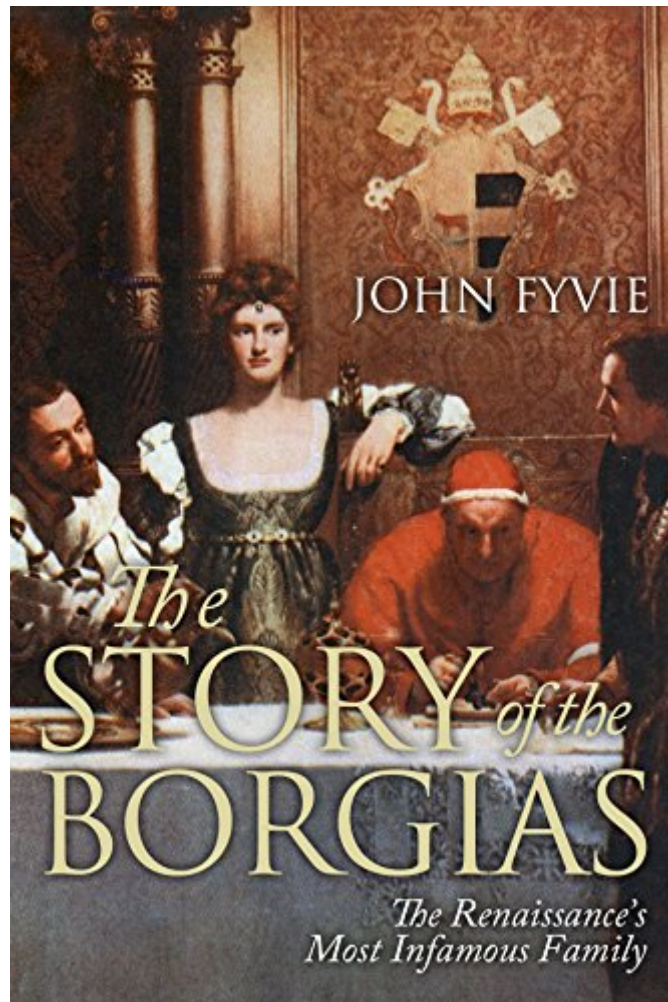


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The Story Of The Borgias



Synopsis

Wickedly intriguing and captivating, the Borgias were the most notorious family of Renaissance Italy. Often remembered as a criminal dynasty, they became prominent through leadership in the Catholic Church, at a time when the social and cultural landscape of Europe was undergoing a vast transformation. Their reputation for sin and iniquity continues to polarise opinion among historians, authors and readers – “but there is little doubt that their wealth and relentless quest for power meant they were vastly influential among ecclesiastical and political affairs. But were their motives truly malicious? Or were they an enlightened family who endeavoured to unite Italy? When Rodrigo Borgia became Pope Alexander VI in 1492, the legend of the Borgias was born. Along with his children Cesare and Lucrezia, and his confidante Cardinal Ascanio of Sforza, Rodrigo Borgia was head of a religious house who were patrons of the arts, but who were also known for their scandalous scheming and debauchery. Yet despite the original lurid legend surrounding them, the incest, murder, treachery and treason – “more sympathetic accounts have emerged about the supposed hubristic ambition of the Borgias. Later accounts describe Pope Alexander as a skilled negotiator, a kind man who combined intelligence with faith and a man who has been malevolently tainted. Other sources suggest Lucrezia was a virtuous noblewoman, far from the incestuous, thrice married vixen who has frequently been portrayed. Originally published in 1912, this fascinating account seeks a verdict on this extraordinary family. It presents an invaluable collection of historical sources of Renaissance Italy, its civilisation, fierce politics and warring families, alongside the principal characters of the Borgias. John Fyvie was an author known for his historical biographies including *Wits, Beaux: And Beauties of the Georgian Era*, *Some Famous Women of Wit and Beauty: A Georgian Galaxy*, *Tragedy Queens of the Georgian Era*, *Comedy Queens of the Georgian Era* and *Some Literary Eccentrics*.

Book Information

File Size: 3396 KB

Print Length: 376 pages

Publisher: Albion Press (June 29, 2016)

Publication Date: June 29, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01HSI6ORE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #519,930 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #186

inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Italy #214 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Italy #339 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican

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