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Poison In The Blood: The Memoirs Of Lucrezia Borgia



Synopsis

Lucrezia Borgia fights to save her husband from assassination by her powerful family...1497, Renaissance Rome: As the teenage daughter of Pope Alexander VI, Lucrezia Borgia is a young noblewoman immersed in all the glamor of the Vatican Palace. Yet after a brutal killing shocks the city, Lucrezia learns that a dark truth lies beneath the surface of the Papal Court: in their ruthless quest for power, her father and brother are willing to poison their enemies. Her family are murderers. After discovering that her new husband is next to die, Lucrezia struggles to help him escape from Rome before the assassins strike. Against a barrage of political intrigues, papal spies, and diabolical tricks, Lucrezia uses all her wits to defy her family and save her husband from assassination. But as tragedy looms ever closer, and her plans gradually fail, she finds herself confronting an enemy far more sinister than she ever imagined. INCLUDED INSIDE:- An exclusive excerpt of M. G. Scarsbrook's novel THE MARLOWE CONSPIRACY, an historical thriller set in Elizabethan England, featuring Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare teaming-up to expose a high-level government conspiracy!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I didn't like the characterizations, some of the dialogue felt unrealistic, and I couldn't get passed some of the major historical inaccuracies (which I realize were intentional). I don't consider myself a huge stickler for accuracy (some changes can be understandable) but this just went too far. I read historical fiction to get a dramatized idea of how actual historical events may have gone down or how actual historical figures may have felt and behaved - so when you change as much about history as this novel did, it's no longer even plausible. The character development was also very poor. I do have to give the author credit for Lucrezia's acceptance of her arranged marriage. I'm sick of novels with women in history who object with shock to an arranged marriage as though it weren't common place. But that alone was not enough. Alfonso is weak and cowardly so I don't really understand why Lucrezia loves him. He's not corrupt but I found him annoying. For example, at one point, he actually kicks a piece of furniture and pouts "I won't do it! I won't!" Likewise, Cesare once stamps his foot in frustration like a child. Alexander is cold and disrespectful of Lucrezia from the start yet she's later shocked by his heartlessness. Why? And why would she name her son after a father who constantly snaps at her for being too loud or asking a stupid question? Of all the novels on Lucrezia out there, I wouldn't recommend this one, especially if you're looking for plausible historical fiction.

A fun read for those of us who like historic novels. These books always send me on a search for the true historical facts which makes it a good learning experience for me. I am looking forward to reading more from M. G. Scarsbrook.

The story has only a few things based in fact. That there was a family called Borgia in Italy, and one was Pope, and one Lucrezia, a couple of brothers, etc. The story itself is pure fiction, Doesn't even follow the accepted timeline of her marriages (Hint: Alfonzo is NOT her first marriage)

NOTE TO AUTHOR: I bought this book as a birthday present for my husband John Quinn, who just inhales historical novels. This is his review: "Poison in the Blood, the Memoirs of Lucrezia Borgia," by M.G. Scarsbrook is a tale of ambition, lust, intrigue and murder that riveted my attention from beginning to end. The fictionalized autobiography of the infamous Italian Duchess, her ruthlessly ambitious father, who hid behind a mask of piety as Pope Alexander VI, and her brother Cesare, a valiant warrior who was his father's pride and joy, until he started making friends in the wrong places. Along the way we meet Nicollo Machiavelli, whose philosophies set the blueprint for our

modern day political leaders. To my knowledge, none of the Borgia clan ever committed their memoirs to print, but Mr. Scarsbrook presents a very convincing argument of what they might have said if they had. With a writing style that shows strong character development, and a smoothly flowing storyline that has many surprising twists and turns, he actually has carefully researched his subject matter, and is very knowledgeable of this period of history. The dialogue rings true and the character motivations are always clearly understood. "Poison in the Blood" is reading entertainment of the first order, combining interesting speculation and good old fashioned storytelling. As an added bonus, an excerpt of Scarsbrook's "The Marlowe Conspiracy" is included, which I look forward to reading in its entirety.--John Rudolph Quinn

If you are a fan of the Borgias you should read this book. I love reading about this time period. You will not be disappointed with this book.

Some colourful descriptions of big events and it was a good read for a story of its type but I'm not sure how accurate the description of Lucrezia and her motives are.

Great book to view her life from different angles... couldn't put it down... rich characters and backgrounds...wonderful for a curl up read

Very good book. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the Borgias. Very happy with the purchase. Great service.

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