

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: The Knights Templar and the Crusades</i>	11
Chapter 1: Defining the Templar Code	13
Chapter 2: A Crash Course in Crusading	31
Chapter 3: The Rise of the Knights Templar	59
<i>Part II: A Different Kind of Knighthood</i>	85
Chapter 4: Living in a Templar World	87
Chapter 5: The Poor Knights Crash and Burn: The Fall of the Templars	105
Chapter 6: Cold Case Files: The Evidence against the Templars	133
<i>Part III: After the Fall of the Templars</i>	153
Chapter 7: Templars Survive in Legend and in Fact	155
Chapter 8: “Born in Blood”: Freemasonry and the Templars	183
Chapter 9: Modern-Day Templars	203
<i>Part IV: Templars and the Grail</i>	221
Chapter 10: The Templars and the Quest for the Holy Grail	223
Chapter 11: The 21st Century Dawns with a New Grail Myth	233
<i>Part V: Squaring Off: The Church versus the Gospel According to Dan Brown</i>	245
Chapter 12: Templars and <i>The Da Vinci Code</i>	247
Chapter 13: The Suppression of the “Feminine Divine”: Truth or Feminist Fiction?	261
Chapter 14: Getting Our Acts Together: Constantine and the Council of Nicaea	291
<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	309
Chapter 15: Ten Candidates for the Site of the Holy Grail	311
Chapter 16: Ten Absolutely Must-See Templar Sites	321
Chapter 17: Ten Places That May Be Hiding the Templar Treasure	333
<i>Index</i>	341

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	3
Conventions Used in This Book	4
What You're Not to Read.....	5
Foolish Assumptions	5
How This Book Is Organized.....	6
Part I: The Knights Templar and the Crusades.....	6
Part II: A Different Kind of Knighthood.....	6
Part III: After the Fall of the Templars.....	6
Part IV: Templars and the Grail	7
Part V: Squaring Off: The Church versus the Gospel According to Dan Brown	7
Part VI: The Part of Tens	8
Icons Used in This Book.....	8
Where to Go from Here.....	9

Part I: The Knights Templar and the Crusades **11**

Chapter 1: Defining the Templar Code	13
Knights, Grails, Codes, Leonardo da Vinci, and How They All Collide	14
The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon	16
Defining knighthood.....	17
Defining monasticism	19
Warrior Monks: Their Purpose.....	20
A vow of nine crusader knights	21
Don't leave home without it: The Templars' role as international bankers	22
Builders.....	24
Templars in Battle.....	24
Betrayed, Excommunicated, and Hunted	25
So where'd everybody go?	26
The riddle of Templar symbols	26

Templars in the 21st Century	28
Templars and the Grail quest	28
Templars and the fringe.....	28
Chapter 2: A Crash Course in Crusading	31
Getting a Handle on the Crusades	32
A Snapshot of the 11th Century	33
Fealty, fiefs, and feudalism	33
Pilgrimage.....	34
Y1K: The end of days	36
The Spanish ulcer.....	37
The dilemma of the second son	39
Piracy and trade	40
The First Crusade: A Cry for Help, a Call to Arms	40
Meet the Byzantines.....	40
Go East, young man!.....	41
Peter the Hermit	43
Get out the beer, we're here!.....	44
Forward ho!	45
The massacre of Jerusalem.....	46
The founding of Outremer.....	48
Let's Give It Another Shot: The Second Crusade	49
A dynamic new Muslim force.....	51
Jerusalem falls	52
The Third Crusade	52
The celebrity crusade.....	54
Richard and Saladin	54
The Final Curtain.....	55
The Fourth Crusade	55
The Fifth Crusade	56
The Sixth Crusade	56
The Seventh Crusade	56
Chapter 3: The Rise of the Knights Templar	59
The Perils of Pilgrimage	60
Why bother?.....	61
St. Helena discovers it all	62
Medieval muggers	63
Where'd everybody go?.....	65
A New Knighthood	67
"The Poor Knights of Christ"	67
The Knights Templar.....	68
Keeping their oath.....	71
A Simple Mission Creates a Powerful Institution	71
Digging in the temple	71
A windfall of money and power	72

Bernard of Clairvaux.....	73
The Council of Troyes.....	74
Opposition to the Templars.....	75
The Explosion of the Order.....	76
New gifts.....	77
Eyes of the pope.....	77
International Bankers.....	78
Check, please.....	79
Building boom.....	80
Imitation, the Sincerest Form of Flattery.....	80
The Knights Hospitaller.....	81
The Teutonic Knights.....	82
Livonian Brothers of the Sword.....	83
Up Where the Air Is Thin: The Templars Reach Their Zenith.....	83

Part II: A Different Kind of Knighthood.....85

Chapter 4: Living in a Templar World 87

A Standard Unlike Any Other.....	87
The Templar Rule.....	88
Warriors and monks.....	90
Templar do's and don'ts.....	90
A Templar day planner.....	91
No women allowed.....	93
The pride and the power.....	93
Punishment and penance.....	94
Who's in Charge around Here?.....	94
Grand Master.....	95
Master and Commander.....	95
Seneschal.....	95
Turcopolier.....	96
Marshal.....	96
Under-Marshal.....	96
Standard Bearer.....	96
Knight.....	96
Sergeant.....	97
Treasurer.....	97
Draper.....	97
Squires.....	97
Lay Servants.....	97
Chaplain brothers.....	98
The Templar Commandery: Medieval Fortress and City.....	98
City within a city.....	98
The signature round churches.....	98

Symbols of the Templars.....	100
The red cross	100
The Beauséant	102
Skull and crossbones	103

Chapter 5: The Poor Knights Crash and Burn: The Fall of the Templars105

The Seeds of the Fall in the Nature of the Order.....	106
A little independence goes a long way	107
Money: The root of all evil	108
Huge tracts of land	109
Cracks in the Armor.....	110
Getting a little too chummy with the heretics	111
Templar bashing: The latest game from the Holy Land	113
Playing politics	114
A new and deadly enemy: Saladin.....	115
The Treacherous Kingdom of Jerusalem	119
Ethics by Borgia, politics by Shakespeare	119
The horns of Hattin	121
The final curtain	123
The last Crusader	124
Dark Clouds Converge over France	125
King Phillip “The Fair”	125
Pope Clement V	127
The setup.....	128
October 1307: An unlucky Friday the 13th.....	129
The Accusations.....	130
The Confessions	130
The End	131

Chapter 6: Cold Case Files: The Evidence against the Templars . . .133

The Chief Accuser	134
Opening Move: An Illegal Arrest.....	136
The Charge Sheet	138
The caliber of the witnesses	141
Dangerous foreign entanglements.....	141
Blowing Away the Charges, One by One	142
Desecrating the cross	142
Denying the sacrament of the Mass	143
Sodomy	144
Embezzlement.....	145
Baphomet	146
Heads up: So what was it?	148
The Pope Knuckles Under.....	149
Secretly Absolved	151

***Part III: After the Fall of the Templars*..... 153**

Chapter 7: Templars Survive in Legend and in Fact155

The Templar Fleet	156
Sailing up the Seine	156
La Rochelle	156
So where'd they go?	157
Talking Treasure	157
Cold, hard cash	158
Treasure more mystical than cash?	159
The Scottish Legends	160
Battle of Bannockburn	161
Rosslyn Chapel	162
Templars Part Deux: Return of the Living Knights	166
Portugal and the Order of Christ	166
Spain and the Order of Montesa	167
The Hospitallers	167
Switzerland	168
The Greatest Templar Myths	169
Templars possessed the Ark of the Covenant	169
A Templar connection to the Shroud of Turin	170
Templars discover America!	171
The Templars Survived!	176
The Larmenius Charter	176
The Priory of Sion	179
Rex Deus	179
Templars spawn the modern-day conspiracy theory	180

Chapter 8: "Born in Blood": Freemasonry and the Templars183

The Masonic Fraternity: Who Freemasons Are and What They Believe	184
A quick tour of Masonic history	186
The brotherhood code of the lodge	188
Identifying the Possible Templar Origins of Freemasonry	189
Rosslyn Chapel and the Masons	191
The Templars' sacred subcontractors	194
The Masonic Knights Templar and Where They Came From	195
Chevalier Ramsay begins a knightly legend	196
Freemasonry's mysterious "Unknown Superiors"	197
Templarism in the American colonies	198
Templar drill teams: The origins of Masonic Knights Templar military costumes	198
Skulls and crossbones!	199
The Templars' place within Freemasonry	200

Chapter 9: Modern-Day Templars203

Modern Templar Orders.....	204
Order Militia Crucifera Evangelica	204
Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani.....	206
Ordo Novi Templi	207
Ordo Militia Templi	209
Chivalric Martinist Order	209
Order of the Solar Temple	209
Ordo Templi Orientis	213
Knights But Not Templars.....	213
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem	213
Order of the Grail	214
Sovereign Military Order of Malta.....	214
Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem	216
Deutscher Orden (Teutonic Knights)	217
Order of Christ.....	217
Teetotaling Templars of Temperance.....	218
Templars of Honor and Temperance	218
International Order of Good Templars	218

Part IV: Templars and the Grail*.....221*Chapter 10: The Templars and the Quest for the Holy Grail223**

The Holy Grail: A Ten-Century Quest	224
The Quest Begins	225
Chrétien de Troyes.....	225
Robert de Boron: The Grail becomes holy.....	228
Perlesvaus	228
Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival	229
The rest of the story	229
The Templars and the Grail.....	230
The Real Grail?.....	231

Chapter 11: The 21st Century Dawns with a New Grail Myth233

Holy Couple: The Search for the Bloodline of Christ	234
The biblical account of Mary Magdalene.....	234
The legend.....	235
Holy Blood, Holy Grail: The Legend Rediscovered.....	235
The Priory of Sion	237
Rennes-le-Château.....	238
The peculiar Pierre Plantard.....	241
The priory exposed.....	243
Was any of it real?.....	244

***Part V: Squaring Off: The Church versus
the Gospel According to Dan Brown*245**

Chapter 12: Templars and *The Da Vinci Code*247

The Secret Societies of Dan Brown	248
The Da Vinci Code's "facts" of the Priory of Sion.....	249
The "Da Vinci" Templars	252
Opus Dei	254
Leonardo da Vinci and His Last Supper	256
John or Mary?	257
The "missing" Grail found	258

**Chapter 13: The Suppression of the "Feminine Divine":
Truth or Feminist Fiction?261**

Defining Divine Femininity	262
The "lost bride"	263
The mysterious Magdalene	265
Mary's Marriage: Pros and Cons	272
Pros	273
Cons	275
Goddess Worship and the Sacred Feminine:	
Do We Really Want It Back Again?	279
The women who worshipped goddesses	279
The women who worshipped the male God of Israel	282
The Catholic Church's Relationship with Women	288
The real burr in the saddle.....	289
Victorianism	290
Facing the future.....	290

**Chapter 14: Getting Our Acts Together: Constantine
and the Council of Nicaea291**

Fiction, History, and the Early Church	292
Early Christianity: A secret society.....	292
Dan Brown's version: Teabing does the talking.....	294
What Boring Old History Books Say	295
The Christian conversion of Constantine	295
The real Council of Nicaea and what happened there	297
"Closing the Canon": Determining the books of the Bible	300
Conflict over celibacy	303

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	309
Chapter 15: Ten Candidates for the Site of the Holy Grail	311
Glastonbury Tor, England	311
Hawkstone Park (Shropshire, England)	312
Takt-i-Taqdis, Iran.....	313
The Santo Caliz (Valencia, Spain).....	314
Sacro Catino (Genoa, Italy)	314
Rosslyn Chapel (Roslin, Scotland).....	315
Wewelsburg Castle (Buren, Germany).....	315
Montségur, France.....	317
The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City).....	318
Castle Stalker (Argyll, Scotland)	318
Chapter 16: Ten Absolutely Must-See Templar Sites	321
Where It All Began: Temple Mount (Jerusalem, Israel)	322
Temple Church (London, England).....	323
Royston Cave (Hertfordshire, England).....	325
Rosslyn Chapel (Roslin, Scotland).....	325
Kilmartin Church (Argyll, Scotland)	326
Chinon Castle (Chinon, France)	327
Templar Villages (Aveyron, France)	328
Tomar Castle (Tomar, Portugal).....	329
Domus Templi — The Spanish Route	
of the Templars (Aragon, Spain).....	330
Where It Ended: Île de la Cité (Paris, France)	331
Chapter 17: Ten Places That May Be Hiding the Templar Treasure	333
Rosslyn Chapel (Roslin, Scotland).....	333
Oak Island Money Pit (Nova Scotia, Canada)	334
Temple Bruer (Lincolnshire, England)	334
Hertfordshire, England	335
Bornholm Island, Denmark	336
Rennes-le-Château, France.....	336
Château de Gisors (Normandy, France).....	337
Switzerland	338
Trinity Church (New York City).....	338
Washington D.C.'s Rosslyn Chapel.....	339
<i>Index</i>	341