danger and horror dropped at its doorstep when the second cardinal is killed in St. Peter's Square, amid the chaos of the crowd. The secret of what is going on will soon be made public since there is no way to hide what is happening from the world any longer. Not only is the crowd aware that someone has been killed in the square, but the media is also picking up on it. Glick and Macri have the inside scoop on what is going on thanks to the Hassassin.

Also building on the theme of secrets is Langdon's second trip to the Vatican Secret Archive. Earlier in the book, Langdon remembers that he applied to study here several times and was rejected each time. The Vatican holds not only many areas that are off limits to the public, but it also contains the Secret Archives which hold sacred and non-sacred documents. In the archives, Langdon finds first the Galileo book that holds the key to the Path of Illumination, and now he is able to use it to locate the third Altar of Science. The Vatican holds these secrets close, guarding them and keeping them from outside view. In doing so, it allows the threat of the Illuminati to gain ground again on this day. Shrouded in mystery, the organization takes on an evil and powerful veil with the Hassassin and his actions. As people generally know little about it, the announcement that the Illuminati is behind the dangers brings greater fear and instability.



Chapters 81-90

Chapters 81-90 Summary

The television screen shows a reporter announcing that two of the cardinals have been murdered. A guard appears at the door and tells Olivetti that the switchboard is requesting the Vatican's official position on the reports. The television goes on to show the footage that Macri recorded earlier at both sites. The report also says that the Illuminati are claiming responsibility for the murders and for the Pope's death fifteen days ago. The reporter shifts to Glick, who is on the phone. He says that the Illuminati assassin told him that the Pope had been poisoned through Heparin, his medication.

In the Office of the Pope, the camerlengo confirms that the Pope took Heparin. Vittoria says that the drug is lethal in the wrong dose. The camerlengo says that no one on the outside knew that the Pope was taking the drug. Rocher says that if this is true, there are serious implications for the antimatter search, since someone inside could have planted it. The camerlengo says that in twenty minutes, he'll decide whether to evacuate or not. He tells several guards and Vittoria to follow him.

At CERN, Kohler finishes reading Vetra's journal. Now he watches the television reports. After a few minutes, he leaves the apartment. Meanwhile, in Vatican City, Cardinal Mortati carries another tray of ballots to the fire. The smoke is black: no Pope.

Vittoria and the others enter St. Peter's Basilica. As they walk, the camerlengo tells Vittoria how a bishop took him in after his mother died. He worked under the bishop for many years, and the bishop eventually became a cardinal. The group arrives at an opening in the floor, and they go down. The camerlengo continues with his story, saying that the cardinal who took him in left the College of the Cardinals for another position. The camerlengo says that he died fifteen days ago and that they are now going to see his body.

The vault that Langdon is in is smaller than the one he was in previously. He finally figures out the organization and finds a ledger for Bernini. Langdon sits on the floor and opens the ledger. He is disheartened when he realizes that the title of the work he is looking for might not even contain the word "fire" since the previous works did not contain the words "earth" and "air." He flips through the ledger, hoping that an illustration will jump out at him. He decides to take the book out of the vault, thinking that he won't find the sculpture before the air runs out. As he reaches for the book, he sees a note about one sculpture, The Ecstasy of St. Teresa, which was moved to one of the five churches on his list at the artist's suggestion. Langdon looks at the illustration and sees that an angel is present in the sculpture. In the paragraph about the sculpture, the word "fire" appears half a dozen times. The sculpture is also located in the church called Santa Maria della Vittoria, which Langdon thinks must be a sign to him that it's right. As he makes his way to the door, the vault lets out a pained sigh. The lights dim, and the exit button goes dead. Someone has just killed the power.



Beneath the main floor of St. Peter's Basilica are the Holy Vatican Grottoes. Vittoria, the camerlengo and the guards reach the bottom of the stairs and enter the grotto. Hollow niches line the walls, and sarcophagi fill the recessed alcoves. On top of each tomb is a life-sized semblance of the Pope within. They reach the most recent Pope's tomb. The camerlengo prays and then asks the guards to push the cover away. When Vittoria looks in, she sees that the Pope's tongue is as black as death.

The Secret Archives are black. Langdon tries pressing the exit button again, but nothing happens. He tries to jar the door with his weight, but it is useless. He tries to use the ladder as a battering ram, but it bounces off the glass. He realizes that he no longer has the gun that Olivetti gave him earlier and that the walkie-talkie the guard left is outside on a table. He lowers himself to the floor so that his heartbeat will slow and use less oxygen. He glances at his watch and sees that it is 9:33 p.m. He tries to think of something to break the glass walls with. He jumps up, positions himself against a book stack and pushes. The stack creaks but doesn't move. He races to the far end of the vault and climbs up the last stack. He walks his feet out on the glass wall so that they are almost horizontal with him. Bracing himself against the stack, he pushes with his legs, and the stack begins to rock. The shelf falls, hitting the stack next to it. A domino effect begins with the stacks falling into each other. He hears the last stack hit, but then there is silence instead of crashing glass. Then he hears a distant ripple before the glass explodes.

Langdon radios the camerlengo, saying that someone just tried to kill him. He also says that he knows where the next site is. Olivetti interrupts to tell Langdon not to divulge the information on the radio. Langdon runs to the security center. Rocher explains to him that there were crossed signals and that he had no idea Langdon was in the archives when he shut off the power in order to search areas cross-wired with the archives. Vittoria tells Langdon that the Pope was poisoned. The camerlengo wants to break conclave, but Olivetti says that they still have time. A guard tells the camerlengo that the BBC reporter has been detained, and the camerlengo says to have them meet him outside.

Langdon, Vittoria, Olivetti and his men race across Rome again. Vittoria's phone rings, and when she answers, Kohler is on the other end of the line. He asks if they've found the antimatter and says that he thinks he may know who Vetra told about the antimatter. He needs to check some security records to make sure.

Olivetti says that the church is on Piazza Barberini, and Langdon realizes that an obelisk was removed from the Piazza a few years before. It would have been there in Bernini's day. Olivetti says that Langdon and Vittoria may be recognized, and so he wants them to stay out of sight.

War breaks out in St. Peter's Square as media trucks skid into place, reporters jockey for position and flat-screen displays are erected. Onlookers also pour in and cluster in around the TV screens for more news.



Lieutenant Chartrand and three other guards move through St. Peter's Basilica, wearing infrared goggles. Their search of the public areas has so far yielded nothing. He sees a grate covering a hole in the floor. He knows that they won't have to descend because they only have to search the public areas. As they complete their search of the niche, their walkie-talkies go off. The camerlengo has decided to enter conclave and address the cardinals for the first time in history. Chartrand feels a great deal of respect for the camerlengo.

Langdon and Vittoria observe the Piazza Barberini from a small alleyway. They see two dark figures approach the center of the square. One looks old and in pain while the other helps the first. Vittoria goes after them. As she and Langdon get closer, Vittoria begins to raise the gun. Langdon senses that one of the figures is female. The figures stop and begin to turn. Langdon yells to Vittoria, and she hides the gun. The two figures are elderly women, clutching rosaries. Vittoria asks them where the church is, and the women say that it closed early. They were inside praying when a man appeared and told them the church was closing. The priest and janitor protested and threatened to call the police, but the man said to have the police bring cameras. The women say that the man was Arab. Vittoria pulls out her phone to warn Olivetti, but Langdon points to the church windows where fire glows from inside.

Chapters 81-90 Analysis

In these chapters, some secrets are revealed while others remain hidden. Glick and Macri's footage and news is broadcast around the world. The Vatican can no longer hide what is happening within the complex from the outside. The broadcasts show the two deceased cardinals, who have been identified. The secret of the Pope's death is also revealed. He was poisoned, although only the killer and the Hassassin knew this before. Olivetti and the others realize that if this is true, someone on the inside is helping create the situation, making it even more dangerous. Although the reader is already aware that someone has been helping the Hassassin from inside Vatican City, this foreshadows again the revelation of this person's identity by the end of the novel. It also helps create greater suspense, since the reader doesn't know who this person is. Anyone inside the Vatican is a suspect.

Other secrets still remain. In addition to the insider's identity, the antimatter still sits somewhere in Vatican City, posing an even greater threat as the crowds thicken outside and the time continues to count down. Kohler also finds something in Vetra's diary that leads him to make the journey to the Vatican as well. Kohler's discovery and motivations remain hidden.

As events unfold, the dedication of the individuals in the Vatican to their positions is again illustrated. Olivetti and the other guards are not only trying to catch the killer and save the remaining two cardinals but also trying to find the antimatter canister before it is too late. In doing both of these tasks, they are placing themselves in danger. Their devotion and dedication to their duties and to the cardinals is great. Mortati and the

camerlengo also face difficult choices. Each believes strongly in the church and in the sacred rituals that are taking place.



Chapters 91-100

Chapters 91-100 Summary

Langdon and Vittoria dash towards the burning church and find the door locked. Vittoria fires three shots into the ancient bolt, and it shatters. They throw open the door.

Wooden pews are stacked high and ablaze in a sort of funeral pyre. High overhead, two cables suspend a naked man. Each wrist has been tied to an opposing cable, and the man is being held spread-eagle over the flames. Langdon stares and realizes that the old man is still alive. He also has a scorched brand on his chest.

Langdon shoots into motion, dashing down the main aisle. The fire is too hot for him to get close. He sees that the cables are strung through pulleys before descending to metal cleats on each side of the church. He thinks that if he can loosen one of them, the man might swing clear of the fire. He hears the old man scream as the fire blisters his feet.

Vittoria clutches a pew in the back of the church. She wonders where Olivetti is. She realizes that her phone is still vibrating in her hand, meaning that the commander never answered her silent warning to him. She senses a sound coming from the end of the pews and walks toward it. The lifeless form of the commander lies on the ground, his head torqued backward in the wrong direction. Then, she hears breathing behind her. She starts to turn, but the killer's elbow lands on the back of her neck. Everything goes black.

Across the church, Langdon balances on a pew, trying to reach the metal cleat. The cable is still six feet above his head. He looks for the ladder that would ordinarily be used and sees it in the fire. He wonders where Vittoria is. He hears a howl of pain from the old man and realizes that it's probably too late to save him. He yells that he needs water, and a voice at the back of the church responds that water is next. The man points a gun at Langdon, who dives over the first set of pews. High above him, Cardinal Guidera loses consciousness, the word "fire" branded on his chest.

Inside the Sistine Chapel, the third vote also fails. Cardinal Mortati is overjoyed when the bolts on the door begin to open, thinking that it will be the four missing cardinals. Instead, the camerlengo enters and tells the cardinals that he has something he needs to tell them.

Langdon moves on instinct, trying to get away from danger. A bullet explodes over his head. He runs to the front of the church as more bullets erupt around him. He dives into a niche. He sees Vittoria lying in a crumpled heap at the back of the church. The killer moves toward Langdon, who feels bullets whiz by his head. The gun appears in the opening beneath the sarcophagus that Langdon is hiding behind. It points right at his midsection, and Langdon thinks that this space will become his grave. He pushes himself up just as the gun goes off, the bullets sail under Langdon's stomach. Then the



sound of gunfire is replaced by the click of an empty chamber. The killer pushes on the sarcophagus, and the lid crashes to the floor next to Langdon. The box rolls over upside down toward Langdon, and he knows that he will either be entombed or crushed by it. He opens his eyes to a shaft of light, as the right rim is still propped partially on the support. A hand reaches through the opening and gropes around until it finds Langdon's neck. Langdon tries to fight back against the hand, which is crushing his larynx. He plants his feet on the casket floor above him and extends them. The casket slides off the supports and lands on the floor, crashing into the killer's arm. The killer releases Langdon and pulls his arm free. The casket thuds to the earth, entombing Langdon underneath.

In the Sistine Chapel, Cardinal Mortati tries to comprehend what the camerlengo is telling them about the kidnapped cardinals and the Illuminati. The two BBC reporters are transmitting the camerlengo's statement live worldwide. The camerlengo continues to talk about science and God. He says that the Illuminati have won but that science has destroyed everyone by taking away their faith. Mortati understand that this must be a plea for help. The camerlengo asks everyone to pray with him. Meanwhile, the Hassassin arranges his unconscious trophy in the back of the van. There is no need to alert the press to his last killing since the flames will do that for him.

At the Vatican, Gunther Glick follows the camerlengo from the Sistine Chapel. His team has just finished the live transmission. The camerlengo says that he has assembled photos for the BBC of the branded cardinals and the late Pope. He also tells them that the Swiss Guard will provide them with a live feed of the antimatter canister as it counts down.

Langdon lays trapped under the overturned sarcophagus. He tries to heave the box off him. He gets it up a few inches before it thunders back around him. He thinks that if he can lift the box a little, he might be able to get one of the bones underneath it so at least air could get in. He tries several times but can't move the box. He realizes that he only has one more chance. He heaves upward one more time, and Langdon is able to slide the bone over with his shoulder. When the box drops again, Langdon can see a tiny slit of light. Langdon raises his arm, twists one of the dials on his watch and presses a button.

The Hassassin pulls his van into a large stone structure overlooking the Tiber River. He carries Vittoria up a spiraling stone tunnel. They are at the Church of the Illumination, the ancient Illuminati meeting place. He places Vittoria on a couch and ties her up. She will have to wait until he finishes his final task. He walks to the balcony and looks over the Tiber, where three-quarters of a mile away, St. Peter's lies. He finds the last of the brands and heats it up before carrying it to the cell, where a single man stands.

The firemen who respond to the fire at the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria put out the fire with Halon gas, which will save the frescoes inside. The press has arrived. The man that the firemen have cut down is Cardinal Guidera. The second victim they find is a Swiss Guard. The chief calls the Vatican but can't get an answer. The chief walks around and hears a beeping sound coming from under an overturned sarcophagus. He



calls for the bomb squad, and they call for a medic after they overturn the sarcophagus again.

The camerlengo asks if there has been any word from Olivetti. The camerlengo tells Rocher that he is going into his office to pray and does not want to be disturbed. If the canister has not been found by 11:15 p.m., he wants Rocher to evacuate the cardinals. A few minutes later, Rocher exits the Pope's office, where he's left the camerlengo praying by the fire. Lieutenant Chartrand runs toward him, saying that there is a caller on the line who says he has information to help them. Rocher takes the call. At CERN, Kohler contacts his assistant and tells her to prepare the jet for him.

Langdon regains consciousness, and he answers some of the questions that the firemen and police have. A guard tells him that they did not find Vittoria's body in the church. Langdon realizes that the killer must have her. He feels a strong urge to find her. He looks at Bernini's angel and the site and finds the direction that the spear is pointing to. He asks what churches are in that direction. He knows that he needs to go west. Langdon looks at where the three previous sites were and notices that the churches were not randomly scattered. They seem to be systematically spaced in a wide triangle. He looks in the center of the triangle for a church but doesn't see anything. He thinks that it might be a square, but then he sees that a perfect square is impossible since the lines of the triangle don't support it. The line he drew earlier to indicate the angel's spear's direction passes through one of the sites. Taken together, the four sites made a kite-like diamond.

The fourth side seems to be in the Piazza Navona, but Langdon can't remember any Bernini works there. Then Langdon realizes that the shape isn't a kite or a diamond, but a cross. Suddenly, he remembers that in the center of Piazza Navona is one of Bernini's most celebrated sculptures, The Fountain of the Four Rivers. Langdon runs to Olivetti's body and takes possession of the man's semiautomatic and his walkie-talkie. It is 10:31, so he has plenty of time. He slips out of the church, trying to call the Vatican, but all he gets is static. He is alone. Langdon pulls the gun from his pocket and runs up to an idling car nearby, telling the driver to get out. Langdon gets behind the wheel and takes off.

Chapters 91-100 Analysis

The camerlengo brings to the forefront the tensions between religion and science. In his mind, the two are at odds with one another, in a struggle for people's belief and devotion. He believes that science (in the persona of the Illuminati) threatens the very existence of the church and that it takes people's faith away from them. His ideas are similar to those that the church carried during earlier periods of time when they hunted down members of the Illuminati and viewed the organization as a huge threat to the church and faith. The camerlengo's belief that science and religion are incompatible and that they are at odds with one another will continue to fuel his actions. His view on this helps to explain why he views science as dangerous and something that should be stopped.



The Hassassin's capture of Vittoria spurs on the eventual showdown between him and Langdon. This has been foreshadowed throughout the novel and the foreshadowing continues in these chapters. The Hassassin stated earlier that he might meet Vittoria before the night is out, and now that has happened. He has taken her prisoner. This action foreshadows an eventual battle between the two of them at the Church of Illumination. This means that Langdon will somehow figure out the final clues and make his way to Vittoria to save her.



Chapters 101-110

Chapters 101-110 Summary

Gunther Glick sits on a bench in a holding cell of the Office of the Swiss Guard. He prays that this isn't all a dream, as this is the scoop of a lifetime. His team has exclusively broadcast the camerlengo's address, the photos of the cardinals and Pope and the live feed of the antimatter canister counting down. These things did not land them in the holding cell. Glick's report on the conversation about the 11th hour Samaritan did. He overheard Rocher giving orders after he got a phone call with information about the canister. Glick also added that former President George Bush is an Illuminati and that CERN is the new home base for the Illuminati. Now, Glick and Macri argue in the holding cell about his report.

Langdon arrives at the Piazza Navona and the fourth site. Somewhere here a marker is supposed to point to the last destination, the Church of the Illumination. He wonders if that is where the killer has taken Vittoria. He looks around but doesn't see an angel anywhere. He wonders if this is the wrong place. At 10:46 p.m., a black van emerges on the far side of the piazza. The side door slides open. A naked man is in agony on the floor of the van. Heavy chains are wrapped around him. Langdon slips off his jacket and takes the gun. He positions himself opposite the van and then runs directly toward the basin of the fountain. He climbs into the fountain. The assassin crouches on the floor of the van, preparing to roll the cardinal into the fountain. Langdon raises his gun and moves so that the man can see him, telling the killer not to move. The assassin looks up and sneers. The killer won't tell Langdon where Vittoria is, and Langdon won't kill him because he needs to know where she is.

The killer grabs something on the ceiling while kicking the cardinal out of the van and into the fountain. The assassin propels himself out of the van feet first toward Langdon. Langdon pulls the trigger, and the bullet explodes through the killer's left boot. Then, Langdon feels the assassin's boots hit him, sending both down in a spray of water and blood. Langdon has lost the gun, and he gropes around for it. He keeps moving. He grasps part of the chain on the cardinal's body. He sees that the man is still alive and tries to heave the cardinal toward the surface. Langdon gets him to the surface, but then the man's body rolls, causing Langdon to lose his grip. The cardinal disappears under the water again. Langdon dives down again, finding the man and seeing the "water" brand on his chest. Suddenly, Langdon sees two boots coming into view.

Langdon's water polo experience gives him a bit of an edge, but he also knows that he is a long way from the Harvard pool. The assassin grabs him, holding him down. Langdon tries to spin away but can't break the grip. Langdon stops trying to surface and kicks out in another direction, breaking the killer's grasp on him. He surfaces for air, and the assassin bears down on him once again. Langdon looks underwater for the gun,



as his lungs burn. He thinks that he sees the gun, but when he pulls it toward him, it turns out to be a rubber hose with bubbles coming from the end.

At the other end of the pool, Cardinal Baggia takes his last breath. The Hassassin ignores the pain in his foot and continues to hold Langdon under the water. Langdon's struggling becomes weaker and weaker. The Hassassin feels his body go rigid and then shake wildly. After six seconds, he feels Langdon go limp. He holds him down for another thirty seconds and then lets go as Langdon's body sinks.

Langdon lies at the bottom of the Fountain of the Four Rivers with his mouth wrapped around the plastic hose. He's not sure how accurate his portrayal of a dying man was, but the Hassassin bought it and let him go. He lets go of the hose and surfaces in the shadows of the huge marble figure. The van is gone. Langdon hauls Cardinal Baggia up and begins CPR. After three minutes, he knows it is over.

Langdon again feels a strong urge to help Vittoria. He knows that somewhere in the mass of figures of the sculpture, something will point him to the Church of Illumination. He can't find anything that he thinks is right. He spots a pigeon on top the obelisk, but he realizes that the bird hasn't moved since his arrival. He throws some coins at it and realizes that it's bronze. It dawns on him that it's a dove. A lone dove is a pagan symbol for the Angel of Peace. The bird is looking west, and Langdon climbs higher to get a good look at the city. In front of him, on the banks of the Tiber River, stands a huge stone structure, a circular castle within a square fortress surrounded by a park in the shape of a pentagram. Leading to the castle's main entrance is the famous Bridge of Angels, and an angel atop the castle points a spear down at the exact center of the castle.

At 11:07 p.m., Langdon races toward the Castle of the Angel. The bridge is blocked off, and Langdon skids to a stop. He breaks into a run. The Vatican used the castle for centuries as a tomb, fortress, papal hideout and museum. Yet, the castle also apparently was the home for the Illuminati. It is the property of the Vatican, but it was only used sporadically. Bernini made many renovations through the years. Rumors suggest that it is filled with hidden passageways and chambers. The two main doors are locked, and Langdon doesn't think that he can break in through them. He looks for another entrance. He sees a large media truck and races to the man adjusting cables near it. The man says that a black van has been going in and out all night. The man uses the telescoping extension on his truck to boost Langdon up over the outer rampart.

Langdon runs around the outer bulwark, circling the wall. He finds a stone ramp and descends into it. Every entrance he passes is locked. He finally finds a gravel drive that seems to enter a tunnel. The gate blocking the tunnel is raised, and Langdon runs in, going down with the tunnel. He finds the black van, which has Vittoria's cell phone in it. He scans the walls, looking for a way in. Looking down, he sees blood and realizes that it's the Hassassin's bloody footprints. He follows the footprints to the corner of the room. A narrow split appears in the wall, made by overlapping walls. Langdon slips in and runs on, passing tiny jail cells. He sees the cell where the cardinals were kept. He sees a passage near the cell, but the footprints don't go in. Langdon realizes that it is the Little



Passage, a tunnel built between Castle St. Angelo and the Vatican, which was used in the past to help various Popes escape to safety from sieges on the Vatican. Since the passage is said to be sealed with impenetrable locks, Langdon knows that someone on the inside had to be helping.

Langdon continues to follow the trail of blood. Before climbing a spiraling staircase, he finds an iron bar with a sharp, splintered end to use as a weapon. He climbs up the stairs and reaches a door with a light underneath.

Inside, the Hassassin stands over Vittoria. He opens a knife and runs it across her stomach. He tells her that the blade cut out her father's eye. He begins sawing through her shorts. A voice from the doorway growls at the Hassassin to get away from Vittoria. She looks up to see Langdon. The Hassassin puts the knife to Vittoria's throat and threatens to kill her. Langdon steps forward. The Hassassin swings the blade at Langdon, but he moves at the last second. The knife sails past his ear and clatters to the ground behind him. Langdon and the Hassassin circle each other like stalking lions. Langdon tries to get the man to tell him where the canister is. He jabs at the Hassassin and feels himself getting tired. He realizes that the Hassassin is waiting for him to tire.

Langdon sees a glint of something on a table in the middle of the room. A chest in the shape of a pentagon holds the five brands. All are forged of iron with handles made of wood. Langdon realizes that something is missing from the chest. The center holds an empty compartment, one meant to hold a large, perfectly square brand.

The Hassassin attacks, and Langdon moves too slowly. The man grips the iron bar, and Langdon feels him pulling it away. A moment later, Langdon is staring at the splintered end of the bar. He can barely focus, and in frustration, he blurts out that he's never read anything about a sixth brand. The Hassassin says that Langdon will never see it since Janus, the Illuminati leader, has it. The Hassassin says that the brand will be used on the final victim, and Langdon realizes that the last victim must be the camerlengo, who has been a beacon of hope for the world tonight. When Langdon argues that no one could get into Vatican City, he thinks that Janus must be the 11th hour Samaritan.

Langdon feels cool air and senses the balcony behind him. He realizes that the Hassassin is going to use the hundred-foot drop below to kill him. The Hassassin leaps toward Langdon, and the spear slices toward his stomach. Langdon skids back, going farther toward the edge each time the Hassassin jabs the spear at him. Finally, when the Hassassin jabs, Langdon grabs the spear while spinning to one side. They strain against each other. Langdon can feel himself losing. He rams his foot down on the Hassassin's injured foot. The Hassassin recovers, though, shoving Langdon against the railing. Langdon arches over, and as he falls, he grabs the railing, hanging upside down by his legs and one hand. The Hassassin prepares to ram the bar into Langdon. Suddenly, the Hassassin drops the bar and screams in pain. Langdon sees a torch burn on the man's back as he turns. Pulling himself back up, Langdon sees Vittoria holding a torch in front of her. The Hassassin lunges for her, and Langdon jumps off the banister, ramming his fist into the burn on the man's back. Vittoria thrusts the torch into the Hassassin's face. He stumbles back into the balcony railing. Langdon and Vittoria push



the man over the railing, and they hear the crack of his spine on the ground below when he lands.

In St. Peter's Square, the Swiss Guards try to push the crowd back to a safer distance. Inside the Sistine Chapel, Cardinal Mortati is restless. The time is 11:15 p.m., and many of the cardinals gather around the exit, wanting to get out. Captain Rocher has given orders that the cardinals not be let out until he gives the orders. He orders Lieutenant Chartrand to make sure that the camerlengo doesn't go anywhere before their guest arrives. In the Office of the Pope, the camerlengo stares into the fire, wondering if he will survive the night.

Vittoria stands on the balcony. She sees that St. Peter's Square is still full of people. Langdon says that he's going back into the Vatican to warn them about the 11th hour visitor. The balcony begins to shake, and they see the papal helicopter head for Vatican City. Vittoria has the feeling that they are too late. She sees a figure descending a gangplank from the helicopter. It is Maximillian Kohler.

Chapters 101-110 Analysis

The long-awaited showdown between Langdon, Vittoria and the Hassassin takes place. As one of the evil characters within the novel, the Hassassin must be brought to justice or punished according to the conventional mystery plots. In these chapters, Langdon follows the clues to find where the Hassassin has taken Vittoria. Their struggle symbolizes the struggle between good and evil within the novel. Langdon and Vittoria want both to catch her father's killer and to save the Vatican and the people nearby from the antimatter. Their motives are pure and good while the Hassassin seems to be motivated by a hatred of the church.

The novel has several red herrings to create suspense and drama and to take attention away from the real culprits in the plot. In these chapters, Langdon and Vittoria believe that the 11th hour Samaritan, who will be welcomed into Vatican City, is Janus coming to kill the camerlengo. The Hassassin says that the sixth brand will be used on the final victim, foreshadowing another death in the novel. As this section ends, Maximillian Kohler, CERN's director, arrives as the 11th hour Samaritan. Although Vittoria cannot believe that Kohler would do such a thing, Langdon believes that it makes a great deal of sense that Kohler is Janus.

Rocher's actions also place a certain degree of suspicion on him at this time. In earlier chapters, he turned off the power to the Secret Archives, trapping Langdon inside. Although he claimed not to know that Langdon was there, it is possible that he is involved in the plot and wanted to get rid of Langdon. In this section, Rocher orders that the cardinals be held within the Sistine Chapel, despite the growing threat from the antimatter. He also seems to arrange it so that Kohler will have access to the camerlengo.



Chapters 111-120

Chapters 111-120 Summary

Rocher takes Kohler toward the Office of the Pope. Kohler knows that he has little time to accomplish what he came here to do. He finds that he doesn't care if he dies. The guards try to stop him, but Kohler keeps going. He thinks that if he dies at the hands of religion, it won't be the first time. He remembers being eleven, his body wracked with pain. His mother and father kneel around him, praying. Three doctors urge them to let them help but his mother says that God will protect the child. The doctors say that Kohler could die or become paralyzed and that they have medicines that could help. His parents just continue to pray. At dawn, a figure looms over him, one of the doctors, and gives him an injection while his parents aren't looking. When his fever breaks, Kohler's parents proclaim it an act of God. When he can't walk, a priest says it is punishment for Kohler not having enough faith.

A guard tells Kohler that he can enter to see the camerlengo. Kohler says that he wants to see him alone, and Rocher backs this up. The guards frisk Kohler but don't do a good job of it. They miss the revolver that is hidden beneath his chair. When he enters the office, the camerlengo asks if Kohler came to make him a martyr.

Vittoria and Langdon dash through the tunnel called *Il Passetto*, connecting the castle with the Vatican. Langdon keeps thinking about the sixth brand and the confounding images of Kohler, Janus, the Hassassin and Rocher. Vittoria is sure that Kohler can't be Janus because it would make CERN look bad. Langdon wonders how much CERN has really been damaged. He thinks that maybe Kohler never expected the camerlengo to make the antimatter public. Vittoria and Langdon argue back and forth about whether Kohler is Janus. They reach a steel gate, blocking them from further progress. The lock is broken, and they push the door gate open, continuing on. Then the tunnel ends suddenly. A cumbrous door blocks their way, a one-way portal used for security. It is 11:29 p.m., and Langdon begins to pound on the door.

Lieutenant Chartrand feels that something is wrong. He stands outside the Office of the Pope. Rocher is next to him, looking distant, and Chartrand thinks that his decisions haven't made any sense in the last hour. Chartrand thinks that someone should be inside the office. He heard Kohler bolt the door when he went in. The cardinals are all still inside the Sistine Chapel as well. Chartrand hears a banging coming from down the hall. Rocher motions for Chartrand to go look into it. He runs toward the sound, finding himself in the Pope's private library. He fires a shot into the library's door latch, opening the door, which has been sealed since the Pope's death. He finds a large door of iron and realizes that it's the Pope's secret escape route. He hears Vittoria and Langdon behind the door, warning him about Kohler. He then sees keys in the door's locks even though the keys should be in a vault. He realizes that someone has used the door recently, and he opens it up. He tells Langdon and Vittoria that Kohler is in a private



meeting with the camerlengo. Langdon shouts that the camerlengo is in danger. They hear the camerlengo's scream from behind the door.

Chartrand blows open the door, and everyone rushes in. Kohler stands awkwardly by his wheelchair, holding a pistol that is aimed at the camerlengo. The camerlengo lies on the floor, his chest seared black. Langdon sees a large square brand on the floor but can't make out the symbol. Two Swiss Guards open fire, shooting Kohler in the chest. The camerlengo rolls toward Rocher, points at him and yells, "Illuminatus." Rocher moves toward the camerlengo, but Chartrand shoots him in the back. Langdon moves toward the sixth brand. It is a perfect square, but Langdon can't make sense of it.

Langdon feels a hand on his shoulder. It is Kohler's, and he is not yet dead. He pulls a small device from the arm of his chair and gives it to Langdon. Kohler says to give it to the media. Kohler collapses. Langdon recognizes the device as a palm-held camcorder, and he slips it into his pocket, thinking that he won't be carrying out Kohler's request. The camerlengo says weakly that the cardinals need to be evacuated and that he needs the helicopter to fly him to the hospital.

In St. Peter's Square, the Swiss Guard pilot sits in the helicopter, ready to take the camerlengo to the hospital. The pilot feels responsible because he brought Kohler to the Vatican. The pilot sees a line of cardinals exiting the Sistine Chapel into the square. Langdon, Vittoria and two guards carry the camerlengo to the square on a narrow table. The camerlengo is almost unconscious.

At 11:39 p.m., Langdon and the others step out of the Basilica and into the square. The reporters rush toward them. The camerlengo's eyes shoot open, and he sits up quickly. When the table dips, the camerlengo stands, staggering down the stairs. His cassock slips to his waist, revealing the brand. Langdon finally understands. Iron brands are in reverse of their imprints. The perfect square contained the words earth, air, fire and water. It is the famed Illuminati Diamond.

The camerlengo shouts to the heavens, and Vittoria says to Langdon that the camerlengo is hallucinating, thinking that he is talking to God. The camerlengo stretches out his arms in a crucifixion like stance and then thanks God. He turns and runs back into St. Peter's Basilica.

At 11:42 p.m., Langdon rushes in after the camerlengo, acting on impulse and trying to stop the man. Chartrand and Vittoria follow. Glick and Macri also follow despite being told by Chartrand to stop. Ahead of them, the camerlengo calls, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (pg. 477). They watch the camerlengo seem to sink into the floor. Langdon rushes to the spot and sees that the camerlengo has disappeared into the Niche of the Palliums, which is lighted by ninety-nine candles. The camerlengo dashes toward a set of glass doors leading to the room holding the famous golden box. He opens the door and rushes past the golden box. He drops to his knees and begins struggling to lift an iron grate. The camerlengo opens it and prepares to go through when Langdon reaches him. Chartrand realizes that the place below them is the most sacred place of all: *Terra Santa*, the Catacombs. The camerlengo says that he has had



a vision that told him where the antimatter is. Langdon thinks that it seems obvious now why the Illuminati would put the antimatter here, in St. Peter's Basilica, the rock and the foundation of the church. The camerlengo grabs an oil lamp and descends.

Vittoria thinks that she will die down there as she races after the others. She is surprised to realize that she thinks the camerlengo is probably right that the antimatter is down here. From here, the antimatter annihilation would be at least partially contained, and there would be no heat blast or flying shrapnel to injure innocent onlookers. She still cannot understand how Kohler could be involved in this. She yells ahead that they can't bring the antimatter up since everyone outside will die.

The camerlengo stops at a wrought iron gate. Langdon struggles to keep the gate closed, but Chartrand grabs at him. Vittoria says that they must evacuate now and repeats that they can't take the antimatter up. The camerlengo tells them to trust him and that there will not be an explosion at ground level. He says that they must trust him again and asks them not to interfere.

At 11:51 p.m., the group is in the Necropolis, the City of the Dead. Both Vittoria and Langdon are thinking that they have nine minutes to get out of Vatican City. Somewhere ahead of them is St. Peter's tomb. The camerlengo dashes on, swearing that he is going to save the church. The necropolis stops at a wall of earth with an opening at waist level. He gazes into the hole, smiles and begins to pray.

Outside, the onlookers watch the drama unfolding below them. Glick and Macri are providing a live feed to the giant televisions. A gasp goes up from the crowd as they see the antimatter canister on the top of St. Peter's sarcophagus. The camerlengo's revelation was correct. Cardinal Mortati crosses himself, realizing a moment later that the situation is going to get worse. The camerlengo grabs the antimatter canister and begins going in the direction that he just came from. Langdon and Vittoria try to stop him, but Chartrand prevents them from doing so.

The camerlengo bursts through the doors of St. Peter's Basilica at 11:56 p.m. He carries the antimatter canister before him. He believes that God has made all of this happen. Langdon and the others burst out behind him. Langdon yells that there is nowhere to go, but the camerlengo replies that they need to look to the heavens. The helicopter that was supposed to fly the camerlengo to the hospital sits ahead of them, blades humming in neutral. The camerlengo runs for it, and Langdon thinks that maybe they can fly the canister far enough out to sea or to the marble quarries outside the city. The camerlengo makes the pilot get out, and he climbs in. Langdon grabs the canister from the pilot, who is holding it until the camerlengo gets in the helicopter. He runs to the passenger side and jumps in. Langdon says that he'll throw the canister. The camerlengo says that he is supposed to do it alone, but Langdon yells that there are only three minutes. The camerlengo lifts the helicopter off the ground.



Chapters 111-120 Analysis

Brown continues the red herrings concerning both Kohler and Rocher in these chapters. Kohler is paralyzed because of his parents' faith. They don't want to use science in the form of medicine to help him when he becomes ill. As a result, he winds up having to use the wheelchair for the rest of his life. This aspect of Kohler's life might make him hate religion enough that he would strike back at its symbol, the Vatican. Rocher also remains suspect after the camerlengo brands him Illuminati when the Swiss Guard rush into the Office of the Pope to save the camerlengo. With Rocher dead, there is no one to easily contradict the camerlengo's claim that Rocher is Illuminati.

Brown takes the antimatter search down to its final minutes. The camerlengo rushes down into the depths of St. Peter's Basilica and finds the antimatter. To the outside, it appears that he has received a message from God telling him where to find the canister. With only minutes left, the camerlengo takes the canister back to the surface, where it presents a great danger to the people gathered there. Also increasing the suspense and drama is the fact that Glick and Macri are broadcasting everything that is happening to the outside world. The events are unfolding on a global scale with the involvement of the media.



Chapters 121-130

Chapters 121-130 Summary

From the helicopter, Langdon can see the coast and then the blackness of the quarries. Neither is getting any closer. He looks down and sees that they are over St. Peter's Square. The chopper continues to go upward as Langdon shouts at the camerlengo that they need to get away from the square. The camerlengo says that it's too dangerous and that he wishes Langdon hadn't come because he made the ultimate sacrifice by doing so. Langdon realizes that the camerlengo isn't going to drop the antimatter. He is trying to get as far away from Vatican City as possible before the canister blows.

Vittoria stares upward from St. Peter's Square. The helicopter has disappeared from sight above them. The world watches the events unfold. Then, time runs out. "The dead silence of the event was the most terrifying of all. High above Vatican City, a pinpoint of light appeared in the sky....then it happened. A flash. The point billowed, as if feeding on itself, unraveling across the sky in a dilating radius of blinding white. It shot out in all directions, accelerating with incomprehensible speed, gobbling up the dark....As the light roared out in all directions, the unimaginable occurred. As if bound by God's own will, the surging radius seemed to hit a wall...The light rebounded inward, sharpening, rippling across itself....Then as fast as it appeared, the sphere imploded, sucking back in on itself, crushing inward to the tiny point of light from which it had come" (pg. 499-500).

Everyone in the square is silent. One by one, they turn their faces downward in a moment of wonder and reflection. Cardinal Mortati kneels to pray, and the others cardinals join him. Vittoria stands at the foot of the basilica's stairs. She thinks about Langdon and how he saved her at the castle. Now, he has been destroyed by her creation. The silence is suddenly broken as the crowd begins crying out and pointing upward. On the uppermost level of the basilica stands Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca.

Robert Langdon is no longer falling. There is no pain, no terror, and no racing wind. There is only the sound of lapping water, as though he is on the beach. The lapping of the water begins to awaken him, and he lives it all again. They climbed higher and higher in the helicopter. He wondered how high they were. If they timed it perfectly, the canister would explode a safe distance from the ground and away from the helicopter. The camerlengo had the chopper in some sort of autopilot, and he reached above his head and removed a key. Langdon watched bewildered as the camerlengo unlocked a metal cargo box and took out a large nylon pack, laying it on the seat next to him. He told Langdon to give him the canister. He placed it inside the cargo box and locked it, throwing the key out the window. He slipped on the nylon pack, turning to Langdon. He said he was sorry and then hurled himself into the night.

Langdon tried to make sense of it. He dug around looking for another parachute, but there was none. He looked down at the city below him, and then he made a choice.



With no parachute, he jumped out of the helicopter into the night. He plummeted downward, feeling the pull of gravity. He remembered Kohler's words that one square yard of drag will slow a falling body twenty percent. He had taken one sole object from the helicopter, and he clutched it in his hands. The windshield tarp had been in the back of the helicopter, but it had no harness, only bungee loops. Langdon had grabbed it, sliding his hands through the loops, and jumped. The tarp billowed out behind him as he fell.

As Langdon fell, there was a deep explosion and the shock wave hit. The top of the tarp smoldered but held. He kept falling. He had no doubt that he was moving too fast to survive the fall. He saw Rome below him and the Tiber River, cutting the city in two. He yanked on the tarp with his right hand, and he drifted sideways. The river was to his right, and he wondered if he had waited too long. The rest was a blur of darkness and frothy waves.

The sound of flapping canvas tore the group's eyes away from the fireball in the sky to the falling object that landed in the Tiber River. The body was battered when they pulled it to shore, but the man had a pulse. Then, he regained consciousness.

In St. Peter's Square, the silence is deafening. Cardinal Mortati looks up at the camerlengo and wonders how he could be there. They all saw him get in the helicopter, and they all saw the fireball. He wants to believe, but he also wants reason.

Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca stands on the rooftop of the Basilica and looks down over the crowd. He feels transformed and other worldly. The people below him are chanting his name, experiencing the substantiation of a Creator, something each of them has longed for. He has prayed for a moment like this all his life, and he can't believe that God has found a way to make it happen. He kneels and prays.

Langdon's eyes slowly come into focus. He hears talking. He tries to sit up, but he blacks out again. Dr. Jacobus is not religious, but the events at Vatican City are testing him. He feels Langdon's pulse and decides that God hand-delivered the man to safety. When the nurses check his driver's license, the doctor recognizes Langdon's name from the television coverage earlier.

Langdon comes out of his fog. The nurses have removed his clothing. One tells him that they retrieved his personal items: wallet, camcorder and pen. She turns the camcorder on and says that it still works. She can hear two men arguing. Langdon takes it from her and holds it to his ear. He recognizes both the voices. He suddenly realizes what has happened. He demands clothes, and they bring him some. When he limps out of the hospital, he is wearing a paramedic's jumpsuit. A doctor accompanies him. She is a helicopter medic and is going to fly him to the Vatican.

The College of the Cardinals streams back into the Sistine Chapel. Mortati feels confusion as they do so, feeling uneasy. The cardinals will wait for the camerlengo to join them. Meanwhile, the medic helicopter lands on the Vatican's helipad. Langdon gets off and drives a golf cart toward his destination. He prefers that no one see him coming.



In the Sistine Chapel, the cardinals say that the camerlengo should be the next Pope. They call for a vote. They are surprised that Mortati isn't joining the exuberance. He tries to calm the cardinals down, arguing that the camerlengo is not a cardinal and is too young to be Pope. In the hallway, Vittoria sits on a bench. She sees a figure coming toward her and realizes that it's Langdon. He embraces her, and they kiss.

A cardinal yells that only the chosen one could have survived the explosion. From the back of the chapel, Langdon replies that he also survived it. He walks slowly to the front with Vittoria following. Two guards come in, pushing a television set. Langdon plugs the camcorder into the TV and pushes play. The scene on the screen reveals the Pope's office. The camerlengo stands in front of the fire, and it is apparent that he is talking to someone. Langdon tells the cardinals that Kohler filmed the exchange using the hidden camcorder.

On screen, Kohler tells the camerlengo that Vetra kept diaries and that they spoke of the camerlengo. The diaries explained a meeting last month between Vetra and the camerlengo. Kohler says that he called Rocher and told him what the camerlengo had done. Kohler says that the camerlengo met with Vetra because the Pope admired Vetra's work and said it was an emergency. Vetra came to the Vatican, and he told the camerlengo and the Pope about his discovery. Then, the camerlengo went to see Vetra at CERN, and Vetra showed him the antimatter samples. Kohler tells the camerlengo to confess since Rocher is outside, and he is prepared to kill the camerlengo. The camerlengo says that he did it for the Catholic Church and for mankind, since he thinks that they are not prepared for the power of creation. The camerlengo picks up the Illuminati diamond and brands himself before throwing the brand at Kohler's feet. The rest of the tape shows Langdon and the others rushing into the office, Rocher being shot and Kohler handing the tape to Langdon.

Chapters 121-130 Analysis

The camerlengo is Janus. Although his motives are unclear yet, the camerlengo has planned the whole situation. He has been working on the inside to help the Hassassin and give him the information that he needed in order to get the antimatter and kill the four cardinals. He is willing to let Langdon die in order to save himself. Yet, he has brought people back to faith and God. From the rooftop of the basilica, he can hear them shouting his name and experiencing the wonder of God. He believes that God has chosen him for this moment.

The theme of science and religion is again present in these chapters. In one sense, science and religion combine to strengthen people's faith and their belief in God. Antimatter, something that science created, brings people back to the church. It is the science of parachutes that saves the camerlengo, allowing him to pull off a supposed miracle. At the same time, however, it takes the destruction of this scientific discovery in order for people to return to the church and faith. The antimatter has to destruct before this happens, bringing the tensions between science and religion out once again.



Chapters 131-137

Chapters 131-137 Summary

The camerlengo and the guards with him head toward the Sistine Chapel. He has often prayed for a way to make people believe again. As the guards open the door to the Chapel, the camerlengo feels power moving in his veins, and he believes that God has chosen him. When he walks in, he is not surprised to see all of the cardinals looking at him in wonder. Then he looks up and sees Robert Langdon.

The camerlengo stands in the aisle of the Sistine Chapel. The cardinals are all standing near the front, staring back at him. Langdon is on the altar, standing next to a television. The television plays an endless loop, displaying a scene that the camerlengo immediately identifies even if he can't believe it. He closes his eyes for a moment, hoping that the morphine is making him hallucinate. When he opens them, he knows that they all know, and he makes his way to the front of the Chapel. He wants to make them see that he was making people believe again by resurrecting an ancient foe and then crushing it. He believes that the inspiration for this came from God.

Langdon shuts off the television, takes Vittoria's hand and moves from the altar. The camerlengo thinks that Langdon's survival has to be an act of God, although he's not sure for what purpose. Vittoria breaks the silence by accusing the camerlengo of killing her father. The camerlengo tries to argue that Vetra wasn't doing God's work and that what he was working on was dangerous for the world. He says that for centuries, the church has stood by while science picked at it. He couldn't stand by while science presumed to harness God. The camerlengo and Vittoria argue.

Cardinal Mortati breaks the spell, asking the camerlengo if he killed the four cardinals too. The camerlengo is baffled that Mortati can't see that he had to do this. The four cardinals served the church as martyrs more efficiently than they would have alive. The camerlengo offered four souls to save millions. Besides, the camerlengo thinks, the Hassassin carried out the killings, thinking that he was doing the work of the Illuminati. The camerlengo tries again to make the cardinals see that he was doing the work of God. Mortati asks him about the brands. They were confiscated by the Vatican long ago and were locked away, forgotten in the Papal Vault. The camerlengo took the key and found all of the secrets that the Vatican discovered when the church banished the Illuminati from Rome, including the brands and evidence of Bernini's deceit. When Vittoria exclaims that the antimatter put everyone at risk, the camerlengo calmly says that there was no risk with God on his side.

Mortati cries when he realizes that the camerlengo also murdered the Pope. The camerlengo says that the Pope was a liar. When the camerlengo returned from Vetra's lab hoping that the Pope would now realize the danger of the antimatter, the Pope said that he owed science a debt. The Pope had fathered a child.



A shock hits the cardinals as well as Langdon. Mortati speaks up and says that it is true. Many years ago, the Pope fell in love with a young nun. Both of them had taken vows of celibacy, but they both longed for a child together. After a while, the nun came to the Pope in a flurry of excitement because she had learned of a process by which they could have a child without breaking their vows. A year later, she had a child through artificial insemination. Mortati says that the child born to them is the camerlengo. The camerlengo is shocked by this. Mortati says that this is why the Pope came to the camerlengo in the hospital and took him in. The camerlengo falls to the ground, crying out in anguish.

Time passes in the Sistine Chapel. Vittoria finally breaks the spell and begins to move toward the door. A hand catches her arm, and she turns to face a cardinal. He says that they must think before they act. The cardinal wants to do what is right. Mortati asks that he be allowed to tell everyone in the square what has happened. When Mortati turns back to the camerlengo, he is gone.

The camerlengo's white robe billows after him as he races down a hallway away from the Sistine Chapel. He told the Swiss Guards that he needed a few minutes alone. They let him go. He staggers through St. Peter's Basilica, as images of his father and the four cardinals rush through his head. Nothing has gone the way that he planned it. He never imagined that the night would end this way. He begged for a sign in the chapel, and he saw a crucifix. He thinks as he races ahead that God has always asked for great sacrifice from those who love him. He descends into the Niche of the Palliums, feeling that God is guiding him. He can hear the confusion as the cardinals yell to the Swiss Guards. He thinks that the night will end in the Necropolis, but he also thinks that Jesus suffered before the whole world. He stops and looks around him at the ninety-nine oil lamps. They make him look like an angel ascending to heaven.

Three minutes have passed since the camerlengo disappeared from the chapel, and no one can locate him. Mortati demands a full search of Vatican City. Suddenly, he hears a roar of jubilation from the crowd outside. The cardinals flood outside in the square. Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca stands on the Papal Balcony with his arms raised to the heavens. The energy in the square grows. The masses rush toward the Basilica. The camerlengo folds his hands and bows his head in prayer. The people in the square follow suit.

High above the crowd, the camerlengo feels physical pain setting in, spreading across his body. In the Niche of the Palliums, he anointed his body with the oil from the lamps. He slips his hand into his pocket and pulls out a small lighter. The world below him witnesses a sight that they will never forget. On the balcony, a pyre soars over the camerlengo. The fire erupts upward but the camerlengo doesn't scream or cry out. He raises his hands and looks to heaven. The fire rages for what seems like forever and then gradually dissipates. All that is left is a cloud of smoke.

Dawn comes early. A rainstorm earlier drove the crowds from the square. The media huddle under umbrellas. Churches fill across the world. The Vatican remains silent on the events of the night before.



Cardinal Mortati kneels before the open sarcophagus of the late Pope. At Mortati's feet is a golden urn with the camerlengo's ashes. He gathered the ashes from the balcony himself. He lays the urn in the sarcophagus at the Pope's side. A guard tells him that they are ready for him in conclave. The other guards slide the lid back on the Pope's sarcophagus.

Mortati crosses the Borgia Courtyard alone, making his way to the Sistine Chapel. A cardinal greets him and walks with Mortati. The man says that Mortati is no longer the Great Elector and apologizes for the other cardinals' behaviors the night before. The cardinal whispers that no remains were found on the balcony. Mortati smiles and says that perhaps the rain washed them away.

During midmorning, the Sistine Chapel's chimney gives the first puff of white smoke. Gunther Glick watches in silence. When Macri approaches, the reporters get ready for a live feed. Macri tells him to do a straight wrap. Glick, however, feels that he has nothing to lose. He begins the feed by announcing that Cardinal Saverio Mortati has been elected Pope by unanimous vote. He gives a brief recap of the night before, and Macri begins to breathe easier. He says that CERN has suspended all research into antimatter given the danger and events of the previous evening. He discusses Langdon's sighting in the square after the antimatter explosion. Glick invites a renowned scholar to join him, and Macri begins to hope that he's located Langdon. Her heart sinks when the man steps out and is introduced as Dr. Joseph Vanek from DePaul University.

Vanek says that he believes that the College of Cardinals elected two Popes during the weekend. According to ancient laws, a Pope can also be elected by "Acclamation by Adoration" in addition to the conventional balloting. He says that the night before, the cardinals began calling out the name of the camerlengo as he stood on the balcony. The Election by Adoration supersedes other eligibility requirements making the camerlengo qualified for election. Vanek believes that the camerlengo was elected Pope and reigned for seventeen minutes before he died in a pillar of fire.

Langdon dreams that he is married to Vittoria. He wakes, for a moment unsure where he is. His memory of the night before slowly comes back. He sees a second empty bed in the room and can hear the sounds of a shower running. He hears a pounding and realizes that someone is at the door. He finds Lieutenant Chartrand at the door. Chartrand gives him a note from Mortati, now the new Pope, asking them to let their hearts guide them about revealing the truth about the night before. Chartrand also gives Langdon a heavy package, saying that the Vatican is loaning it to him indefinitely. Langdon opens the package to find the Illuminati diamond. Returning to the bedroom, Langdon finds Vittoria standing on the balcony. He thinks that she could have been a Roman goddess. He lays the letter and package down and goes to her. They eat a lavish dinner. Vittoria begins to seduce him.



Chapters 131-137 Analysis

The theme of devotion is stronger in these chapters than in any of the previous ones. The camerlengo's actions, although misguided and dangerous, are motivated by his devotion to the church and God. He believes that science is a danger to religion as it draws people away from their faith, and he sees Vetra's experiments with antimatter as humans trying to harness God's power. He believes that this will make individuals believe that they are gods and that they will lose the sense of wonder and amazement that they have in their faith. He acts knowing that he could die, and it seems as if this was the outcome that he believed would happen. His salvation from the antimatter explosion is confirmation for him that he has been chosen by God and that he is doing the right thing. While devotion can be a good thing, as evidenced by the Swiss Guards' devotion to protecting the Vatican and Mortati's devotion in wanting to do the best he can for God and the church, the camerlengo also illustrates that devotion can flow into obsession and become a dangerous thing.

The theme of secrets also runs through the chapters. The camerlengo is revealed as the mastermind behind the events of the evening. Mortati reveals to the camerlengo that he is the Pope's child, conceived through artificial insemination. Mortati also asks Langdon and Vittoria to follow their hearts, hoping that they will remain quiet about the real events of the evening. As it is, people have returned to their faith and churches in large numbers, and he believes that people will lose their faith if they know the truth about the camerlengo.



Characters

Robert Langdon

Langdon is a professor of religious iconology at Harvard. He is forty years old with slightly graying hair, a deep voice and the toned body of a swimmer. He is around six feet tall. His house in the United States is filled with religious artifacts from around the world. His friends view him as man caught between centuries, both a modern and Renaissance man. He likes to have fun and work hard.

Langdon is summoned to the CERN campus by Kohler, who faxes Langdon a picture of Vetra with the Illuminati brand on his chest. Langdon has trouble believing that the Illuminati have reemerged. When Vittoria arrives, they realize that the antimatter is missing, and Kohler sends them to Rome in his place when they learn that the antimatter is somewhere in Vatican City. They meet with Commander Olivetti and the camerlengo and are given access to the Vatican Secret Archives to try and find the Altars of Science. They believe that the only way to find the antimatter might be to capture the Hassassin as he tries to kill the cardinals at these sites. Finding the clues in Galileo's work, Langdon and Vittoria race around Rome trying to find the Hassassin and save the cardinals. Langdon fights with the Hassassin at the third and fourth Altars of Science, leading the Hassassin to believe he is dead. He finds the Church of Illumination, and he and Vittoria push the Hassassin to his death. They rush back to Vatican City, believing that the camerlengo is in danger from Kohler. When the camerlengo retrieves the canister and hops in a helicopter, Langdon also jumps in, thinking that he will help dispose of the antimatter safely. The camerlengo parachutes from the helicopter, leaving Langdon alone. He grasps a piece of tarp and jumps as well, falling into the Tiber River. He is brought to a hospital, where a nurse discovers a tape that Kohler gave to Langdon before he died. Langdon takes the tape to the Sistine Chapel and proves that the camerlengo engineered all of the deaths and the antimatter threat.

Langdon is intelligent, thoughtful, and very courageous in the situation that he finds himself in. He figures out where the Altars of Science are by following the clues. Like Vittoria, he wants to protect the Vatican and the people near the complex. He feels a strong urge to protect Vittoria as well. In doing so, he places himself in danger again and again with little thought for his own life. Although the problem is not his, he jumps in and helps Vittoria and the Swiss Guard hunt down the Hassassin and find the antimatter canister. Throughout the night, he places others above his own life and risks himself in order to save others. Although he just met her, Langdon hunts down the Hassassin at the Church of Illumination in order to save Vittoria. His only thought is to save her, and he doesn't really seem to consider the fact that he might be walking into his own death by doing so.



Vittoria Vetra

Vittoria is a Bio Entanglement Physicist who studies the interconnectivity of life systems. She is tall with chestnut skin and long black hair. She is slender and looks Italian. She was adopted by Leonardo Vetra after he met her at an orphanage in Italy where he was a priest. When he moved to Switzerland and then to CERN, he took Vittoria with him. They are working on a research project involving antimatter when her father is killed. She returns to CERN, and she and Langdon fly to Rome to meet with the Swiss Guard about the antimatter. They believe that finding the Hassassin may be the best way to find the dangerous antimatter and end its threat to the Vatican.

Vittoria and Langdon race through Rome after finding Galileo's clue to the Altars of Science. They discover the first two sites but are too late to save the cardinals killed in each place or capture the Hassassin. At the third site, the Hassassin captures Vittoria and takes her to the Church of Illumination. Just as he is getting ready to rape and kill her, Langdon arrives. While Langdon and the Hassassin fight, Vittoria manages to get loose, and she and Langdon push the Hassassin to his death.

Vittoria is a highly intelligent woman who is concerned with the environment. She wanted to see if antimatter could be used as a better power/fuel source before the Hassassin stole the antimatter. When her father is killed because of the antimatter, Vittoria feels a great deal of guilt because she pushed him to make a bigger sample. Yet, she proves her strength by continuing on after her father's death. She presents a feisty, strong and intelligent persona within the novel. She fights back against the Hassassin and is willing to risk her own life to save others. Rather than focusing on her own grief, she wants to protect as many individuals as possible, and she lobbies several times in the novel for areas to be evacuated so that there will be less chance that people will die.

Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca

The camerlengo is in his late thirties and is the Catholic Church's ranking official after the death fifteen days earlier of the Pope. He has a handsome face and green eyes, and he dresses in a simple black cassock. The late Pope took him in after Ventresca's mother was killed in a terrorist explosion. He served the Pope until the Pope died, and he did not seem to have higher aspirations for himself.

In the beginning, the camerlengo inspires the trust and admiration of those around him. Chartrand recounts how the camerlengo made him feel welcome when he arrived at the Vatican. The camerlengo takes control over the situation when Langdon and Vittoria approach him. He seems to receive a message from God about where the antimatter is and brings it from St. Peter's Tomb to St. Peter's Square. He and Langdon fly the antimatter high above the city before the camerlengo abandons the aircraft and Langdon.



The camerlengo is highly religious, believing that God has called him, and wholly dedicated to the church. Langdon and Vittoria discover that the camerlengo masterminded the events of the evening because he hoped to use these events to bring people back to the church. He engineered the cardinals' deaths and the antimatter threat, as well as the Pope's death. He also branded himself with the Illuminati diamond, making it look like Kohler was Janus instead of the camerlengo. When the others discover that he is the guilty party, Mortati tells him that he is the Pope's son, conceived through artificial insemination. Ironically, though he believes science and religion are diametrically opposed, the camerlengo was conceived through science to religious parents. In desperation and shock, the camerlengo runs out and eventually sets himself on fire, dying in front of the masses in St. Peter's Square.

The Hassassin

The Hassassin kills Leonardo Vetra to obtain the antimatter. He is ruthless and cruel, killing Vetra and the four cardinals. He believes that he is carrying out the mission for the Illuminati. He captures Vittoria and sees her as his trophy for work well done. Langdon shoots him in the foot during a struggle at the fourth Altar of Science. After the fourth cardinal is killed, Langdon finds the Hassassin and Vittoria in the Church of the Illumination and fights the Hassassin. Langdon and Vittoria overcome him and throw him over the balcony. He falls over one hundred feet to the ground and dies there.

Maximillian Kohler

Kohler is a discrete particle physicist, and he runs CERN. He is in his early sixties, is bald and has a stern, set jaw. He is in a wheelchair, which is state of the art. When he was eleven, his parents chose faith over medicine when he was sick. This left him unable to walk. He figures out that the camerlengo is part of the plot to kill Vetra and steal the antimatter. He flies to Rome and meets with the camerlengo. He is killed by two Swiss Guards who believe that he has branded the camerlengo and is the leader of the Illuminati. Before dying, he gives Langdon a recording, which reveals that the camerlengo branded himself and is the mastermind of the whole plot.

Cardinal Saverio Mortati

Mortati has been appointed The Great Elector by the College of Cardinals. He is the most senior cardinal at the conclave and is in charge of the conclave's ceremonies. This appointment makes him ineligible to be elected Pope by the conclave. Mortati is seventy-nine years old and is broad-minded. He carries on several votes to elect a Pope while the fate of the four missing cardinals is unknown.

Mortati is a wise man who tries to keep the rest of the cardinals calm as the events of the evening carry on. He guides the balloting and tries to keep things under control as the other events of the evening take place. Although the other cardinals get caught up in the whirling events, they seem to trust Mortati, and he proves to be discerning. In the



end, he is elected Pope. He buries the camerlengo with the previous Pope and sends a letter to Langdon and Vittoria asking for their silence about what really occurred.

Elias Rocher

Rocher is the second in command of the Swiss Guard, behind Olivetti. He is a barrel-chested man with soft features. He wears a red beret with his uniform. His men refer to him as the grizzly bear. He is professional and tries to keep control over the situation at the Vatican while Olivetti is trying to find the killer with Langdon and Vittoria.

Kohler contacts Rocher and tells him that the camerlengo is behind the antimatter threat. Rocher is prepared to kill the camerlengo if he doesn't confess to Kohler. When the guards break into the office however, the camerlengo points the finger at Rocher, saying that he is Illuminati, and the other guards kill him before he can kill the camerlengo.

Lieutenant Chartrand

Chartrand is a rookie with the Swiss Guard. He is twenty years old and has been at the Vatican for about three months when the novel takes place. Although he is uneasy at several times in the novel because of the events taking place, he follows orders diligently. In the confusion in the Office of the Pope, Chartrand shoots Rocher, believing that he means to harm the camerlengo. At the end of the novel, Chartrand delivers a message from the new Pope, Mortati, to Langdon and Vittoria.

Commander Olivetti

Olivetti is a tall, wiry man. He wears a dark blue military uniform. He has dark brown hair that is cut into a military buzz cut, and he has a quiet voice. He is professional, intelligent and does his job well. Although he doesn't quite trust or believe Langdon and Vittoria, he tries to help them find the sites that might lead them to the killer. He is killed at the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria by the Hassassin.

Gunther Glick

Glick used to work for the *British Tattler*, but he is now a reporter for the BBC. He has been assigned to cover the conclave. The Hassassin is patched through to Glick and gives him information about the Illuminati and the missing cardinals. He and Macri record footage of the first two murdered cardinals. They also receive exclusive coverage of the camerlengo's address to the College of Cardinals, photos of the murdered cardinals and Pope and the countdown on the antimatter canister. Glick and Macri follow the camerlengo when he retrieves the canister.



Chinita Macri

Macri is African American, a little heavy and very smart. She is the BBC camerawoman with Gunther Glick in Rome, covering the conclave. When they receive the tips about the Illuminati and the cardinals' killings, Macri and Glick record footage at the first two sites. The camerlengo gives them exclusive coverage of his address to the College of Cardinals, photos of the murdered cardinals and Pope and the countdown on the canister. She and Glick also follow the camerlengo into St. Peter's Basilica when he retrieves the antimatter canister.

Leonardo Vetra

Vetra is a physicist at CERN. He is killed and branded with one of the Illuminati brands. At the time of his death, he is fifty-eight and was a priest before going back to work as a physicist. He adopted Vittoria from an orphanage.

Janus

The Hassassin believes that Janus is the leader of the Illuminati. Janus plans and has the Hassassin carry out the killing of the four cardinals. At the end of the book, Langdon discovers that the camerlengo, Carlo Ventresca, is Janus. He has been pretending to be the leader of the Illuminati in order to have the Hassassin's services.

Cardinal Ebner

Ebner is the first cardinal killed by the Hassassin. He was one of the four cardinals that were favorites to be elected Pope. He is buried standing up in the demon hole of the Chigi Chapel and is suffocated by dirt that the Hassassin stuffs down his throat. He is branded with the "earth" brand.

Cardinal Lamasse

Lamasse is the second cardinal killed by the Hassassin. He is found in St. Peter's Square with his lungs punctured. He is branded with the "air" brand.

Cardinal Guidera

Guidera is the third cardinal killed by the Hassassin. He is branded with the "fire" brand and burns to death in the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria. Although he is alive when Langdon and Vittoria reach the church, they are unable to save him.



Cardinal Baggia

Baggia was favored to become the next Pope. He is the fourth and final cardinal killed by the Hassassin. He is branded with the "water" brand and drowns in the fountain at the fourth Altar of Science site.



Objects/Places

Illuminati

The Illuminati, meaning the enlightened ones, is a secret brotherhood that began in the 1500s. The camerlengo uses the Illuminati as a cover for his actions.

CERN

CERN is a company in Switzerland that produces the first particles of antimatter. Maximillian Kohler is the head of the company, and both Vittoria and her father work for him. The antimatter is stolen from a lab on the grounds.

Vetra's Lab

Leonardo Vetra shared his lab with his daughter Vittoria. The Hassassin uses Vetra's eye to enter the lab and steal the antimatter.

Antimatter

Highly unstable, antimatter is the opposite of matter. A canister of antimatter is placed in the Vatican and will destroy everything around it if it is not placed on the battery recharger by midnight. The camerlengo takes the canister and explodes it in the air to save the Vatican.

Sistine Chapel

The cardinals are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel during conclave, while they elect the next Pope. They are evacuated just before midnight.

Office of the Swiss Guard

Langdon and Vittoria are first taken to the office of the Swiss Guard when they arrive at the Vatican. The command post for the antimatter canister is located here.

Office of the Pope

The camerlengo is using the office until the next Pope is elected. Here, Langdon and Vittoria first meet the camerlengo. Kohler and Rocher are also killed in the room. It has red marble floors and frescoes on the walls.



The Secret Vatican Archives

The archives hold over 20,000 volumes and are rumored to hold unpublished books of the Bible. Langdon and Vittoria find a booklet by Galileo that helps them uncover the four sites on the Path of Illumination. Langdon is later trapped and almost killed in one of the vaults.

Altars of Science

The four cardinals are each killed at one of the sites known as the Altars of Science. These sites and sculptures are part of the Path of Illumination leading to the Church of Illumination, the secret center of the Illuminati.

Diagramma della Verita

Galileo wrote the booklet *Diagramma della Verita* while under house arrest by the Vatican. In it is a linguistic map to the Altars of Science. Langdon and Vittoria take the book with them to find these sites, and it is destroyed when Langdon lands in the river after jumping out of the helicopter.

The Pantheon

Langdon originally believes that the first Altar of Science is at the Pantheon. He and Vittoria go there, but they soon find that it is not the correct site.

The Chigi Chapel

Originally known as the Chapel of the Earth, the Chigi Chapel is the first site of the Altars of Science, and Langdon and Vittoria find the first missing cardinal here. The Chapel has pyramids and a demon's hole. The Chapel is located in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo.

St. Peter's Square

St. Peter's Square is the site of the second Altar of Science, and Langdon and Vittoria find the second cardinal here. The square also fills with people as they learn of the antimatter and the missing cardinals. The camerlengo appears over the square when he descends from the antimatter blast and when he lights himself on fire.



Habakkuk and the Angel

The sculpture Habakkuk and the Angel by Bernini is the first marker on the Path of Illumination. Langdon and Vittoria find it in the Chigi Chapel. The angel points the way to St. Peter's Square.

West Ponente

A bas-relief by Bernini, the West Ponente sculpture is the second Altar of Science. It is located in St. Peter's Square and depicts an angel blowing out a powerful breath of air.

Holy Vatican Grottoes

The grottoes are the burial site for all deceased Popes. The camerlengo and Vittoria go here to examine the last Pope's body for signs that he was poisoned. Mortati returns later to bury the camerlengo with the previous Pope.

Niche of the Palliums

The Niche of the Palliums is a sunken area in St. Peter's Basilica. Ninety-nine oil lamps burn in this niche. The camerlengo douses himself in the oil of these lamps before lighting himself on fire.

The Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria

The Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria is the site of the third cardinal's death and the third Altar of Science. The Hassassin kills Olivetti and kidnaps Vittoria here after he's started the fire under the cardinal.

Ecstasy of St. Teresa

The sculpture Ecstasy of St. Teresa is found at the church of Santa Maria della Vittoria. It is the third Altar of Science.

Piazza Navona

Piazza Navona is the site for the fourth Altar of Science. Cardinal Baggia is killed in the fountain here. Langdon and the Hassassin struggle before the Hassassin leaves, thinking that Langdon is dead.



The Fountain of the Four Rivers

The artistic masterpiece The Fountain of the Four Rivers is the fourth Altar of Science created by Bernini. Cardinal Baggia drowns in the fountain.

The Church of Illumination

Located in the *Castel Sant' Angelo*, the Church of Illumination is an ancient meeting place for the Illuminati. It is connected to the Vatican by an underground tunnel. The Hassassin takes Vittoria here. After Langdon arrives, the Hassassin dies when he falls off a balcony.

St. Peter's Tomb

The tomb lies under St. Peter's Basilica. The antimatter is hidden here. It is retrieved by the camerlengo, who claims to have gotten a message from God that it is there.



Themes

Devotion

Within *Angels & Demons*, the theme of devotion can be seen through examining the characters and their motivations. Although driven by varying motivations and devotions, many of the characters exhibit a fierce loyalty toward something and are willing to do anything for the object of their devotion.

Perhaps the greatest example of this devotion lies in the camerlengo, who although misguided, acts because he believes that he is doing God's will. The camerlengo masterminds the whole situation, from the antimatter in the Vatican to poisoning the Pope to the deaths of the four cardinals. He believes that if people think the Illuminati has reemerged and is threatening the church, they will return to their faith. He truly believes that everything he does has been for the good of the church and that he has been chosen to lead people back to religion and faith. The camerlengo is willing and prepared to die in order to accomplish his goals. His devotion to God and to the church is greater than his desire for his own life or fame. He believes that in the end, the results will justify the means that he is using to try and draw people back to God. He has given his life to the church and now is willing to die for it as well. Ironically, he is the product of a scientific advancement, artificial insemination.

Although the cardinals' actions are not misguided and dangerous like the camerlengo, the cardinals also exhibit a similar devotion to the church. Mortati, in particular, has devoted his life to serving God and the Catholic Church. He oversees the balloting, and throughout the novel, he is perhaps the most pious and thoughtful character as he seeks to do God's will under trying circumstances. He cautions the other cardinals that they need to follow the protocol, but he is willing to accept the outcome of this, whatever it is. Others also exhibit a sense of devotion to their positions and life work. The Swiss Guard, including Olivetti and Rocher, die in the line of duty trying to protect the Vatican. They have sworn to do everything in their power to protect the Pope and those inside the Vatican complex. Leonardo Vetra also devoted his life to trying to bring together science and religion, even though this ostracized him from both sides.

The devotion that the characters have both drives their lives and brings both good and bad consequences for them. For several, their devotion to the church or to their position in the Swiss Guard brings death. For others, like Mortati, their devotion places them in positions of esteem. Although he hasn't asked to be Pope, because of his motivation, he will take the position on and do the best that he can.

Religion and Science

Historically, religion and science have come into conflict with one another. Brown gives some background about this within the novel. Both Langdon and Kohler recognize that



there has traditionally been a deep rift between science and religion. The Catholic Church, at various times, hunted scientists and members of the Illuminati down when they felt that their work or theories didn't line up with Biblical teachings. The Illuminati, in turn, fought back against the church through various means. Langdon makes the comment that the church did not want science and religion unified. After the Illuminati fled Rome and became more powerful, the church viewed the organization as the most dangerous anti-Christian organization on earth.

The events in the novel mirror, in some ways, the historical background on the relationship between religion and science. The Vatican and antimatter/CERN/Illuminati symbolize religion and science respectively within the novel. For much of the novel, Brown draws on the history of the Vatican and the Illuminati to make it look like the Illuminati has reemerged to seek revenge. The camerlengo, during his public address, discusses how science has led people away from faith and religion. He also says that science has destroyed people's sense of wonder and their trust in something higher.

Yet, while the book shows the tensions and hostilities, both historical and perceived in the present, it also gives a glimpse of science and religion coexisting. Leonardo Vetra's work is the prime example of this. As both a physicist and a priest, he uses both of these aspects of his life to search for answers. Through Vittoria, he argues that science and religion are not incompatible. Instead, they both ask similar questions and look for answers to these questions. Vetra, in this way, represents a modern day Galileo, who also believed that science and religion were just two languages telling the same story. Both men were persecuted for their beliefs and research.

Secrets

As a mystery/suspense novel, *Angels & Demons* contains a number of important and narrative-altering secrets. Not only do identities remain a secret, but past secrets also reveal themselves in ways that the characters do not expect.

Two secrets within the novel greatly affect the ending. The first is that the camerlengo is Janus and that he has engineered the whole situation so that he can try to bring people back to the Catholic Church and to God. Throughout the novel, Brown places red herrings to take the reader off the track of the camerlengo as Janus. Langdon and Vittoria mistakenly believe for a time that Kohler is Janus. During the scene in the Pope's office when Kohler dies, the narrative suggests strongly that Rocher is also involved in the plot. The truth is more problematic for the Vatican, since the camerlengo is a priest who has engineered the death of four cardinals and placed the Vatican and everyone near it in danger.

A second major secret that is revealed during the novel is that the Pope, who is now deceased, fathered a child. When the Pope revealed this to the camerlengo, it began to bring about the fateful events of the novel. The camerlengo is stunned by the Pope's revelation and believes that the Pope has forsaken his vows. At the end of the novel, Cardinal Mortati reveals that the Pope participated in artificial insemination with a nun

who he loved in order to father the camerlengo. This news stuns the camerlengo, who didn't know that he was the child. The news means that he killed a man who he thought was an evil liar but who had not broken his vows and was in fact his father.

Style

Points of View

Angels & Demons is written in a third-person omniscient point of view. The narrator is reliable and trustworthy. The chapters shift focus from character to character, allowing the reader to see what multiple characters are doing at relatively the same time. For example, one chapter might focus on the Hassassin and his actions while another might focus on Langdon and Vittoria.

By allowing the reader to follow multiple characters through the events of the novel, Brown increases the suspense and mystery of the narrative. The reader is aware early on of the Hassassin and that he is working with someone inside the Vatican. This allows the reader to look for clues as to who Janus is and whether there is an additional person on the inside helping. At the same time, the reader is able to follow Langdon and Vittoria as they track the Hassassin down and to follow events in Vatican City. These weaving threads of narrative culminate in the discovery of Janus's identity and his overall role in the events of the evening.

The third-person point of view also allows the reader to gain insight into the thoughts and feelings of multiple characters, which also increases the suspense and drama of the novel. The reader gains important knowledge about the characters' backgrounds and their motivations. For example, the camerlengo reveals in his thoughts about his past how he came to become a priest and his relationship to the deceased Pope. The revelations about the characters, particularly through their own thoughts, give a greater depth to the narrative and help explain both events and actions.

Setting

Angels & Demons is set in Switzerland and in Italy. Although the novel begins in Switzerland, most of the narrative takes place in Rome. This setting is significant since Rome is the home of Vatican City, a symbol itself of faith and religion. The setting of the Vatican is also important in relationship to the supposed reemergence of the Illuminati. It makes sense to the characters that if the Illuminati are back that the Vatican would be a target for any action.

Brown makes use of real landmarks around Rome to ground his narrative. This helps make the storyline more realistic and more suspenseful because the places in danger are actual sites. As Langdon and Vittoria try to find the canister of antimatter and then the Hassassin, they find themselves not only in Vatican City, but also in other famous churches in Rome, St. Peter's Square and Castle of the Angel. Within these sites, Brown describes famous pieces of artwork, which he uses to guide Langdon and Vittoria on the path toward the Hassassin.



The story is set in present times. It draws on both past and present tensions between religion and science. Brown also draws on scientific technologies and discoveries, such as antimatter, as part of his narrative.

Language and Meaning

Angels & Demons uses easy-to-understand language. Although the setting takes place in a country where English is not the first language, there are few Italian words or phrases included, with the exception of place names. Brown usually provides a translation of the place names, particularly when it is important to the storyline. The novel contains no vulgar or crude language.

The novel does contain a certain amount of violence, although it is not gratuitous or sensationalized. The Hassassin kills the four cardinals, Vetra and Olivetti during the course of the narrative. In killing the cardinals, the Hassassin uses rather creative means to interpret the word on the brand that he is using. Brown uses this as part of the action and does not focus on the violence unnecessarily.

Some technical and historical knowledge is referred to in the novel, but Brown offers descriptions and explanations for readers who are unfamiliar with these aspects. For example, Vittoria explains what antimatter is and how it was created. Likewise, Brown provides a history of the Illuminati through Robert Langdon to help acquaint the reader with this secret organization.

Structure

Angels & Demons consists of 137 chapters and a prologue. Brown also includes several maps, showing the layout of Vatican City and of the sites in Rome that Langdon and Vittoria visit while searching for the Hassassin. The chapters are relatively short, leading to a fast-paced, suspenseful read.

The main narrative follows Robert Langdon and Vittoria Vetra as they search for the Hassassin and try to save the Vatican City from potential antimatter destruction. Subplots follow Maximillian Kohler, the Hassassin, the camerlengo, the Swiss Guards and Cardinal Mortati. Weaving together these threads of the story allows Brown to create greater suspense, as the reader is aware of more than one individual character and can often see danger ahead as the characters' journeys collide.



Quotes

"The image on the page was that of a human corpse. The body had been stripped naked, and its head had been twisted, facing completely backward. On the victim's chest was a terrible burn. The man had been branded...imprinted with a single word." Chapter 1, pg. 6

"Antimatter is highly unstable. Energetically speaking, antimatter is the mirror image of matter, so the two instantly cancel each other out if they come in contact. Keeping antimatter isolated from matter is a challenge, of course, because *everything* on earth is made of matter. The samples have to be stored without ever touching anything at all - even air." Chapter 21, pg. 77

"Then, with a reeling horror, she knew. Staring up at her from the floor, discarded like a piece of trash, was an eyeball. She would have recognized that shade of hazel anywhere." Chapter 23, pg. 88

"Fifteen days ago, the Pope, after a tremendously popular twelve-year reign, had passed away. Every paper in the world had carried the story about the Pope's fatal stroke while sleeping - a sudden and unexpected death many whispered was suspicious. But now, in keeping with the sacred tradition, fifteen days after the death of a Pope, the Vatican was holding *Il Conclave* - the sacred ceremony in which the 165 cardinals of the world - the most powerful men in Christendom - gathered in Vatican City to elect the new Pope." Chapter 33, pg. 121

"Now, however, an unexpected development had emerged. Mystifyingly, four cardinals were absent from the chapel. Mortati knew that all the exits to Vatican City were guarded, and the missing cardinals could not have gone far, but still, with less than an hour before opening prayer, he was feeling disconcerted. After all, the four missing men were no *ordinary* cardinals. They were *the* cardinals.

"The chosen four." Chapter 34, pg. 123

"Langdon and Vittoria looked at the screen and inhaled in unison. The image was absolute. No doubt. It was CERN's antimatter canister. Inside, a shimmering droplet of metallic liquid hung ominously in the air, lit by the rhythmic blinking of the LED digital clock. Eerily, the area around the canister was almost entirely dark, as if the antimatter were in a closet or darkened room. At the top of the monitor flashed superimposed text: LIVE FEED - CAMERA #86." Chapter 36, pg. 129

"Langdon feared the Illuminati unveiling would have a special symmetry to it that he had not yet mentioned. *The four brands*. The killer had sworn each cardinal would be branded with a different symbol. *Proof of the ancient legends are true*, the killer had said. The legend of the four ambigrammatic brands was as old as the Illuminati itself: earth, air, fire, water - four words crafted in perfect symmetry. Just like the word Illuminati." Chapter 46, pg. 182



"From Santi's earthly tomb with demon's hole,

'Cross Rome the mystic elements unfold.

The path of light is laid, the sacred test,

Let angels guide you on your lofty quest." Chapter 55, pg. 222

"Emerging like a demon from the earthen floor was an old man...or at least half of him. He was buried up to his waist in the earth. Standing upright with half of him below ground. Stripped naked. His hands tied behind his back with a red cardinal's sash. He was propped limply upward, spine arched backward like some sort of hideous punching bag. The man's head lay backward, eyes toward the heavens as if pleading for help from God himself....The man's mouth had been jammed open and packed solid with dirt." Chapter 67, pg. 275-276

"Vittoria had feared the corpse's mouth might be clenched tight with *rigor mortis* and that she would have to suggest breaking the jaw to see the tongue. She now saw it would be unnecessary. The cheeks had collapsed, and the Pope's mouth gaped wide.

"His tongue was black as death." Chapter 85, pg. 342-343

"The old man was alive, and he raised his head. A pair of terrified eyes glazed down in a silent plea for help. On the man's chest was a scorched emblem. He had been branded. Langdon could not see it clearly, but he had little doubt what the marking said. As the flames climbed higher, lapping at the man's feet, the victim let out a cry of pain, his body trembling." Chapter 91, pg. 367

"Gently, Langdon ran a hand across the man's face and closed his upturned eyes. As he did, he felt an exhausted shudder of tears well from within. It startled him. Then, for the first time in years, Langdon cried." Chapter 104, pg. 421

"Langdon was still in a state of shock over the location of the lair. The Illuminati meeting hall was in a building owned by the Vatican. No doubt while the Vatican guards were out searching basements and homes of well-known scientists, the Illuminati were meeting here...right under the Vatican's nose. It suddenly seemed so perfect. Bernini as head architect of renovations here, would have had unlimited access to this structure...remodeling it to his own specifications with no questions asked." Chapter 107, pg. 435

"In the chest, the five brands sat in compartments around the outer edge. But in the *center*, there was another compartment. This partition was empty, but it clearly was intended to hold another brand... a brand much larger than the others, and perfectly square." Chapter 108, pg. 440

"The chamber was lit only by candlelight and a dying fire. Kohler was near the fireplace, standing awkwardly in front of his wheelchair. He brandished a pistol, aimed at the camerlengo, who lay on the floor at his feet, writhing in agony. The camerlengo's



cassock was torn open, and his bare chest was seared black. Langdon could not make out the symbol from across the room, but a large, square brand lay on the floor near Kohler. The metal still glowed red." Chapter 114, pg. 465

"As he plummeted toward earth, there was a deep explosion somewhere above him. It seemed farther off than he had expected. Almost instantly, the shock wave hit. He felt the breath crushed from his lungs. There was a sudden warmth in the air all around him. He fought to hold on. A wall of heat raced down from above. The top of the tarp began to smolder...but held." Chapter 125, pg. 507

"'Carlo...?' Mortati crumbled. 'His holiness's child...*is you.*'" Chapter 133, pg. 544



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the theme of science and religion within the novel. In what ways does Brown deal with the relationship between the two areas? What perceptions do the characters hold about science and/or religion?

Trace the red herrings that Brown uses in the book to disguise the Camerlengo's guilt. Who does he cast suspicion on? How does he do this?

Discuss the Camerlengo's reasons for his actions. Why does he believe that his actions are justified? What does he hope to accomplish? Does he accomplish what he wants? If so, do the ends justify the means? Why or why not?

Discuss the theme of secrets within the novel. What are some of the secrets that are revealed? What impact do the secrets have? Why are secrets an important aspect of this novel?

How does Brown incorporate the history of the Vatican and the Illuminati into the narrative? Does the historical significance of these two organizations add or subtract from the novel in your opinion?

Why do you think Langdon involves himself in the situation at CERN and in Rome? What does his involvement show about his character?

Describe what it would be like to be in the crowd in St. Peter's Square at the climax of the book. What would you have seen? What might you have felt about the events?