

In the Name of the Family By Sarah Dunant Lucrezia's sincere grief for her father and memory of his paternal embrace is affecting to anyone who has ever lost someone who was really good at hugs - but what struck me as strange was how a trio of people who were motivated by their family name managed to out-manoeuvre themselves to the extent where family life was destroyed. They gained glory and they achieved notoriety and infamy - what was the truth of them? In The Name Of The Family ends rather abruptly and leaves little room for Dunant to make this into a trilogy.

I knew little about the Borgia family of the early 1500's going into this book and I have not read Blood and Beauty. Dunant utilized a vast amount of letters diaries writings from many sources as a base for this historical fiction and is up front about where she veered from history into fiction. Sarah Dunant is a highly skilled and compelling author with clear enthusiasm for her subject and in many ways this novel felt less of a follow-up piece and instead more of a direct continuation of the first novel. Picking up where the first novel left off Dunant continues with the lives of the Borgia family as their stranglehold on Italy seems inescapable - while Pope Alexander speaks for God and for the Church it seems clear that his deeds are motivated in the name of the family. Having been forced to leave her child behind she tries to move forward with her life with a positive attitude but having to find a place in a court which loathes her family and all it stands for means that right from the beginning her life is complicated. Further away back in Rome Pope Alexander's body is failing he is grown more corpulent and he is more inclined to sit and enjoy his sardines and reminisce about the orange blossom of his youth. However In The Name Of The Family takes less of a focus on the intimate domestic scenes so we hear little from Vannozza mother to Alexander's children and only occasional glimpses of Giulia Farnese the slip of a girl who continues to warm the Pope's bed increasingly more by habit than by any particular desire on either side. His infamous work The Prince was based on his observations of Cesare and so his appearance is natural but yet I did not find him as compelling a character as the Borgias themselves. His references to his 'boss' struck me as quite jarring as did his complaints about the other diplomats 'bitching' - in a novel that was otherwise so seamless this stuck out to me. A bigger issue was probably that he did not encounter Lucrezia and Dunant could not even fudge events enough to fabricate a meeting - Machiavelli was part of the Borgia story but he could not be involved with the heart of this depiction of it. Cesare Borgia is known for having planned for all eventualities other than his own illness - he spends much of the novel gradually crumbling as he attempts to fight back against the pox. One has to feel a reluctant admiration for a man who fights so hard against this physical complaint who is able to ride to his sister's bedside to go into battle and win time and again to fight betray and murder all the while suffering and in pain. Still his mood swings and high temper while no doubt accurate in terms of his mental state did make him a slightly less fleshed-out character than he was in Blood and Beauty. Pope Alexander witters away about this or that anecdote from his youth lets slip various titbits about his children and throughout both books Burchard has shown no reaction - but he has kept a diary. And indeed during their final encounter as Burchard prepares for the final ceremony Alexander's funeral Burchard is surprised to find himself genuinely mourning - as indeed does the reader. Pope Alexander Rodrigo di Borgia as once was - he has been carnal venal and vain but he has also adored his children sat happily at the table and nibbled on sardines as if they were the greatest delicacy the world could offer and has sincerely adored the Virgin Mary. It is impossible to know the truth of her heart at this far remove - Dunant imagines that she loved her second husband that his murder at her brother's hands broke her heart. This new Alfonso is rough-spoken man with little patience for courtly manners and Lucrezia's domestic battle for dominance is hard-fought - not only is her father-in-law rude but her sister-in-law Isabella of Mantua is determined to outflank her. Dunant has herself in Twitter interactions made comparisons between Pope Alexander and Donald Trump - it is interesting to read this book in that context certainly we are in a different world to that in which Blood and Beauty hit the shelves back in 2013. The greed of Alexander and of Cesare that inability to rest with what they had already the drive to always reach out for more - we cannot say that this is an urge which no longer motivates humanity. Dunant's success with these two books has

been in humanising figures who have been demonised down the centuries - if they truly had been diabolical the rejoicing in their demise might have seemed just. But they were real people but there would most certainly have been more to develop - although perhaps Cesare's final descent into syphilitic madness and Lucrezia's demise in childbirth would have been a little too grim. If I had to pick I found that *Blood and Beauty* was a story better suited to stand-alone but *In The Name Of The Family* was a very welcome continuation and companion - while the Tudors are written and re-written it was wonderful to be reminded of all those other families in history whose lives were truly stranger than fiction and who through the pen of an adept author are ready to capture our imaginations all over again. Rodrigo Borgia risen to become Pope Alexander VI despite siring illegitimate children including Cesare and Lucrezia with a series of mistresses: 'For all the bombast and hyperbole about the wonders of Rome it was Valencia that had made Rodrigo Borgia what he is: a man in love with women wealth orange blossom and the taste of sardines.' Cesare Borgia the brilliant soldier and tactician who eschews sleep in order to wrong-foot his enemies (and sometimes his allies): 'This is who he is who he has always been pressing onwards thinking on his feet delighting in being three steps ahead of the next man.' The beautiful Lucrezia Borgia 'the family's prize marriage pawn' deployed like a weapon in pursuit of the Borgias territorial ambitions: 'The Pope's daughter conquering city after city with charm rather than cannon. E a treia carte de Dunant pe care o citesc și mereu mă captivează subiectele doar că nu mă pot obișnui cu stilul ei atât de detaliat și cu descrierile atât de elaborate. Scriiturile ca ale ei mă fac să simt că îmi pierd răbdarea pentru că aș putea să citesc nonficțiune în acel timp și să învăț ceva în loc să aflu cum arătau pantofii Lucreziei. O lectură care a decurs destul de greu pentru mine dar care ar putea oferi celor cu mai multă răbdare scene vii și prezentate cu minuțiozitate din Italia renascentistă înfățișând o familie care încă fascinează oamenii după aproape jumătate de mileniu: familia Borgia un nume sinonim cu numeroase crime corupție desfrâu sadism și bogăție folosită în scopuri machiavelice. She's adept at getting beneath the skin of figures made bloated and almost cartoonish via the scandalous historical gossip which has fed lurid novels and TV series sold on sex'n'murder. I was disappointed that the book ends where it does with the death of Roderigo the Pope and then we get a retrospective from Machiavelli rather than living through Cesare's final years and death so that there's a slightly rushed feel to the conclusion. In the Name of the Family Sarah Dunant is a cultural commentator award winning thriller writer and author of five novels set in Renaissance Italy exploring women's lives through art sex and religion. 'It is better to be feared than loved' - Niccolo Machiavelli In the bear pit of renaissance politics a young Florentine diplomat finds himself first hand observer on the history's most notorious family - the Borgias. In the Name of the Family - as *Blood and Beauty* did before - holds up a mirror to a turbulent moment of history sweeping aside the myths to bring alive the real Borgia family; complicated brutal passionate and glorious. And then there is Cesare Borgia: brilliant ruthless and increasingly unstable; it is his relationship with the diplomat Machiavelli which offers a master class on the dark arts of power and politics. But while the pope rails against old age and his son's increasing maverick behavior it is Lucrezia who will become the Borgia survivor: taking on her enemies and creating her own place in history. Conjuring up the past in all its complexity horror and pleasures *In The Name of the Family* confirms Sarah Dunant's place as the leading novelist of the Renaissance and one of the most acclaimed historical fiction writers of our age. Certain historical facts made for interesting reading especially the prevalence of the French pox on so many of the nobility doctors' efforts to treat it and their belief that wives didn't get it from husbands that strayed. In the Name of the Family Instagram || Twitter || Facebook || Amazon || Pinterest If BLOOD & BEAUTY is the rise of the Borgia family then IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY marks their fall. It's a bit of a slog getting into this book and normally I don't go for slow reads that wait you out but the characters are so richly detailed and the writing is so gorgeous that the journey is worth the effort. Honestly this family was a real life Game of Thrones and I'd really recommend this to anyone who's a fan of the series and wants more court intrigue and cunning schemes as this family had both in spades. Lucrezia Alexander and Cesare were all so formidable in their primes; who knows what Cesare might have done to shape Italy if he hadn't

contracted syphilis? He was a military genius. I'd recommend BLOOD & BEAUTY and IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY to anyone interested in history and fond of court intrigue especially court intrigue set during the peak of the Italian Renaissance. An unscrupulous man juggling the power of the papacy and the politics of Rome and the royal courts of the country his ruthless illegitimate son with ambitions set on acquiring more land and riches his beautiful illegitimate daughter a diplomat in a sense and playing a role in making alliances by her marriages to help her father certainly make for an intriguing story . There are power shifts within the Borgia family as Cesare moves without consulting his father let alone seeking his approval already wondering about who the conclave of cardinals will choose to replace his father even before his father is dead. Tales of poison excess positioning of strengths all enticing subjects but I had very mixed reaction to this book by an author whose work I had wonderful reading experiences in the past. The parts with Lucrezia were my favorite this woman who because of her sex should have been powerless but a lifetime of working behind the scenes a political pawn made her anything but. Still I applaud this author for continually bringing to our notice these women who managed to supersede their sex at a time when this was virtually null or at least very unusual. I savored every bit of Sacred Hearts and it became one of the books I forced people to buy when I worked in the bookstore because I thought everyone in the world should love it as much as I did. By then I was very grudgingly invested in the story mostly I suspect because I've read a lot of history of the Borgias already so I was familiar with the key characters and events:

People who saw something and wanted it and made sure that they got it, Lucrezia had to leave her child behind and in so doing also left behind her father. I am always intrigued and appalled at the cruelty lust for power - and plain lust - and moral depravity of these times: Sarah Dunant brought the Borgias - Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo Borgia) son Cesare and daughter Lucretia to vivid life as well as Niccolo Machiavelli author of The Prince. The Borgia's lives are all intertwined with one another and I was both taken aback and mesmerized by this family, In the Name of the Family For my full review: <http://girlwithherheadinabook>: Having moved directly from Blood and Beauty to In The Name Of The Family this is not so long-awaited a sequel as it will have been for many other readers, I have to admit though that given the emotional high note that Blood and Beauty concluded on I was very grateful to have the next book on hand. Still at eight-hundred and odd combined pages this would have been quite the behemoth so perhaps she has done us a favour by splitting the story into two volumes, One senses that Dunant has a particular soft spot for Lucrezia who is the obvious heroine of both books. She has grown up from the doe-eyed child who dreamed of Lancelot and Guinevere and has a far more pragmatic even cynical view of what her life will be: Having lost her second husband her first Alfonso the novel opens with her moving on to her second Alfonso and third husband: Her attempts to create a court of culture and to find again her love for poetry always feels ill-starred. Some even think that he has grown afraid of his dark son Cesare who appears capable of anything: One character who was notable by their absence was the youngest brother Jofre - neither he nor indeed his promiscuous wife made an appearance which struck me as strange, Sancia's story felt incomplete at the end of Blood and Beauty and I had hoped to hear more of her, The emerging character of the novel was Niccolo Machiavelli who arrives as Florence's envoy and speedily takes up a keen interest in Cesare's antics. There were a number of awkward phrases within the text all of which seemed to crop up during one of the chapters dedicated to his perspective: The ambitious young man who was once a cardinal has become an unhinged psychopath from whom nobody is safe. Strangely I found the character of Johannes Burchard to be curiously compelling: Master of Ceremonies to the Pope it is his job to keep a blank face and show no judgment so matter how wild the behaviour of the Borgia clan: He is us the reader standing appalled at the latest hypocrisy or blatant corruption this betrayal of the church values: Every so often Alexander will look up at him smiling brightly and reassure Burchard that he would have been bored witless with a humourless Pope who prayed all the time. It is strange thing though that Alexander's children should have their fate linked to a man so elderly who could not possibly shield them forever: Lucrezia goes to her third

husband because her father-in-law has been paid a record-breaking dowry to take her. Yet there is a darker secret at work one that I found truly upsetting - a running thread through both books becomes unexpectedly painful. I had only ever known the Borgias by reputation and the only one I could have named individually would have been Lucrezia - Dunant has brought them to life. In the Name of the Family This is the second in Sarah Dunant's series of book about the Borgias but it works well as a standalone novel: However on the strength of this I will definitely be adding the earlier one to my TBR pile, Sarah Dunant injects colour and life into a cast of real life characters who were already pretty colourful: If there is any other way of living then Cesare Borgia does not know it, ' The story of the Borgias has it all: intrigue murder betrayal corruption power politics jealousy revenge and. The author does a good job of guiding the reader through the power struggles alliances territorial gains and losses whilst keeping the entertainment level high, Perfect for lovers of historical fiction my only reservation with the book is that it ends quite suddenly skipping forward ten years to a short epilogue: I would have liked to learn in more detail what happened to Lucrezia and Macchiavelli in the intervening years. I received an advance reader copy courtesy of NetGalley and publishers Little Brown Group/Virago in return for an honest review, To read this and review of other great books visit my blog: <https://whatcathyreadnext.com/> In the Name of the Family Autoarea a făcut o alegere să se concentreze pe crearea atmosferei și a personajelor iar eu pur și simplu nu am fost de acord cu ea. Însă obiectiv vorbind nu pot să nu remarc și să admir imaginația ei. Pe când ultimele dangăte de clopot se sting de undeva din apropiere se aud strigătele înăbușite ale unui bărbat: O ultimă împreunare în pat în ciuda orei târzii sau câteva lovituri de cuțit în burtă la primele ore ale dimineții? Niccolò zâmbește, Astea sunt sunetele orașului său drag - de fapt sunetul întregii Italii: " In the Name of the Family It's April and this is firmly absolutely on my 'Books of the Year' list - no doubt about it at all. Dunant's been a 3-starrer for me until her Blood and Beauty and this sequel. Dunant instead goes back to the sources and the scholarship and has fleshed them out so that Roderigo Lucrezia and Cesare are real people. On top of that Dunant's ironic commentary though not quite as prominent as in the first book offers up a sly often sardonic view of history. But this is so good that I'm not even going to knock off half a star: A brilliant portrait of a family and Renaissance Italy in all its splendor and squalor glitter and cruelty: Sarah's monthly history program and podcast on history can be found via the BBC website. Here is a thrilling exploration of the House of Borgia's doomed years in the company of a young diplomat named Niccolo Machiavelli: It is 1502 and Rodrigo Borgia a self-confessed womaniser and master of political corruption is now on the Papal throne as Alexander VI. His daughter Lucrezia aged twenty-two already thrice married and a pawn in her father's plans is discovering her own power: What Machiavelli learns will go on to inform his great work of modern politics The Prince, In the Name of the Family I have loved or at least really liked the Sarah Dunant books I've read in the past, So I was thrilled to get an ARC of this novel concerning the Borgias: I did not read Blood and Beauty which is the predecessor to this book detailing the early years of Pope Alexander VI's reign. This novel details his later years and the rise of his son Cesare and daughter Lucrezia: Each chapter is another character and you're inside someone else's head: Despite that intimacy I had trouble connecting with any of the characters: The book seemed very dry despite the thoughts of so many individuals, I never read Machievelli's The Prince so am unable to comment on how well Dunant portrays Machiavelli or Cesare on whom it is based. My thanks to netgalley and Virago for an advance copy of this book: This rather chunky work of historical fiction details Alexander Borgia in his old age losing first power then his grasp on reality and finally his own life: Beautiful and cunning Cesare is being consumed alive by syphilis and soon Lucrezia joins him catching it from another husband who happens to be a little too fond of prostitutes. Even though both books are about the same family the first one sparkles like a dagger whereas THE NAME OF THE FAMILY is shrouded in the gloom of a funeral shroud, IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY was not as easy to read as its prequel because the content is much darker and far less triumphant: We know how the story ends and it's hard to root for characters when the writing's on the wall: The scenes when Cesare kills his political prisoners are chilling: Now that I'm done with the duology I'm sad there's nothing left: It's hard for me to find historical fiction that I'm really into:

Sarah Dunant has a masterful approach to story-telling with a style that mimics that of nonfiction while still managing to be engaging. Dunant brought all of these long-dead historical figures to life and they're alarmingly vivid. I hope Sarah Dunant decides to write a follow-up to these books about the de' Medici family: Reading about the Borgias only piqued my interest in Machiavellian-style family plotting, 5 stars In the Name of the Family This turned out to be the right book at the right time for me , I was craving a little historical fiction as well as a reprieve from the hangover I had from some grief filled books that I recently read: 5 stars and I can't round up to 4 stars because at times it felt somewhat dragged out: The other criticism I have is that some of the dialogue felt more modern than I would have thought: These are the Borgias - Alexander VI Cesare and Lucrezia the ruling family of church and state in Rome and other cities in the early 1500's, I didn't really like any of them but I definitely enjoyed the intrigue the history of this time and place. There are many other characters to keep tract of but the main narratives move between the multiple points of view of Alexander Cesare Lucrezia and also Nicolo Machiavelli: I found Machiavelli to be one of the most interesting characters and have read that his inspiration for The Prince was Cesare Borgia, While this quote comes fairly late in the book it reflects a lot of what happens here: How accurate is the history? I didn't have any real knowledge to speak of about the Borgias but the list of sources reflect that Dunant has done significant research. I would recommend this to those who enjoy historical fiction. I received an advanced copy of this book from Random House Publishing Group - Random House through NetGalley. In the Name of the Family Renaissance Italy and the Borgias never fail to attract my notice, Such conflicted times the church all powerful the Borgias at the height of their powers: A corrupt Pope his acknowledged children the power they wield and of course Lucrezia. The atmosphere was lacking many times things were said or thought that I felt would not have been applicable to this time period, Felt the characters except maybe for Lucrezia were wooden they just didn't bring me into their story. It was interesting to see how much she used subtle manipulation and an understanding of the politics involved to get her way, She rounded out the character of Lucrezia for me this political pawn with a horrific historical reputation, In the Name of the Family When I like Sarah Dunant's books I LOVE them: I got an ARC of The Birth of Venus thirteen years ago and I stayed up all night to finish reading it: But when I don't like Sarah Dunant's books I drag my feet through them like a cranky child and then I'm mad that I wasted my time, It was like that for me with In the Company of the Courtesan and Blood and Beauty, I had hoped that this second novel of the Borgias would be more interesting to me. For some reason that I am having trouble remembering now I was really really excited to read this and I looked forward to starting it. I simply could not get into the book and all the inner thoughts of all the characters (every, has an inner voice no matter how inane) drove me nuts after twenty pages. It literally took me months to get through the first chapter: I read on (and on and on) but the story never once grabbed me although I did appreciate that Lucrecia was portrayed as a charming thoughtful creative woman. The historical books I've read about the Borgias were much more interesting and flowed so much better than this book: Sarah Dunant is a good writer and she has proven that she can write some powerful gripping historical fiction. Cesare never saw his daughter.but this books seems to stand alone and it's a whopper. I especially liked the story of Lucretia.co.uk/2. Despite everything he does not feel like a villain.Extract available here: <http://girlwithherheadinabook.co.uk/2>.a bit more murder for good measure.wordpress. Asta e tot. Recenzia aici: <https://bit.ly/30Mv1kE>. She has two daughters and lives in London and Florence.The book is told from multiple points of view. Cesare's ability as a commander was intriguing. In the end I was very lukewarm about this book. I'm still kind of in a funk.3. This gave me both. I give it 3. In Rome revenge is the fashion of the season.perhaps the Pope is growing frightened of his own son. Just didn't feel enmeshed in the late 1500's. This is what kept me reading. ARC from Random House.My enthusiasm for this book hit the bottom pretty quickly. friggng. character. This one just didn't do it for me. In the Name of the Family

