Speaking in hushed tones, she says: "My research took me to the south of France, where I believe Mary fled with her two children after the crucifixion. After spending many years of building relationships, I was allowed to see certain documents and told stories that convince me this is true."

She pauses and then sniffs. "Certain other famous books about this subject ask as many questions as they answer. But my book reveals just how many answers there are out there. The majority of churches in Languedoc are called Notre Dame – after our lady, Mary Magdalene. She is depicted over and over again, carved in dark wood as a black Madonna, holding a baby – the black being a symbol that she was hiding something.

"One church shows her holding a child, surrounded by images of the other 12 apostles. Another church has a stone statue showing Mary holding a female child.

"At a church in Paris near the Louvre, there is a painting showing her with children. Why would she have been depicted with children if they weren’t her own?"

In the town of Saint Marie de la Mere, Provence, where it is believed Mary Magdalene landed with her children, they worship a mysterious Saint Sarah, of which little is known. I believe this is Sarah, the daughter of Mary Magdalene and Jesus – whose identity was long kept a secret to protect her.

"Yes, it is all circumstantial evidence – but I believe that together, these layers make a very convincing argument. If academics actually got out of their air-conditioned offices and went into these churches and studied the art and the living proof, they might realise the strength of the evidence before them."

If the academics did venture forth, they might be keen to point out several facts to Kathleen. Firstly, that the gender of children in ancient art is often hard to tell. Could it be that Kathleen is muddling genuine images of the Virgin Mary and Jesus with the crazy supposition that it is Mary Magdalene and a daughter?

The so-called intrigue behind Saint Sarah is hardly unique. Most saints are shrouded in mystery, and hardly anything is known of any of them (including St George). So to argue that the anonymous Saint Sarah was Jesus’ child because so little is known about her is extremely tenuous.

Kathleen claims further proofs of a ‘divine? marriage lie within her book. Her next claim is that she is directly descended from the pair. She claims: "My grandmother was French and her maiden name was Paschal. As I was researching over in France, someone took me aside and explained that this name is very important in the legends of Mary Magdalene."

She explains that the Cathar people were persecuted by the Church in France for believing in Jesus’ marriage, some escaped to Spain and were forced to change their names. They chose names that had something to do with their belief. Jesus was called the Paschal Lamb – so some renamed themselves Paschal.

"When I was young, I remembered an old, eccentric uncle who would tell us we were descended from the most noble families in France. Kathleen pauses and adds triumphantly: "Now I know exactly what he meant."
Could there be a physical resemblance? By now, Kathleen is firmly in her stride. "Yes, I do stand in front of the mirror sometimes and see the similarities between myself and Mary Magdalene. I'm small - just five foot.

My hair is strawberry blonde and my eyes are green, although not the amazing shade of hazel which I saw in my dream. But there are definitely certain elements which we share."

This claim, however, cannot be verified by the Bible, which contains no descriptions of Mary Magdalene. It was only early Renaissance painters, with their penchant for red-haired models, who depicted her with auburn locks.

Publishers and literary agents took more convincing of Kathleen's claims. To finance her research, she sold her possessions. "I sold my former high-powered work suits and even my shoes on eBay to find the money. My bank balance and my husband's were in the red, and I had to tell my three sons I couldn't afford the treats they wanted."

Did it put pressure on her marriage? "Undoubtedly. We were worried sick about money, but Peter kept believing in me - even when I doubted myself."

When Kathleen finished her book in summer 2004, she approached several agents and publishers, but to no avail.

She says: "Even though I started my research before The Da Vinci Code was published, some agents said it was too much like it, while others claimed it was not enough like it.

"But I didn't want to change my book just to get it published - so I spent £7,000 on publishing it myself. It was a terrible strain."

"My whole first print run of 2,500 copies sold out, but we had books stacked in the garage and I kept having to run to the postbox to post them to buyers myself."

In January 2006, a new literary agent managed to sell the book to respected publishers Simon & Schuster, and Kathleen is now on the way to worldwide success. She claims to have unearthed enough material for a trilogy, with book two already under way.

She insists her story is not just financially motivated. "Was it all about making money when I had to borrow the cash to feed my children and sell my own shoes? We have spent years of struggle with no guarantees." She pauses and adds: "Anyway, Peter and I are going to donate some of the proceeds to charity."

Talking to Kathleen involves mutterings of danger and subterfuge. She is reluctant to reveal her parents' names "in case they are identified". She mentions France and adds darkly: "It's a very jumpy time in certain places, with a lot of information coming forward. I was followed everywhere I went when I flew back the other week."

A few days ago, Kathleen claims she dreamed about Mary Magdalene once more. She says wistfully: "She was still beautiful and graceful, but she was older. She had white streaks in her hair, and she was walking by a stream. She was smiling a wonderful, serene smile and she looked very peaceful and content."

With Kathleen's book set to hit the bestseller lists, it's safe to assume that Mary Magdalene isn't the only one who is smiling.

In The Expected One by Kathleen McGowan is published by Simon & Schuster UK on August 7, at £10.

Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-398346/Im-descendant-Jesus-Christ.html#ixzz1yf2srs9b
The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail


The hardcover version of the book was first published in 1982 by Jonathan Cape in London, as an unofficial follow-up to three BBC Two TV documentaries that were part of the Chronicle series. The paperback version was first published in 1983 by Corgi books. [2] A sequel to the book, called The Messianic Legacy,[3] was originally published in 1986. The original work was reissued in an illustrated hardcover version with exclusive new material in 2005. [4] One of the books that the authors claim influenced the project was L’Or de Rennes (later re-published as Le Trésor Maudit), a 1967 book by Gérard de Sède, with the collaboration of Pierre Plantard.[5][6]

In The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, the authors put forward a hypothesis, that the historical Jesus married Mary Magdalene, had one or more children, and that those children or their descendants emigrated to what is now southern France. Once there, they intermarried with the noble families that would eventually become the Merovingian dynasty, whose special claim to the throne of France is championed today by a secret society called the Priory of Sion. They concluded that the legendary Holy Grail is simultaneously the womb of saint Mary Magdalene and the sacred royal bloodline she gave birth to.[7]

An international bestseller upon its release, The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail spurred interest in a number of ideas related to its central thesis. Response from professional historians and scholars from related fields was universally negative. They argued that the bulk of the claims, ancient mysteries, and conspiracy theories presented as facts are pseudohistorical.[8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18][19] Nevertheless, these ideas were considered blasphemous enough for the book to be banned in some Roman Catholic-dominated countries such as the Philippines.

In a 1982 review of the book for The Observer, literary critic Anthony Burgess wrote: “It is typical of my unregenerable soul that I can only see this as a marvellous theme for a novel.” The theme was used by Dan Brown in his 2003 novel The Da Vinci Code.[20]

Background

After reading Le Tresor Maudit, Henry Lincoln persuaded BBC Two's factual television series of the 1970s, Chronicle, to make a series of documentaries, which became quite popular and generated thousands of responses. Lincoln then joined forces with Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh for further research. This led them to the pseudohistorical Dossiers Secrets at the Bibliothèque nationale de France which, though alleging to portray hundreds of years of medieval history, were actually all written by Pierre Plantard and Philippe de Chérisey under the pseudonym of “Philippe Toscan du Plantier”. Unaware that the documents had been forged, Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln used them as a major source for their book.

Comparing themselves to the reporters who uncovered the Watergate scandal, the authors maintain that only through speculative “synthesis can one discern the underlying continuity, the unified and coherent fabric, which lies at the core of any historical problem.” To do so, one must realize that “it is not sufficient to confine oneself exclusively to facts.”[18]
In The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln presented the following myths as facts to support their hypotheses:

there is a secret society known as the Priory of Sion, which has a long history starting in 1099, and had illustrious Grand Masters including Leonardo da Vinci and Isaac Newton;

it created the Knights Templar as its military arm and financial branch; and

it is devoted to installing the Merovingian dynasty, that ruled the Franks from 457 to 751, on the thrones of France and the rest of Europe.

The authors re-interpreted the Dossiers Secrets in the light of their own interest in undermining the Roman Catholic Church's institutional reading of Judeo-Christian history. Contrary to Plantard's initial Franco-Israelist claim that the Merovingians were only descended from the Tribe of Benjamin, they asserted that:

the Priory of Sion protects Merovingian dynasts because they are the lineal descendants of the historical Jesus and his alleged wife, Mary Magdalene, traced further back to King David;

the legendary Holy Grail is simultaneously the womb of saint Mary Magdalene and the sacred royal bloodline she gave birth to; and

the Church tried to kill off all remnants of this bloodline and their supposed guardians, the Cathars and the Templars, in order for popes to hold the episcopal throne through the apostolic succession of Peter without fear of it ever being usurped by an antipope from the hereditary succession of Mary Magdalene.

The authors therefore concluded that the modern goals of the Priory of Sion are:

the public revelation of the lost treasure of the Temple in Jerusalem, which supposedly contains genealogical records that prove the Merovingian dynasty was of the Davidic line, to facilitate Merovingian restoration in France;

the re-institutionalization of chivalry and the promotion of pan-European nationalism;

the establishment of a theocratic "United States of Europe": a Holy European Empire politically and religiously unified through the imperial cult of a Merovingian Great Monarch who occupies both the throne of Europe and the Holy See; and

the actual governance of Europe residing with the Priory of Sion through a single-party European Parliament.

The authors also incorporated the antisemitic and anti-Masonic tract known as The Protocols of the Elders of Zion into their story, concluding that it was actually based on the master plan of the Priory of Sion. They presented it as the most persuasive piece of evidence for the existence and activities of the Priory of Sion by arguing that:

the original text on which the published version of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion was based had nothing to do with Judaism or an "international Jewish conspiracy". It issued from a Masonic body practicing the Scottish Rite which incorporated the word "Zion" in its name;

the original text was not intended to be released publicly, but was a program for gaining control of Freemasonry as part of a strategy to infiltrate and reorganise church and state according to esoteric Christian principles;

after a failed attempt to gain influence in the court of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, Sergei Nilus changed the original text to forge an inflammatory tract in 1903 in order to discredit the esoteric clique around Papus by implying they were Judaeo-Masonic conspirators; and

some esoteric Christian elements in the original text were ignored by Nilus and hence remained unchanged in the antisemitic canard he published.
Influence and similarities

The 1973 book *The Jesus Scroll* by Donovan Joyce was an early attempt by an author to claim that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had been married and had a son together.

The 1987 *OMNI* short science fiction story 'Thy Sting,' by Damien Broderick, postulates an unknown number of children from Jesus and Mary Magdalene, creating a genetic line leading to the reincarnation of Jesus as a starving black girl in drought-ridden Africa.

The 1988 novel *Foucault’s Pendulum* by Umberto Eco mentions the Jesus and Mary Magdalene hypothesis in passing (a quote from the book is in fact one of the chapter headings). However, Eco, a secular humanist, takes a negative stance on such conspiracy theories. *Foucault’s Pendulum* was a strong debunking of themes found in *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* through the medium of satire.

The 1991 controversial non-fiction book *The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception* by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh promotes a conspiracy theory accusing the Roman Catholic Church of having suppressed the content of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The 1994 novel *Arthur War Lord* and its sequel *Far Beyond the Wave* by Dafydd ab Hugh uses elements from the book as background for the time-travel story.

The comic book series *Preacher* (1995–2000), by Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon, includes a secret organization called The Grail, which has been protecting the Jesus bloodline for millennia.

The 1996 novel *The Children of the Grail* by Peter Berling incorporates the bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene as a central part of the plot.

The 1996 video game *Broken Sword: The Shadow of the Templars* references this book as well, in the form of dialogue when the player asks what a character knows of the Templars.

The 1999 third installment of the *Gabriel Knight* series, *Gabriel Knight 3: Blood of the Sacred, Blood of the Damned*, used the idea that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had children as one of the basic structures of the storyline, tying it together with a number of other myths in an original story. "Et in Arcadia ego" is also an important object, with the characters finding important clues in the picture.

The 2001 film *Revelation* uses the Rennes-le-Chateau setting and parts of the Merovingian bloodline and Magdalene elements, within the search for a relic related to the Crucifixion of Jesus.

The 2003 conspiracy fiction novel *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown makes reference to this book, also liberally using most of the above claims as key plot elements.[20] Indeed, in 2005 Baigent and Leigh unsuccessfully sued Brown's publisher, Random House, for plagiarism, on the grounds that Brown's book makes extensive use of their research and that one of the characters is named Leigh, has a surname (Teabing) which is an anagram of Baigent, and has a physical description strongly resembling Henry Lincoln. In his novel, Brown also mentions Holy Blood, Holy Grail as an acclaimed international bestseller (chapter 60) and claims it as the major contributor to his hypothesis. Perhaps as a result of this mention, the authors (minus Henry Lincoln) of Holy Blood sued Dan Brown for copyright infringement. They claimed that the central framework of their plot had been stolen for the writing of *The Da Vinci Code*. The claim was overturned by High Court Judge Peter Smith on April 6, 2006, who ruled that "their argument was vague and shifted course during the trial and was always based on a weak foundation." In fact, it was found that the publicity of the trial had significantly boosted sales of Holy Blood. The court ruled that, in effect, because it was published as a work of (alleged) history, its premises legally could be freely interpreted in any subsequent fictional work without any copyright infringement.


In 2007 Belgian author Christian Stickx (pseudonym), published a book connecting the unsolved theft of the painting *The Just Judges* by the brothers Hubert and Jan Van Eyck from elements of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail.*[24]

The 2008 documentary film *Bloodline* by Bruce Burgess, a filmmaker with an interest in paranormal claims, expands on the "Jesus bloodline" hypothesis and other elements of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*. Accepting as valid the testimony of an amateur archaeologist codenamed "Ben Hammott" relating to his discoveries made in the vicinity of Rennes-le-Château since 1999; Burgess claims to have found the treasure of Bérenger Saunière: several mummified corpses (one of which is allegedly Mary Magdalene) in three underground tombs created by the Knights Templar under the orders of the Priory of Sion.[25]
Criticism

The claims made in The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail have been the source of much investigation and criticism over the years, with many independent investigators such as 60 Minutes, Channel 4, Discovery Channel, Time Magazine, and the BBC concluding that many of the book's claims are not credible or verifiable.

Pierre Plantard stated on the Jacques Pradel radio interview on 'France-Inter', 18 February 1982:
"I admit that 'The Sacred Enigma' (French title for 'The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail') is a good book, but one must say that there is a part that owes more to fiction than to fact, especially in the part that deals with the lineage of Jesus. How can you prove a lineage of four centuries from Jesus to the Merovingians? I have never put myself forward as a descendant of Jesus Christ.[26]"

There are no references to the Jesus bloodline in the "Priory of Sion documents" and the link exists only within the context of a hypothesis made by the authors of The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail. From the Conspiracies On Trial: The Da Vinci Code documentary:
"The authors of the 1980s bestseller The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail re-interpreted the Dossiers in the light of their own Biblical obsessions – the secret buried in the documents ceased to be the Merovingian bloodline and became the bloodline of Christ – the genealogies led to Christ's descendants.[22]"

While Pierre Plantard claimed that the Merovingians were descended from the Tribe of Benjamin,[23] the Jesus bloodline hypothesis found in The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail instead hypothesized that the Merovingians were descended from the Davidic line of the Tribe of Judah.

Historian Marina Warner commented on The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail when it was first published:
"Of course there's not much harm in thinking that Jesus was married (nor are these authors the first to suggest it), or that his descendants were King Pippin and Charles Martel. But there is harm in strings of lurid falsehoods and distorted reasoning. The method bends the mind the wrong way, an insidious and real corruption.[27]"

Prominent British historian Richard Barber, wrote:
"The Templar-Grail myth... is at the heart of the most notorious of all the Grail pseudo-histories, The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail, which is a classic example of the conspiracy theory of history... It is essentially a text which proceeds by innuendo, not by refutable scholarly debate... Essentially, the whole argument is an ingeniously constructed series of suppositions combined with forced readings of such tangible facts as are offered.[28]"

In 2005, Tony Robinson narrated a critical evaluation of the main arguments of Dan Brown and those of Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln, The Real Da Vinci Code, shown on Channel 4. The programme featured lengthy interviews with many of the main protagonists. Arnaud de Sède, son of Gérard de Sède, stated categorically that his father and Plantard had made up the existence of a 1,000-year-old Priory of Sion, and described the story as "piffle."[29] The programme concluded that, in the opinion of the presenter and researchers, the claims of Holy Blood were based on little more than a series of guesses.

The Priory of Sion myth was exhaustively debunked by journalists and scholars as one the great hoaxes of the 20th century.[7] Some writers have expressed concern that the proliferation and popularity of books, websites and films inspired by this hoax have contributed to the problem of conspiracy theories, pseudohistory and other confusions becoming more mainstream.[21] Others are troubled by the romantic reactionary ideology unwittingly promoted in these works.[30]

Historian Ken Mondschein ridiculed the idea of a Jesus bloodline, writing:
"The idea of keeping the family tree pruned to bonsai-like proportions is also completely fallacious. Infant mortality in pre-modern times was ridiculously high, and you'd only need one childhood accident or disease in 2000 years to wipe out the bloodline; if, however, even one extra sibiong per generation survived to reproduce, the numbers of descendents would increase at an exponential rate; keep the children of Christ marrying each other, on the other hand, and eventually they’d be so inbred that the sons of God would have flippers for feet."

Quoting Robert McCrum, literary editor of The Observer newspaper, about The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail:
"There is something called historical evidence – there is something called the historical method – and if you look around the shelves of bookshops there is a lot of history being published, and people mistake this type of history for the real thing. These kinds of books do appeal to an enormous audience who believe them to be 'history', but actually they aren't history, they are a kind of parody of history. Alas, though, I think that one has to say that this is the direction that history is going today...[31]"
Danielle Gorree
Superhero Member
Posts: 4269

Re: The Jesus Bloodline
« Reply #21 on: June 23, 2012, 06:15:31 pm »

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^ Published by Century, part of The Random House Group Limited. ISBN 1-84413-840-2
^ Pierre Plantard de Saint-Clair, L’Or de Rennes, mise au point (La Garenne-Colombes, 35 bis, Bd de la République, 92250; Bibliothèque Nationale, Depot Legal 02-03-1979, 4° Z Piece 1182).
^ Martin Kemp, Professor of Art History at Oxford University, on the documentary The History of a Mystery, BBC Two, transmitted on 17 September 1996, commenting on books like The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail: "There are certain historical problems, of which the Turin Shroud is one, in which there is 'fantastic fascination' with the topic, but a historical vacuum - a lack of solid evidence - and where there's a vacuum - nature abhores a vacuum - and historical speculation abhors a vacuum - and it all floods in...But what you end up with is almost nothing tangible or solid. You start from a hypothesis, and then that is deemed to be demonstrated more-or-less by stating the speculation, you then put another speculation on top of that, and you end up with this great tower of hypotheses and speculations - and if you say 'where are the rocks underneath this?' they are not there. It's like the House on Sand, it washes away as soon as you ask really hard questions of it."
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This is the front cover art for the book The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail written by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln. The book cover art copyright is believed to belong to the publisher, Jonathan Cape or the cover artist.

Egypt has unearthed a more than 7,000-year-old city and cemetery dating back to its First Dynasty in the southern province of Sohag, the Antiquities Ministry said on Wednesday. The find could be a boon for Egypt's ailing tourism industry, which has suffered endless setbacks since an uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011 but remains a vital source of foreign. This region has the earliest evidence for farming in Egypt, and was a center of royal pyramid and tomb-building in the Twelfth dynasty of the Middle Kingdom, and again during the rule of the Ptolemaic dynasty. Faiyum became one of the breadbaskets of the Roman world. For the first three centuries AD, the people of Faiyum and elsewhere in Roman Egypt not only embalmed their dead but also placed a portrait of the deceased over the face of the mummy wrappings, shroud or case. The Egyptians continued their practice of burying their dead, despite the Roman preference for cremation.Â Â Ruins of 7,000-year-old city found in Egypt oasis - Yahoo! News. The Hydraulics of Open Channel Flow: An Introduction. Preliminary findings suggest that the site could be up to 7,000 years old, which places the find in the era of the First Dynasty in the southern province of Sohag. While this cemetery may not be quite as ostentatious as Pharaoh Khufuâ€™s Great Pyramid, the grand size of these graves compared to others previously found in Abydos suggest that the tombs belonged to people of note, Reuters reports.Â Â The artifacts found at the scene could also have been left behind by the workers who built the cityâ€™s majestic tombs once their work was complete. (Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities). Like this article?