

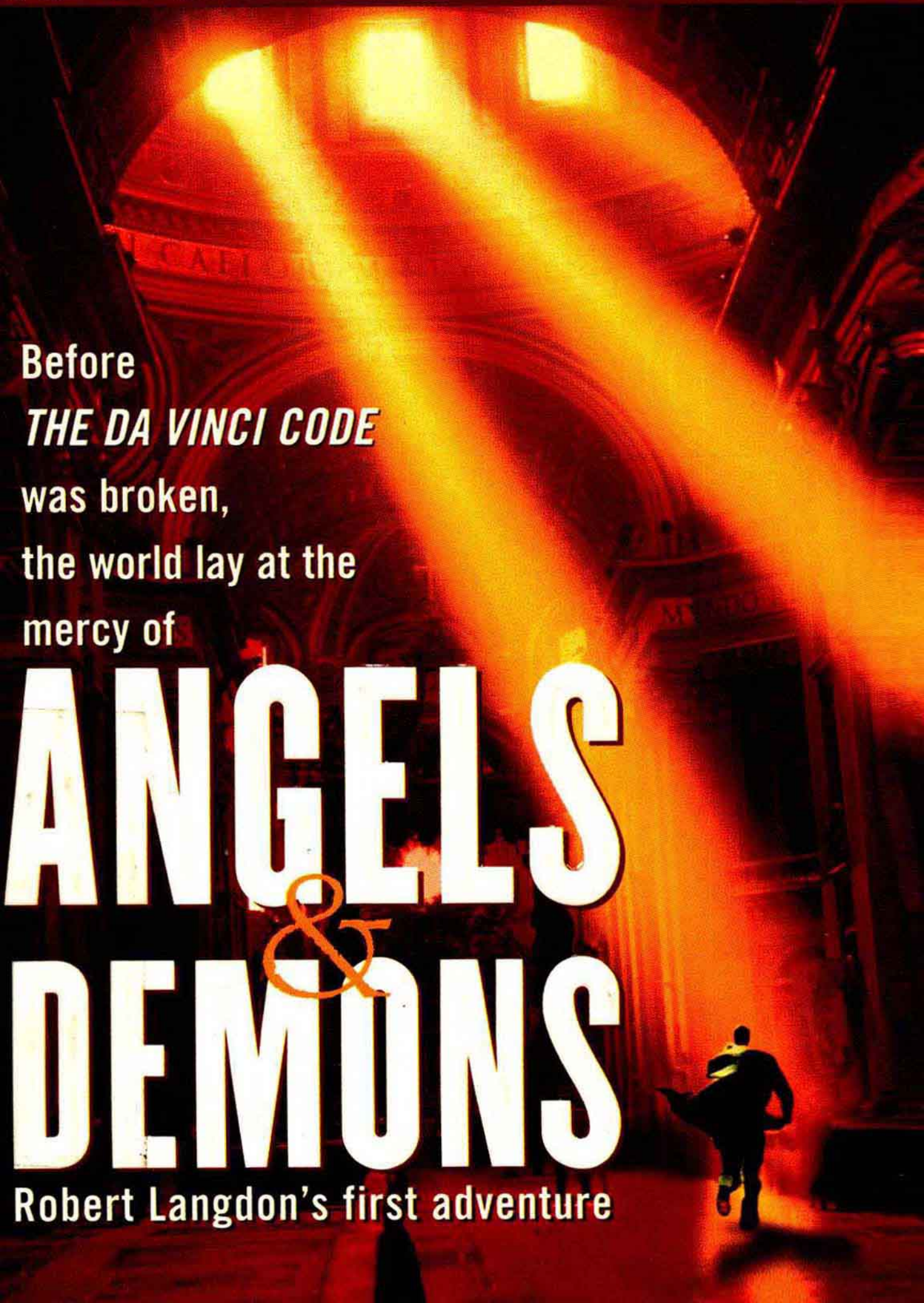
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
OF *THE DA VINCI CODE*

DAN BROWN

Before
THE DA VINCI CODE
was broken,
the world lay at the
mercy of

ANGELS & DEMONS

Robert Langdon's first adventure



DAN BROWN

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章

ANGELS

DEMONS



POCKET STAR BOOKS

New York London Toronto Sydney

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Rm. 124 Barbara Shea

**Praise for the novels of New York Times
bestselling author Dan Brown**

THE DA VINCI CODE

“WOW . . . Blockbuster perfection. An exhilaratingly brainy thriller. Not since the advent of Harry Potter has an author so flagrantly delighted in leading readers on a breathless chase and coaxing them through hoops.”

—*The New York Times*

“A new master of smart thrills. A pulse-quickenning, brain-teasing adventure.”

—*People*

“Thriller writing doesn’t get any better than this.”

—*Denver Post*

“This masterpiece should be mandatory reading. Brown solidifies his reputation as one of the most skilled thriller writers on the planet with his best book yet, a compelling blend of history and page-turning suspense.”

—*Library Journal*

“Exceedingly clever. Both fascinating and fun . . . a considerable achievement.”

—*Washington Post*

“A heart-racing thriller. This story has so many twists—all satisfying, most unexpected—that it would be a sin to reveal too much of the plot in advance. . . . If this novel doesn’t get your pulse racing, you need to check your meds.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“A thundering, tantalizing, extremely smart fun ride.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

ANGELS & DEMONS

"Angels & Demons is one hell of a book—I had a hard time putting it down. . . . An intriguing, imaginative, and very suspenseful read."

—*New York Times* bestselling author Dale Brown

"Brown sets an explosive pace through Rome. Twists and shocks that keep the reader wired right up to the last revelation."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Life-or-death cliff hangers, thrilling cat-and-mouse maneuvers, romance, religion, science, murder, mysticism, architecture, and action."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"[A] frantic-paced, pulse-pounding thriller that rivals the best works of Clancy and Cussler. The action-packed tale takes readers on an exciting adventure that feels perilously real. Angels & Demons is one reading experience that the audience will never forget."

—*Midwest Book Review*

"It's brilliant! These characters have depth. . . . The plot is twisty, turny, slippery, and surprising. As for the ending . . . WOW."

—*New Hampshire Sunday News*

DECEPTION POINT

"[Deception Point has] enough twists and surprises to keep even the most seasoned readers guessing."

—Vince Flynn, *New York Times* bestselling author
of *Separation of Power*

"Dan Brown handles the intrigue and action well . . . impeccable."

—*Daily News* (New York)

"A taut, fast-paced, barn-burner of a book. There are no weaknesses in the story or storytelling."

—*St. Petersburg Times*

"Brown is among the most intelligent and dynamic of authors in the thriller genre. In this dazzling high-tech adventure, he has skillfully blended his own wit and style with the rip-roaring adventure of Cussler and the modern technology of Clancy. Highly recommended."

—*Library Journal*

"Brown has an impressive grasp of his material. He is a more astute storyteller than most of his brethren in the thriller vein."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Exciting stuff. . . . Brown certainly does have a knack for spinning a suspenseful yarn."

—*Booklist*

"In the world of page-turning thrillers, Dan Brown holds a special place in the hearts of many of us. . . . A writer whose research and talent make his stories exciting, believable, and just plain unputdownable."

—Otto Penzler, Amazon.com (A Penzler Pick)

"An excellent thriller. A big yet believable story unfolding at breakneck pace, with convincing settings and just the right blend of likable and hateful characters. A finely polished amalgam of action and intrigue."

—*Publishers Weekly*

BOOKS BY DAN BROWN

Angels & Demons

The Da Vinci Code

Deception Point

Digital Fortress

Dear Reader,

Thank you for making *The Da Vinci Code* such a big best-seller. The book now in your hands is the "prequel" to *The Da Vinci Code* and tells the story of symbologist Robert Langdon's adventure in Vatican City one year before his fateful visit to the Louvre.

Angels & Demons is the novel in which I first created the character of Langdon and indulged his passion for art, symbology, codes, secret societies, and the gray area between good and evil. I think you will find the riddles in *Angels & Demons* just as visually arresting as those in Da Vinci's paintings. Whatever your taste in art, you certainly will find the usual plethora of puzzles, arcane history, cliff-hangers, and unexpected twists.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading my first Robert Langdon novel as much as I enjoyed writing it.

With warm regards and thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Brown". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "D" and "B" at the beginning, followed by "an" and "Brown" in a cursive script.

FACT

The world's largest scientific research facility—Switzerland's *Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire* (CERN)—recently succeeded in producing the first particles of antimatter. Antimatter is identical to physical matter except that it is composed of particles whose electric charges are *opposite* to those found in normal matter.

Antimatter is the most powerful energy source known to man. It releases energy with 100 percent efficiency (nuclear fission is 1.5 percent efficient). Antimatter creates no pollution or radiation, and a droplet could power New York City for a full day.

There is, however, one catch . . .

Antimatter is highly unstable. It ignites when it comes in contact with absolutely anything . . . even air. A single gram of antimatter contains the energy of a 20-kiloton nuclear bomb—the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Until recently antimatter has been created only in very small amounts (a few atoms at a time). But CERN has now broken ground on its new Antiproton Decelerator—an advanced antimatter production facility that promises to create antimatter in much larger quantities.

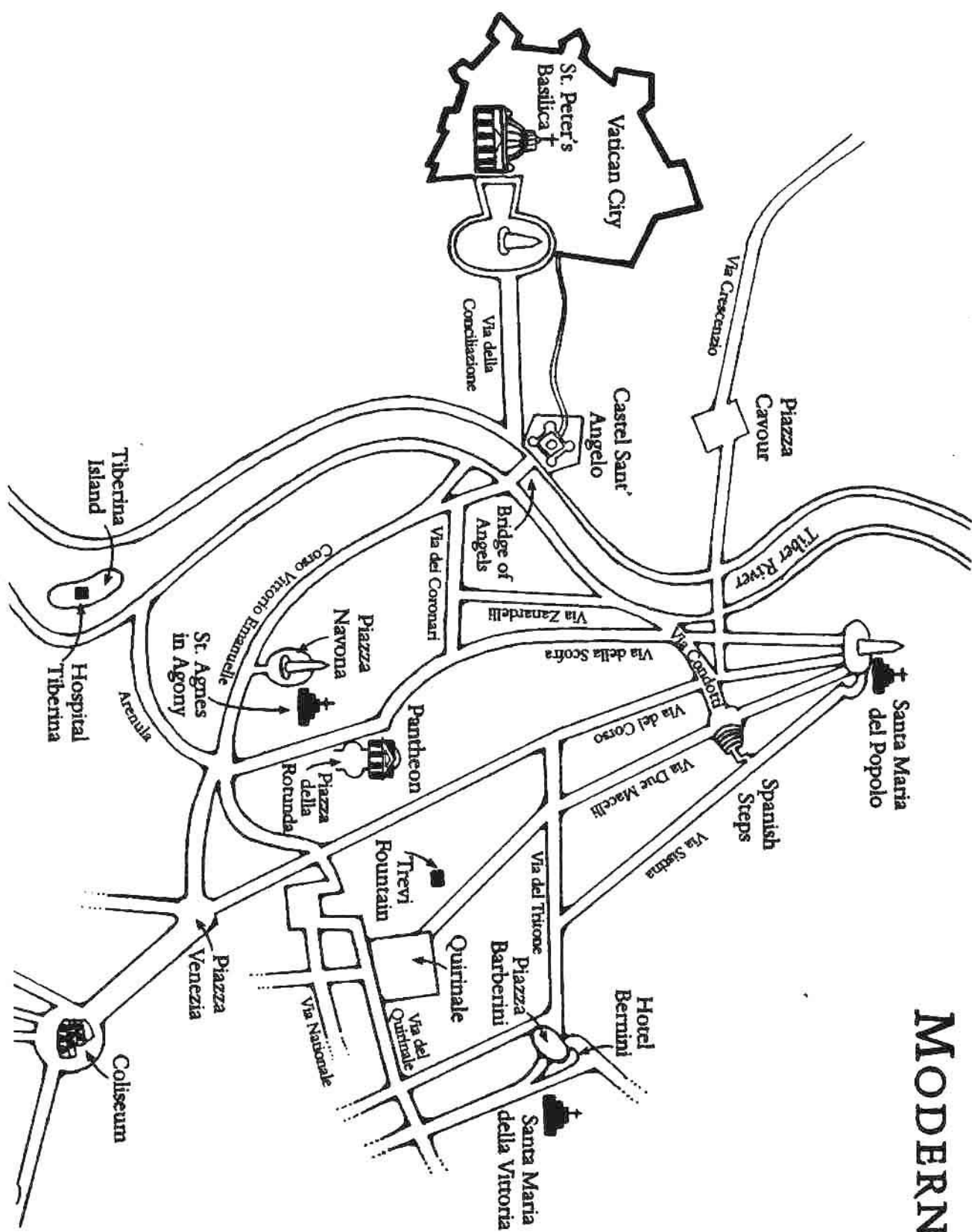
One question looms: Will this highly volatile substance save the world, or will it be used to create the most deadly weapon ever made?

AUTHOR'S NOTE

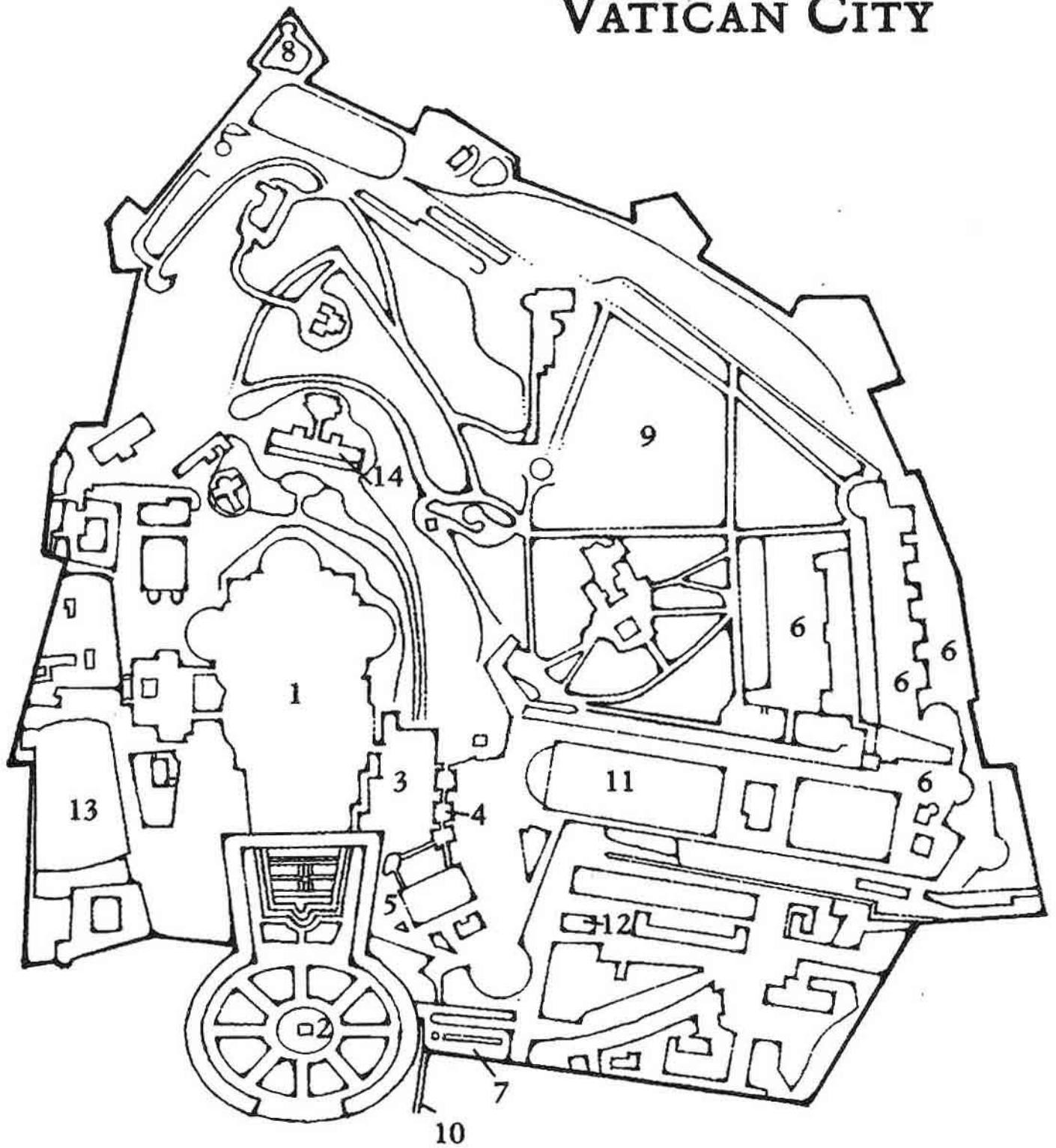
References to all works of art, tombs, tunnels, and architecture in Rome are entirely factual (as are their exact locations). They can still be seen today.

The brotherhood of the Illuminati is also factual.

MODERN ROME



VATICAN CITY



1 St. Peter's Basilica
 2 St. Peter's Square
 3 Sistine Chapel
 4 Borgia Courtyard
 5 Office of the Pope
 6 Vatican Museums

7 Office of the Swiss
 Guard
 8 heliport
 9 gardens
 10 the *Passetto*

11 Courtyard of the
 Belvedere
 12 Central Post Office
 13 Papal Audience Hall
 14 Government Palace

Angels & Demons

PROLOGUE

Physicist Leonardo Vetra smelled burning flesh, and he knew it was his own. He stared up in terror at the dark figure looming over him. "What do you want!"

"*La chiave,*" the raspy voice replied. "The password."

"But . . . I don't—"

The intruder pressed down again, grinding the white hot object deeper into Vetra's chest. There was the hiss of broiling flesh.

Vetra cried out in agony. "There is no password!" He felt himself drifting toward unconsciousness.

The figure glared. "*Ne avevo paura.* I was afraid of that."

Vetra fought to keep his senses, but the darkness was closing in. His only solace was in knowing his attacker would never obtain what he had come for. A moment later, however, the figure produced a blade and brought it to Vetra's face. The blade hovered. Carefully. Surgically.

"For the love of God!" Vetra screamed. But it was too late.

High atop the steps of the Great Pyramid of Giza a young woman laughed and called down to him. "Robert, hurry up! I knew I should have married a younger man!" Her smile was magic.

He struggled to keep up, but his legs felt like stone. "Wait," he begged. "Please . . ."

As he climbed, his vision began to blur. There was a thundering in his ears. *I must reach her!* But when he looked up again, the woman had disappeared. In her place stood an old man with rotting teeth. The man stared down, curling his lips into a lonely grimace. Then he let out a scream of anguish that resounded across the desert.

Robert Langdon awoke with a start from his nightmare. The phone beside his bed was ringing. Dazed, he picked up the receiver.

"Hello?"

"I'm looking for Robert Langdon," a man's voice said.

Langdon sat up in his empty bed and tried to clear his mind. "This . . . is Robert Langdon." He squinted at his digital clock. It was 5:18 A.M.

"I must see you immediately."

"Who is this?"

"My name is Maximilian Kohler. I'm a discrete particle physicist."

"A *what?*" Langdon could barely focus. "Are you sure you've got the right Langdon?"

"You're a professor of religious iconology at Harvard University. You've written three books on symbology and—"

"Do you know what time it is?"

"I apologize. I have something you need to see. I can't discuss it on the phone."

A knowing groan escaped Langdon's lips. This had happened before. One of the perils of writing books about religious symbology was the calls from religious zealots who wanted him to confirm their latest sign from God. Last month a stripper from Oklahoma had promised Langdon the best sex of his life if he would fly down and verify the authenticity of a cruciform that had magically appeared on her bed sheets. *The Shroud of Tulsa*, Langdon had called it.

"How did you get my number?" Langdon tried to be polite, despite the hour.

"On the Worldwide Web. The site for your book."

Langdon frowned. He was damn sure his book's site did not include his home phone number. The man was obviously lying.

"I need to see you," the caller insisted. "I'll pay you well."

Now Langdon was getting mad. "I'm sorry, but I really—"

"If you leave immediately, you can be here by—"

"I'm not going anywhere! It's five o'clock in the morning!" Langdon hung up and collapsed back in bed. He closed his eyes and tried to fall back asleep. It was no use. The dream was emblazoned in his mind. Reluctantly, he put on his robe and went downstairs.

Robert Langdon wandered barefoot through his deserted Massachusetts Victorian home and nursed his ritual insomnia remedy—a mug of steaming Nestlé's Quik. The April moon filtered through the bay windows and played on the oriental carpets. Langdon's colleagues often joked that his place looked more like an anthropology museum than a home. His shelves were packed with religious artifacts from