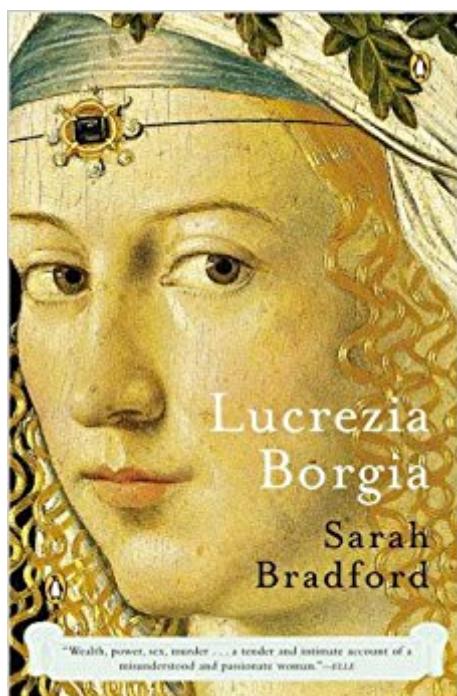


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Lucrezia Borgia: Life, Love, And Death In Renaissance Italy



Synopsis

The very name Lucrezia Borgia conjures up everything that was sinister and corrupt about the Renaissance—incest, political assassination, papal sexual abuse, poisonous intrigue, unscrupulous power grabs. Yet, as bestselling biographer Sarah Bradford reveals in this breathtaking new portrait, the truth is far more fascinating than the myth. Neither a vicious monster nor a seductive pawn, Lucrezia Borgia was a shrewd, determined woman who used her beauty and intelligence to secure a key role in the political struggles of her day. Drawing from a trove of contemporary documents and fascinating firsthand accounts, Bradford brings to life the art, the pageantry, and the dangerous politics of the Renaissance world Lucrezia Borgia helped to create.

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Customer Reviews

Lucrezia Borgia is legendary as the archetypal villainess who carried out the poisoning plotted by her scheming father—Pope Alexander VI, aka Rodrigo Borgia—and by her ruthlessly ambitious brother Cesare. The facts of Lucrezia's case are sorted out from fiction by Bradford's humanizing biography, which presents Lucrezia as an intelligent noblewoman, powerless to defy her family's patriarchal order, yet an enlightened ruler in her own right as Duchess of Ferrara. Drawing on extensive archival evidence, Bradford (Disraeli; Princess Grace) explains how Lucrezia's first husband, after their marriage was annulled, vengefully tarnished her name with accusations of incest. Bradford discredits the popular belief that Lucrezia helped Cesare assassinate her second husband. Lucrezia emerges as a political realist who participated with her father and brother in a campaign to marry into the powerful Este family, winning the affections of her new husband, Alfonso

d'Este, later Duke of Ferrara. Bradford portrays Lucrezia's extramarital affairs as daring and passionate romances of the heart and describes her cultivated court life and her kindness to artists and poets. Although Bradford's portrait is not immune to a fictionalizing style, especially when ascribing emotional states to its subject, as a project designed to distinguish the historical Lucrezia Borgia from the legend, Bradford's readable biography resoundingly succeeds. Maps and illus. not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Historians who have attempted to rescue Lucrezia Borgia from her legend as a poisoner who slept with both her father, Pope Alexander VI, and her brother, Cesare Borgia, have mostly described her as a pawn. Indeed, before she was twenty-one she was twice married off to men who were disposed of once their political usefulness expired. (The first had to declare himself impotent and grant her a divorce; the second was strangled in his bed.) Bradford sees Lucrezia neither as a helpless victim nor a femme fatale but as a resourceful individual "an able administrator, a genuinely religious woman, and the equal in political skill, if not in brutality, of her notorious male relatives. When the family of her third husband balked at alliance with a woman described as the "greatest whore there ever was in Rome," she used all her craft and charm to win them over "by, among other things, making her pious prospective father-in-law a gift of several nuns. Copyright © 2005 The New Yorker --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Poor, poor Lucerezia ! The world has been so unfair to you but as more of your life comes to light we have a better understanding of your Life, Love and Death in Renaissance Italy. When wealth and power were intoxicatingly flowing during the Renaissance the beautiful Lucrezia was in the thick of it and was woman of her times despite the manipulations of her overly adoring father the Pope, her Brother the general of the armies and her husband and toy boy whoe were either making her life hell or beautiful. This woman had it all and was both smart and sensitive to those around her who protected her and used her for poltical gains.

Purchased this for a friend a birthday gift. They enjoyed reading the bio's of the famous and infamous in Italian Renaissance history. She said that was wonderful read and a good although overly romantasied look at a dark period Italian history.

Nice bio about an influential woman of her time. Most recognize the name even if they don't know

what she did. After reading this, I felt she was more of a pawn than an influence. Always interesting to read about the Borgia family and its power.

everything you need to know about Lucrezia. but there's a lot of "trees in the forest"

Excellent read! It underscores the long history of the Church in engaging in nefarious actives. From incest then to pedophilia now there are many things still hidden under the rug.

I didn't want it as a kindle order I wanted a paperback book!!!! I want a refund please

Lucrezia Borgia by Sara Bradford is an extremely well documented history of that period in Italian history using numerous personal letters as its basis. It dispels the myth that Lucrezia was a poison dispensing villainess, but she was rather a caring person that showed much compassion. She was pious, despite of her numerous sexual liaisons, which was not uncommon for the era. Unfortunately, the portion of the book entitled "Cast of Principal Characters" reads like a Russian novel with numerous families, names, titles and nicknames, hardly any of which are familiar to the modern reader. As these characters make their way through the story the fog and haze slowly parts, but rarely lifts entirely.

Good if you are adding to your collection after watching "The Borgias." Quite a family...

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