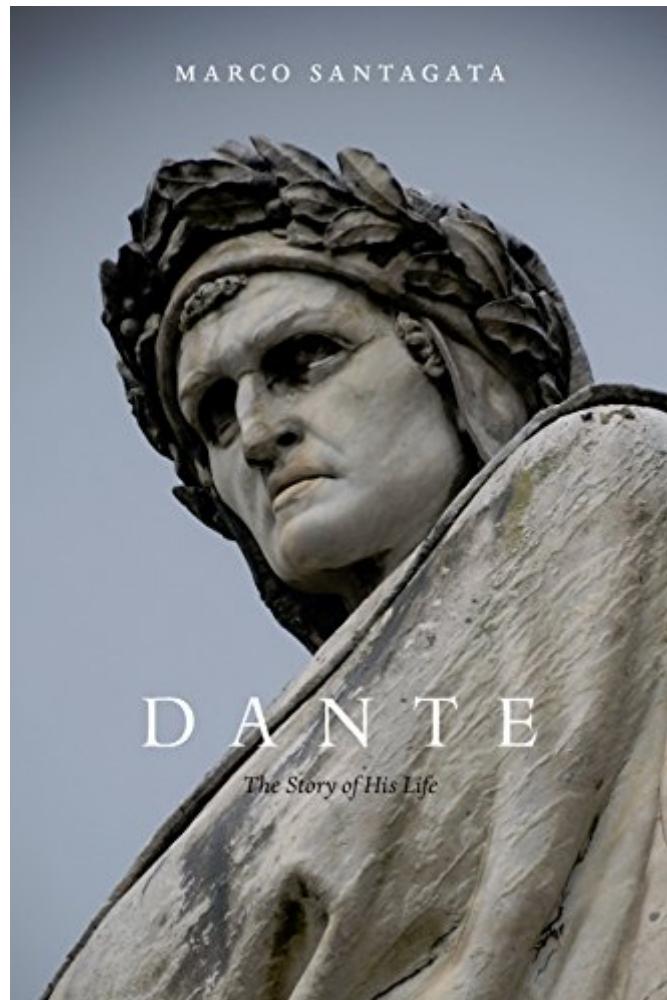


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Dante



Synopsis

Marco Santagata illuminates one of the worldâ™s supreme poets from many anglesâ "philosopher, father, courtier, political partisan. He brings together a vast body of Italian scholarship on Danteâ™s medieval world, untangles a complex web of family relationships for English readers, and shows the influence of local and regional politics on his writing.

Book Information

File Size: 1856 KB

Print Length: 496 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (April 11, 2016)

Publication Date: April 11, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01DM1ZA2G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #552,723 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #138 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Italy & Rome #166 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Medieval #206 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Italy

Customer Reviews

This outstanding book, originally published in Italy in 2012, English translation published in the U.S. in 2016 by Harvard, represents a an outstanding synthesis of available source materials about Dante and his life and times. It is a wealth of intelligent discussion and presented in a highly readable translation that will be of benefit both to Dante specialists and general readers. I have not noticed any of the alleged errors mentioned in the one negative review, which I think is inaccurate at best. Santagata is an accomplished, prolific and popular Dante scholar. Of course it is not easy to present the kind of conventional narrative biography to which many readers are accustomed, simply because there is relatively little material on which to predicate such a narrative. Dante lived more than 700 years ago. We are not blessed with the kind of sources in his case that we might have in

other instances. Under the circumstances, this book is exceptionally well-researched and insightful. That is saying a lot, as the sheer quantity of Dante scholarship, which exists in many languages and collections, is truly daunting. The inferences the author draws from available information are reasonable: he does not indulge in unwarranted speculation or invent conversations as some biographers do even in cases where source material is abundant. He also presents various inferences, including those propounded by other scholars, to provide perspective and locate his approach among the competition. I also found that if there was some minor skipping about from the strictly chronological, it was obvious from the context and the language itself what was going on.

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