

# Exploring the DaVinci Code

## **The Women in Jesus' Life**

# Fact vs. Fiction

**Code:** *According to the gnostic gospels and Sangreal documents, Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child.*

**Facts:** The Gospel of Philip describes Mary as a companion of Jesus, but nowhere indicates marriage.

No credible historian or scholar supports the idea.

There are no Sangreal documents.

# Fact vs. Fiction

**Code:** *Jesus intended Mary Magdalene to lead the church after his death.*

**Facts:** The Gospel of Mary suggests tension between Mary and the apostles, but this is widely understood to be symbolic of conflict over “new” revelation.

There are no church writings or traditions suggesting this idea.

# Fact vs. Fiction

**Code:** *The figure next to Jesus in DaVinci's The Last Supper is Mary Magdalene.*

**Facts:** It was common in art of the period to portray young men with feminine features. DaVinci's sketch notes identify the figure as John.

# Fact vs. Fiction

**Code:** *Early Jews worshipped the sacred feminine, called “Shekinah”, as the female counterpart to God.*

**Facts:** Jewish law forbade the worship of any other deities, male or female.

Shekinah simply means “glory.”

# Fact vs. Fiction

**Code:** *Christianity has demonized and marginalized Mary Magdalene, and women in general, throughout its history.*

**Facts:** Mary Magdalene has been held in high regard throughout church history as an “apostle to the apostles.”

Early Christianity valued women far more than Jewish or Roman culture.

The gnostic gospels contain a much lower view of women than the NT gospels.

# The Women in Jesus' Life

*After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases:*

# The Women in Jesus' Life

*Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.*

*Luke 8:1-3*

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*Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.*

*Matthew 27:55-56*

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*When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.*

*Luke 24:9-10*

# The Women in Jesus' Life

*“Jesus never slanders or belittles women. He does not make generalizations about them. He does not shut them out of conversation or ignore them. He does not make them feel small or relegate them to an inferior status.”*

# The Women in Jesus' Life

*Everything he says and does in relation to women shows the utmost care and respect.”*

*-Rebecca Jones,  
Does Christianity Squash Women?*

# Fact is Better than Fiction

*“Why do we feel the need to re-sexualize Mary? We’ve gotten rid of the myth of the prostitute. Now there’s this move to see her as a wife and mother. Why isn’t it adequate to see her as disciple and perhaps apostle?”*

*-Karen King,  
The Gospel of Mary of Magdala*

# Fact is Better than Fiction

*“You are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ... There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

*Galatians 3:26-28 (TNIV)*