



A Borgia Daughter Dies

Maryann Philip

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The saga of the Borgias and the lives of Leonardo da Vinci and the young Machiavelli form the accurate historical background of this murder mystery, set in the opulence of Renaissance Rome and Milan. Machiavelli's illegitimate daughter and his bewitching ex-mistress will solve three murders with help from da Vinci and Lucrezia Borgia--including the murder of Lucrezia's real-life half sister.

A Borgia Daughter Dies Details

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Author : Maryann Philip

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From Reader Review A Borgia Daughter Dies for online ebook

Chris says

This mystery concerns the death of a nun (actually more than one nun) and the young girl who is caught up in the mystery. I particularly liked the us of linked art work.

I did find the character of Nicola, at times to be inconsistent with her age. And Juana the Mad was not the only children of Isabella and Ferdinand (perhaps at the time the book is set, she was the only child still living).

Still, it was fun.

Marley says

A nifty "historical" with a lame conclusion. Machiavelli, DaVinci, the Borgias, the Sforzas, make for great characters--especially the Borgias. Lucrezia comes off good which surprised me, but then what the general public knows about her was written by the "winners" so to speak. And then there's Alexander VI, what a doll! I liked the book well enough, but it did have it's faults. I'll probably use it for a springboard to investigate the Borgia Family.

Ed Mestre says

Read that s 2 1/2 stars. This was a bargain book on Amazon Kindle, but some I read actually held up pretty well (some of the others I read simply to see how bad they could really get). Strong opening, hit & miss on the characters, but kind of lost steam towards the end.

patricia says

A Borgia Daughter Dies was very interesting story. The characters really existed. The times were portrayed well. Maryann Philip told a good tale of the Borgia's in the time of Pope Alexander the sixth.

Shannon says

Fairly decent historical fiction. The "mystery" part was pretty bad; in fact, most of the fiction part was mediocre. But she had a lot of historical fact which was pretty cool.

The Just-About-Cocky Ms M says

This book had about as much real flavor of Renaissance Florence, Rome, and Milan, together with the real historical personages of the period when Alexander VI was pope than a knockoff Armani suit purchased in Hong Kong has to the original. I admit it is difficult to make the Borgias boring and one-dimensional, but this book managed to elevate them, Leonardo da Vinci, and even Machiavelli into cardboard characters. While the historical facts the author touts may indeed be spot-on, they are dished out far too often by the characters like a plate of yesterday's overcooked pasta. I must point out that to place Rome, Milan, and Florence in someplace called "Italy" at the beginning of a number of chapters, as well as to refer to "the Italians" throughout the book is patently wrong, since Italy will not exist as a country until 1861/1871. I could also complain about the wealth of examples of "bad Italian" used throughout, in conversations and in descriptions, but they were amusing when not much else was holding my attention.

The protagonist is an eleven-year-old girl inappropriately named Nicola. Since she's the bastard of Niccolo Machiavelli, perhaps the author believed Nicola was a nice, feminine version of her father's name. Unfortunately, Nicola is a decidedly masculine Italian name, and has been masculine since forever. On the same level of an incorrect name is the belief that readers will accept an eleven-year-old girl to behave as she does in a Dominican convent, and behave even more inappropriately when she is fourteen. Despite the author's claim to have read the Institutes of the convent of San Sisto, the fact remains that even in Rome under a Borgia pope, the Dominican sisters ran a very tight ship, and a majority of the incidents and conversations described in the book are both inaccurate and implausible. Indeed, nothing about the convent life shown in the book, to include the forms of address, is accurate.

I really have no idea how incredibly complex people with a plethora of foibles and flaws and even some fine, almost noble characteristics could be so mishandled as to appear uniformly boring. I also don't know how anyone would accept the premise that a convent girl would be permitted the latitude to engage in all the antics Nicola does to solve a murder. Finally, I don't know how I managed to finish this book, but I will say I read on because I couldn't wait to see what amazing and amusing nonsense waited on the next page.

The Kindle version was a mere \$.99, which, by my calculations, was \$.98 too much. Read Sarah Dunant's book instead.

Mary Glass says

Layers upon layers

This book encompasses many years and many characters but does so deftly. The famous and common folk mix and a sense of the time and place are conveyed very well. The murder mystery plot was good, plenty of suspects, disparate victims and a dogged, determined heroine.

Laura says

A real bargain at Amazon.

This book is about the Borgia's family. It's supposed to be a historical mystery book but the historical aspects

prevails among the plot. Since I've already read better books on this subject, I just gave 2 stars to this book.

Lovee Giorno says

Yawn

To many irrelevant facts thrown in to show the knowledge of the author. Distracting from the story. Not interested in the sequel. She should have tried writing a history, instead of a historical novel.

Kathleen says

To me, "A Borgia Daughter Dies" is loosely a mystery. The story is a vehicle to identify the families who had a grudge against the Borgia family. Many of the important figures (Lucrezia Borgia, Machiavelli, Caterina Sforza) of the day make an appearance. The story was not satisfying to me, although I am interested in that historical period.

Erina says

Fast, easy read. Got it for a bargain on Amazon. Didn't have high expectations but it was entertaining. Interested in the main character and if there's a sequel I would probably purchase it just to follow her more.

Greg says

An interesting mash up of contemporary historical figures. Well written, and engaging.
