

The Lusts Of The Borgias

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The Borgias : Alexander VI, Caesar, Lucrezia
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The Rise and Fall of a Renaissance Dynasty
The Borgias and Their Enemies
A Brief History of the Borgias
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The Story of the Borgias
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The Crimes of the Borgias, and Others
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the name borgia is synonymous with the corruption nepotism and greed that were rife in renaissance italy the powerful voracious rodrigo borgia better known to history as pope alexander vi was the central figure of the dynasty two of his seven papal offspring also rose to power and fame lucrezia borgia his daughter whose husband was famously murdered by her brother and that brother cesare who served as the model for niccolo machiavelli's the prince notorious for seizing power wealth land and titles through bribery marriage and murder the dynasty's dramatic rise from its spanish roots to its occupation of the highest position in renaissance society forms a gripping tale erudite witty and always insightful hibbert removes the layers of myth around the borgia family and creates a portrait alive

with his superb sense of character and place

the borgias are the most infamous family of renaissance italy and their history normally hinges around four key individuals pope calixtus iii his nephew pope alexander iv his son cesare and daughter lucrezia thanks to the actions of the middle pair the family name is associated with greed power lust and murder <http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/italyandthecitystates/a/theborgias.htm>

the borgia family have become a byword for evil corruption incest ruthless megalomania avarice and vicious cruelty all have been associated with their name and yet paradoxically this family lived when the renaissance was coming into its full flowering in italy examples of infamy flourished alongside some of the finest art produced in western history this is but one of several paradoxes associated with the borgia family for the family which produced corrupt popes depraved princes and poisoners would also produce a saint previously history has tended to condemn or attempt in part to exonerate this remarkable family yet in order to understand the borgias the borgias must be related to their time together with the world which enabled them to flourish within this context the renaissance itself takes on a very different aspect was the corruption part of the creation or vice versa would one have been possible without the other the powerful forces which first played out in the amphitheaters of ancient greece hubris incest murder rivalries and doomed families treacheries of political power twists of fate they are all here along with the final tragic downfall all these elements are played out in full in the glorious and infamous history of the borgia family

the first major biography of the borgias in thirty years christopher hibbert's latest history brings the family and the world they lived in the glittering rome of the italian renaissance to life the name borgia is synonymous with the corruption nepotism and greed that were rife in renaissance italy the powerful voracious rodrigo borgia better known to history as pope alexander vi was the central figure of the dynasty two of his seven papal offspring also rose to power and fame lucrezia borgia his daughter whose husband was famously murdered by her brother and that brother cesare who served as the model for niccolo machiavelli's *the prince* notorious for seizing power wealth land and titles through bribery marriage and murder the dynasty's dramatic rise from its spanish roots to its occupation of the highest position in renaissance society forms a gripping tale erudite witty and always insightful hibbert removes the layers of myth around the borgia family and creates a portrait alive

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a lavishly illustrated biography of the italo spanish family of colorful characters which produced two of the corrupt renaissance popes

the startling truth behind one of the most notorious dynasties in history is revealed in a remarkable new account by the acclaimed author of the tudors and a world undone sweeping aside the gossip slander and distortion that have shrouded the Borgias for centuries g j meyer offers an unprecedented portrait of the infamous renaissance family and their storied milieu they burst out of obscurity in spain not only to capture the great prize of the papacy but to do so twice throughout a tumultuous half century as popes statesmen warriors lovers and breathtakingly ambitious political adventurers they held center stage in the glorious and blood drenched pageant known to us as the italian renaissance standing at the epicenter of the power games in which europe s kings and italy s warlords gambled for life and death stakes five centuries after their fall a fall even more sudden than their rise to the heights of power they remain immutable symbols of the depths to which humanity can descend rodri go borgia who bought the papal crown and prostituted the roman church cesare borgia who became first a teenage cardinal and then the most treacherous cutthroat of a violent time lucrezia borgia who was as shockingly immoral as she was beautiful these have long been stock figures in the dark chronicle of european villainy their name synonymous with unspeakable evil but did these Borgias of legend actually exist grounding his narrative in exhaustive research and drawing from rarely examined key sources meyer brings fascinating new insight to the real people within the age encrusted myth equally illuminating is the light he shines on the brilliant circles in which the Borgias moved and the thrilling era they helped to shape a time of wars and political convulsions that reverberate

to the present day when western civilization simultaneously wallowed in appalling brutality and soared to extraordinary heights stunning in scope rich in telling detail g j meyer s the borgias is an indelible work sure to become the new standard on a family and a world that continue to enthrall praise for the borgias a vivid and at times startling reappraisal of one of the most notorious dynasties in history if you thought you knew the borgias this book will surprise you tracy borman author of queen of the conqueror and elizabeth s women the mention of the borgia family often conjures up images of a ruthless drive for power via assassination serpentine plots and sexual debauchery g j meyer convincingly looks past the mythology to present a more nuanced portrait booklist meyer brings his considerable skills to another infamous renaissance family the borgias and a fresh look into the machinations of power in renaissance italy he makes a convincing case that the borgias have been given a raw deal historical novels review fascinating a gripping history of a tempestuous time and an infamous family shelf awareness

there have been no shortage of controversial popes who were accused by catholics and other christians of impropriety but the most controversial of all was the borgia pope alexander vi born rodrigo borgia the future pope made his way up the ranks of the catholic church with an assist from nepotism breaking his vows of chastity and fathering several illegitimate children along the way the stories and legends attributed to rodrigo and his children particularly cesare and lucrezia have made the borgias one of the most notorious families in history 500 years after rodrigo s death he and his family have come to be associated more with incest political intrigue murder and state sponsored violence while 21st century tv series have cast the borgias as the first organized crime family the rumors spread by the family s political opponents in the late 15th century have taken hold among a fascinated public did cesare really have an incestuous relationship with lucrezia did he really throw lavish orgies while rodrigo may not have been as colorful or criminal as the enduring legends there is no question he was manipulative ruthless and ultimately effective from an administrative standpoint rodrigo was a success as pope alexander vi with a big assist from son cesare to the extent that the borgias are still associated with murder and mayhem it was the father and son whose actions can be credited with the lion s share of the perception not surprisingly almost everything about rodrigo s life is still up for debate in many ways cesare has been characterized as the prince machiavelli tells his readers to be as one translator of the prince put it cesare is cited as a type of the man who rises on the

fortune of others and falls with them who takes every course that might be expected from a prudent man but the course which will save him who is prepared for all eventualities but the one which happens and who when all his abilities fail to carry him through exclaims that it was not his fault but an extraordinary and unforeseen fatality 500 years after cesare s death he and his family have come to be associated more with crime specifically murder and state sponsored violence while 21st century tv series have cast the borgias as the first organized crime family the rumors spread by the family s political opponents in the late 15th century have taken hold among a fascinated public did cesare really have an incestuous relationship with sister lucrezia did he really kill his own brother giovanni juan while cesare may not have been as colorful or criminal as the enduring legends there is no question he was manipulative ruthless and for a short time at least effective he helped make his father s papacy a success but his rise was as dramatic as his fall history remembers lucrezia borgia in unflattering terms she has been portrayed as an incestuous adulteress and a murderer but her contemporaries thought of her in very different terms lucrezia was a political pawn in her father and brother s plots and a political power in her own right she was well educated and well respected during her lifetime while she was in all certainty a part of multiple political plots she was also considered to be pious thoughtful and mannerly while these facts reveal a very contradictory nature it may very well have been impossible for lucrezia to have lived any other way given her gender and position within the borgia family but as the german historian ferdinand gregorovius so aptly notes in the introduction of his biography of lucrezia the positive characteristics attributed to lucrezia by her contemporaries have gone largely forgotten

the name borgia is synonymous with the political corruption greed incest and murder rife in renaissance italy rodrigo borgia pope alexander vi the first man to have clearly bought himself the papacy and two of his infamous illegitimate children cesare and lucrezia were the three central figures of the borgia dynasty seizing power wealth land and titles through bribery marriage and murder cesare with his political astuteness and ruthlessness became the model for machiavelli s the prince while lucrezia rumoured to have been a poisoner and the lover of her father and brother may have been as much their victim as their accomplice marion johnson plots the dynasty s dramatic rise from their beginnings in spain to their occupation of the highest position in renaissance society at a time when italy was the centre of the european stage both culturally and politically finally she examines how far the

myth of the borgias is borne out by the historical facts behind the gaudy horrors she concludes lie people of great talent and achievement possessors even of moderate virtues

the history of the house of borgia the infamous family of the italian renaissance do you know the whole story of the house of borgia from their rise from obscurity to the highest echelons of european society the family produced two popes and a saint but they are more known for stories of murder debauchery and incest what is accurate and what is just slander were the borgias worse than any other powerful family of the time was rodrigo borgia who became pope alexander vi a monster was his son cesare a psychopath was his daughter lucrezia a murderous temptress in this book you will learn the answers to these questions and more about the following the origins of the house of borgia in spain the rise of the first borgia pope callixtus iii the power struggles between the great houses of italy the borgia the sforza the medici the orsini and the colonna among others the character of the infamous rodrigo borgia pope alexander vi the fiery battle between the borgias and friar savonarola that ended in death and ruin the reality of cesare borgia and his attempts to carve out his own kingdom the real story of lucrezia borgia the role christopher columbus and machiavelli played in the story of the borgias along with the monarchs of spain france and naples how the borgias helped shape the renaissance and the future of europe how a descendant of the borgias became a revered saint in the catholic church and so much more

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