

Authors lose the plot as Da Vinci Code triumphs

Judge backs Dan Brown as ruling leaves writers of The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail facing a legal bill of £2 million

By Alan Hamilton

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TWO authors who claimed that Dan Brown had stolen their ideas for his blockbusting novel were facing a £2 million legal bill last night after failing to crack The Da Vinci Code.

Neither Michael Baigent nor Richard Leigh were in court yesterday to hear Mr Justice Peter Smith hand down a 71-page reserved judgment comprehensively dismissing their claim for infringement of copyright of their 1982 book, The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail, by Random House.

After sitting through every day of the three-week trial at the High Court Brown was back home in New Hampshire, having

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