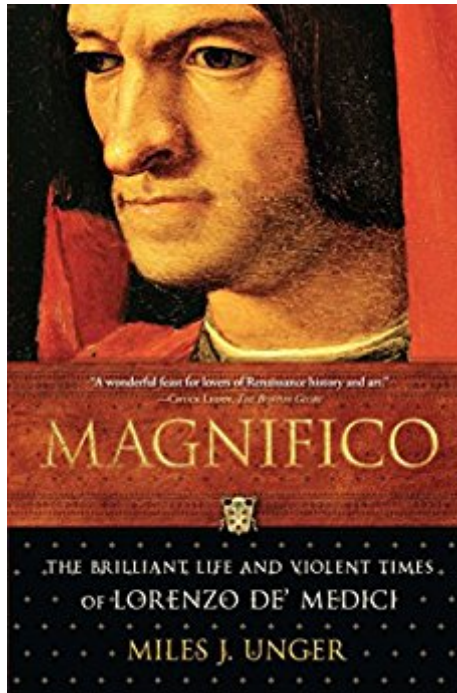




The book was found

Magnifico: The Brilliant Life And Violent Times Of Lorenzo De' Medici



Synopsis

Magnifico is a vividly colorful portrait of Lorenzo de' Medici, the uncrowned ruler of Florence during its golden age. A true "Renaissance man," Lorenzo dazzled contemporaries with his prodigious talents and magnetic personality. Known to history as Il Magnifico (the Magnificent), Lorenzo was not only the foremost patron of his day but also a renowned poet, equally adept at composing philosophical verses and obscene rhymes to be sung at Carnival. He befriended the greatest artists and writers of the time -- Leonardo, Botticelli, Poliziano, and, especially, Michelangelo, whom he discovered as a young boy and invited to live at his palace -- turning Florence into the cultural capital of Europe. He was the leading statesman of the age, the fulcrum of Italy, but also a cunning and ruthless political operative. Miles Unger's biography of this complex figure draws on primary research in Italian sources and on his intimate knowledge of Florence, where he lived for several years. Lorenzo's grandfather Cosimo had converted the vast wealth of the family bank into political power, but from his earliest days Lorenzo's position was precarious. Bitter rivalries among the leading Florentine families and competition among the squabbling Italian states meant that Lorenzo's life was under constant threat. Those who plotted his death included a pope, a king, and a duke, but Lorenzo used his legendary charm and diplomatic skill -- as well as occasional acts of violence -- to navigate the murderous labyrinth of Italian politics. Against all odds he managed not only to survive but to preside over one of the great moments in the history of civilization. Florence in the age of Lorenzo was a city of contrasts, of unparalleled artistic brilliance and unimaginable squalor in the city's crowded tenements; of both pagan excess and the fire-and-brimstone sermons of the Dominican preacher Savonarola. Florence gave birth to both the otherworldly perfection of Botticelli's *Primavera* and the gritty realism of Machiavelli's *The Prince*. Nowhere was this world of contrasts more perfectly embodied than in the life and character of the man who ruled this most fascinating city.

Book Information

File Size: 2586 KB

Print Length: 532 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0743254341

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (May 6, 2008)

Publication Date: May 6, 2008

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000SIQMNS

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #334,545 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #67

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Italy & Rome

#99 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Renaissance #117 inÂ Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Italy

Customer Reviews

I finished this book with regret, wishing Lorenzo hadn't died so young, and that I could hear more about his role as patron of the Florence Renaissance. Yes, great names pop up as players in his life--Botticello, DaVinci, Michelangelo--but this book emphasizes the political world Lorenzo inhabited, and for me this was essential information. We tend to know the Renaissance by its geniuses and masterpieces rather than by the intense and dangerous politics of the small Italian republics and states. Here we see a very real Lorenzo, dashing, brilliant, artistic, and politically shrewd; though from a fabulously wealthy banking family, he was a prince in Machiavelli's sense.

As a non-academic who just enjoys reading about history, I found this book utterly fascinating. Many times I simply put the Kindle down and said out loud, "You can't make this stuff up!" I had never heard of the Pazzi conspiracy, but I've read several books about the plot and its various characters since, and am considering a trip to Florence next year. Though heavily footnoted and indexed, I found the book highly readable and well within the reach of anybody who just wants to read a thickly plotted, amazing story -- and best of all, this one's true. One drawback - the maps in the Kindle book are too small and fuzzy to be useful. I found it helpful to print a map of 15th Century Italy from an Internet site and keep it by me as I read. Also, there are portraits of many of the people mentioned in the book on Wikipedia, as well as photographs of sites in Italy, Medici castles, etc.

Not even half way through and I'm very impressed. Mr Unger's writing style is easy to read and informative not only of the subject but also the times in which he is writing about. Highly

recommend.

Thorough account of a magnificent man. I loved the detail and entertaining presentation. This book really helped me in my research.

Superb! Congratulations to the author. I have read close to 200 biographies and this one is probably one the best to me.

This man's life and the lives of his grandfather and father and Florence are amazing!

The book gave a good overview but for all the detail (sometime excruciating) the picture of Lorenzo was still fragmented. The tendency of the author to move rather arbitrarily back and forth in time , sometime 10 years, made it difficult to understand the complete timeline of events. I was disappointed.

Really enjoyed reading this, paints a brilliant portrait of Florence and its political tides during the time Lorenzo. If you find this time interesting, you will love this book. However, I would advise anyone that has not been to Florence, you will not enjoy this nearly as much as if you have seen a lot of the places/things they mention in this book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Magnifico: The Brilliant Life and Violent Times of Lorenzo de' Medici 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles:
Albuquerque: Including Santa Fe, Mount Taylor, and San Lorenzo Canyon Puerto Rico Magnifico!
How to Write a Brilliant Romance: The easy, step-by-step method of crafting a powerful romance
(Brilliant Writer Series Book 3) How to Write a Brilliant Romance Workbook: The easy step-by-step
method on crafting a powerful romance (Brilliant Writer Series) Here Boy!: Step-by-step to a
Stunning Recall from your Brilliant Family Dog (Essential Skills for a Brilliant Family Dog Book 4)
Hearts and Hands, Second Edition: Creating Community in Violent Times The New York Times
Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New
York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Wonderful Wednesday
Crosswords: 50 Medium-Level Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (The New York
Times Smart Puzzles) The New York Times Smart Sunday Crosswords Volume 6: 50 Sunday
Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (The New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The
New York Times Large-Print Stay Sharp Crosswords: 120 Large-Print Easy to Hard Puzzles from

the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Collections) The New York Times Sunday Crossword Omnibus Volume 9: 200 World-Famous Sunday Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Sunday Crosswords Omnibus) The New York Times Best of Thursday Crosswords: 75 of Your Favorite Tricky Thursday Puzzles from The New York Times (The New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) The Medici: Power, Money, and Ambition in the Italian Renaissance The Tigress of Forli: Renaissance Italy's Most Courageous and Notorious Countess, Caterina Riario Sforza de' Medici The Medici Effect: What Elephants and Epidemics Can Teach Us About Innovation The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall Medici Effect: What You Can Learn from Elephants and Epidemics April Blood: Florence and the Plot against the Medici

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)