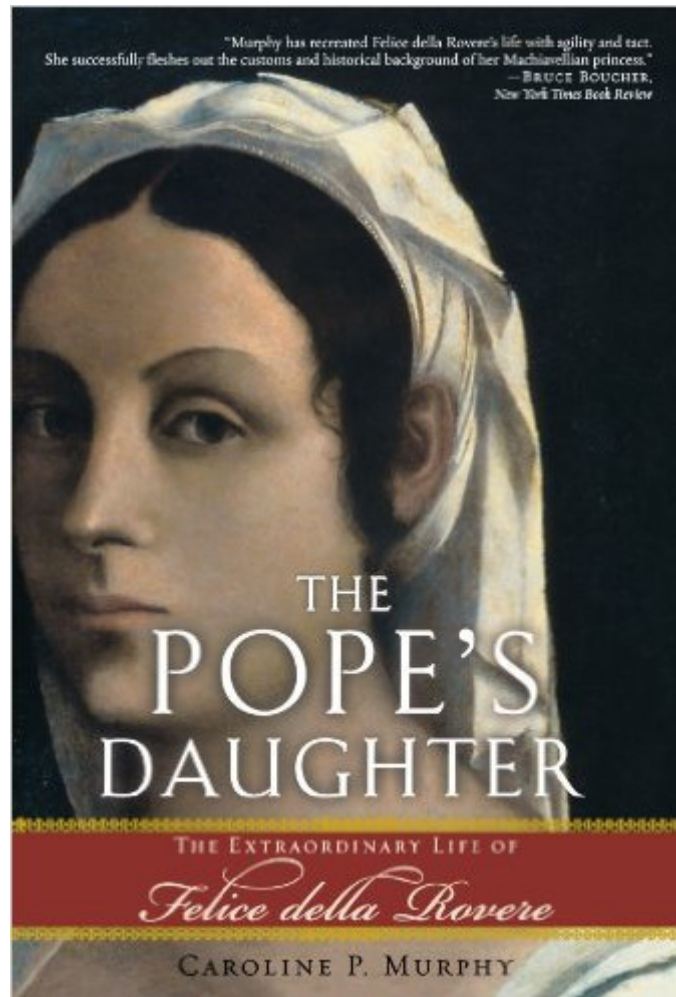


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The Pope's Daughter: The Extraordinary Life Of Felice Della Rovere



Synopsis

The illegitimate daughter of Pope Julius II, Felice della Rovere became one of the most powerful and accomplished women of the Italian Renaissance. Now, Caroline Murphy vividly captures the untold story of a rare woman who moved with confidence through a world of popes and princes. Using a wide variety of sources, including Felice's personal correspondence, as well as diaries, account books, and chronicles of Renaissance Rome, Murphy skillfully weaves a compelling portrait of this remarkable woman. Felice della Rovere was to witness Michelangelo paint the Sistine Chapel, watch her father Pope Julius II lay the foundation stone for the new Saint Peter's, and saw herself immortalized by Raphael in his Vatican frescos. With her marriage to Gian Giordano Orsini--arranged, though not attended, by her father the Pope--she came to possess great wealth and power, assets which she used to her advantage. While her father lived, Felice exercised much influence in the affairs of Rome, even negotiating for peace with the Queen of France. After his death, Felice persevered, making allies of the cardinals and clerics of St. Peter's and maintaining her control of the Orsini land through tenacity, ingenuity, and carefully cultivated political savvy. She survived the Sack of Rome in 1527, but her greatest enemy proved to be her own stepson Napoleone, whose rivalry with his stepbrother Girolamo ended suddenly and violently, and brought her perilously close to losing everything she had spent her life acquiring. With a marvelous cast of characters, *The Pope's Daughter* is a spellbinding biography set against the brilliant backdrop of Renaissance Rome.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Pope's Daughter: The Extraordinary life of Felice della Rovere. I bought this hard cover book used. It came in excellent condition and a timely manner. I have no qualms these days about buying used hard cover books, where I did at first. They have always come promptly and in excellent condition. This book is an excellent account of Felice della Rovere's life the illegitimate daughter of Pope Julius II set in Renaissance Italy. One of the Pope's greatest accomplishment was having Michelangelo paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The book gives excellent details of life in the late 15th century and early 16th century's. But if you aren't into details of the era or ones everyday life, you might find the book a real drag. I personally found it all highly interesting. I have always find it fascinating to see how ancient people's lives, their superstitions, their fertility practices along with how they conducted their daily lives. Felice had a temptuous relationship with her irascible father. She lived with her mother the first years of her life which was not the norm of the day, until Rodrigo Borgia was elected Pope. Her father then a Cardinal accused Borgia of simony. So he was forced to flee Italy for France and sent his daughter to live with his relatives in northern Italy. Felice didn't get on with very well with her father's relatives. She could often be outspoken and difficult, that her father didn't have much patience for. She frequently refused matches her father tried to betroth her too. Which was not common for women of her day. Felice married once when she was young but not much is known about that marriage.

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