



In the course of their investigations into Leonardo da Vinci and the Turin Shroud, Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince were struck by clues in the work of the great Renaissance artist and scientist that seemed to point to the existence of a secret underground religion. Guided by hints about that religion's continued existence, they found further clues in a twentieth-century church in London.

These were just the beginnings of a quest that was to lead the authors through time and space to the heartland of European occultism and the dark histories of such mysterious bodies as the Freemasons, the Cathars and the Knights Templar.

As they dug beyond what was already known, the trail led them to the ideas and beliefs of the first century AD and a devastating new view of the real character and motives of the supposed founder of Christianity and of the role of John the Baptist and Mary Magdalene. And in so doing they revealed a secret history, preserved through the centuries, whose final chapter might shatter the foundations of the Church...

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