

## GUEST POSTS

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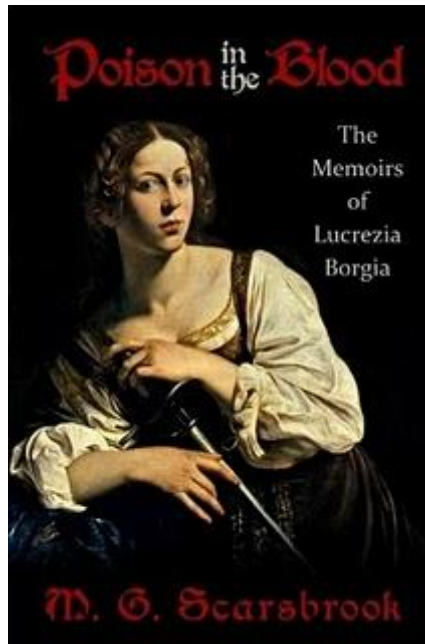
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## HISTORICALLY OBSESSED

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Guest Post: Lucrezia Borgia: The Most Evil Woman In History... Or The Most Wronged by M. G. Scarsbrook



"1497, Renaissance Rome: As the teenage daughter of Pope Alexander VI, Lucrezia Borgia is a young noblewoman immersed in all the glamor of the Vatican Palace. Yet after a brutal killing shocks the city, Lucrezia learns that a dark truth lies beneath the surface of the Papal Court: in their ruthless quest for power, her father and brother are willing to poison their enemies.

Her family are murderers.

After discovering that her new husband is next to die, Lucrezia struggles to help him escape from Rome before the assassins strike. Against a barrage of political intrigues, papal spies, and diabolical tricks, Lucrezia uses all her wits to defy her family and save her husband from assassination. But as tragedy looms ever closer, and her plans gradually fail, she finds herself confronting an enemy far more sinister than she ever imagined..."

I figure there is no better way than to keep up on Lucrezia Borgia than to feature a cool newly released novel on her. Please give a warm welcome to author M.G. Scarsbrook author of the very intriguing novel "[Poison In The Blood: The Memoirs of Lucrezia Borgia](#)".



# **Lucrezia Borgia: The Most Evil Woman In History... Or The Most Wronged?**

By M. G. Scarsbrook

Once described as the 'greatest whore there ever was in Rome', the legend of Lucrezia Borgia has long captivated people for centuries with wild accounts of her crimes. Some have called her a poisoner, an evil seductress, a femme fatale, and many artists have portrayed her negatively in books, plays, and operas.

But who was Lucrezia exactly? Did she really deserve her poor reputation?

In 1492, when Lucrezia Borgia was still a young noblewoman, her father became Pope Alexander VI and raised her family into one of the most powerful forces in Renaissance Italy. Known for his ruthless ambition, Alexander VI immediately start to eliminate all political enemies in his path, while also elevating his children to prestigious positions within the church and state.

The reign of the Borgias swiftly became the most scandalous era in papal history, marked by constant wars, assassinations, murder, unbridled extravagance, debauchery and allegations of incest. Many political rivals to the Borgias were stabbed, strangled, or poisoned, including cardinals, ambassadors, and the barons of prominent roman families. It was claimed the Borgias dispatched many of their enemies with a custom-made poison called 'Cantarella'. And Lucrezia herself was said to possess a ring with a tiny poison capsule which she used to secretly empty venom into drinks at banquets.

An interesting legend... but is it true?

Probably not. Almost no one in her own time accused Lucrezia of the plots and killings attributed to her family. Nor is there any historical evidence to suggest Lucrezia ever participated in the crimes of Cesare and Alexander. Her contemporaries in Rome merely felt her reputation was tarnished by tales of incest and promiscuity - unlikely allegations made by enemies of the Borgias.

In reality, during her tumultuous life, Lucrezia managed to repair her damaged reputation. After her father died in 1503, and Cesare was soon imprisoned, Lucrezia was no longer used as a pawn to increase the power of the House of Borgia. Instead, she left Rome and married a Duke in the distant lands of Ferrara, quickly settling into her new role as a Duchess. Over time, she reinvented herself as a generous patron of the arts, a loving mother of seven children, and a kind benefactor of many charities. By her death in 1519, many people mourned her loss and she was buried with great honor in the highest church in Ferrara, the disgraceful allegations from her past now long forgotten.

This is the story I explore in my latest novel, *Poison In The Blood: The Memoirs of Lucrezia Borgia*. Set in Renaissance Rome, during the height of Borgia power, my novel follows

Lucrezia's struggle to escape her dangerous family before they destroy her life forever. After discovering that her new husband is next to die, Lucrezia must help him flee the city before the assassins strike. But as tragedy looms ever closer, and her plans gradually fail, she finds herself confronting an enemy far more sinister than she ever imagined...

Thanks for taking the time to read this today! To learn more about my novels or me, please visit:

Website: <http://www.mgscarsbrook.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/authormgscarsbrook>

Goodreads: [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4447495.M\\_G\\_Scarsbrook](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4447495.M_G_Scarsbrook)



Thank you M.G. Scarsbrook for a most interesting post on Lucrezia. I am like almost everyone else in the world lately and have become fascinated with Lucrezia's life and thank you for enlightening us on her today.

## Amazon



*Lizzy T*

## THE HOT AUTHOR REPORT

April 1st, 2011 at 12:00 am

### Five Things You Didn't Know About Author M. G. Scarsbrook

in: [Five Things Guest Post](#)



1 – I've travelled a lot and lived in many countries. I was born in Canada, grew up in England, and now live in the USA. I guess that kind of makes me a 'citizen of the world'!

2 – Aside from writing historical novels, I've also done work as a screenwriter. I have an MA in screenwriting and one of my scripts recently won the *Writers On The Storm Screenwriting Competition*, placing first out of 1,000 entries. I have also placed highly in the *Nicholl Fellowships*, the most prestigious screenwriting competition in the world, and had my work requested by the BBC.

3 – Since I write historical fiction, I love to do extensive research for my novels. Generally, I spend 6 months researching and planning before I start to write. My novels are often based around dramatic historical figures – such as Christopher Marlowe or Lucrezia Borgia – so I need to thoroughly understand their lives before I can tackle them as fictional characters.

4 – I've collected together all the original research I undertook for my novels and published it as nonfiction biographies. So far, I've published in eBook form '*The Life & Complete Works of Christopher Marlowe*', and '*The Life & Legend of Lucrezia Borgia*'. Each biography also comes with a large selection of public domain texts. I sell these separately from the novels and they've been very popular in their own right. As far as I know, I'm the only historical fiction author to have done this, and I think it's a great way to attract readers to my work!

5 – I love winter sports, everything from skating, to skiing, to ice hockey. Must be my Canadian roots, I suppose!

M. G. Scarsbrook is a prize-winning screenwriter and novelist. He is the author of two historical novels, *The Marlowe Conspiracy* and *Poison In The Blood: The Memoirs Of Lucrezia Borgia*. He now lives in Southern California and is currently at work on a new detective series. To learn more, please visit his website at [www.mgscarsbrook.com](http://www.mgscarsbrook.com)

# THE PLOT

April 1, 2011

## Five Things You Didn't Know About Lucrezia Borgia

### Five Things You Didn't Know About Lucrezia Borgia

1 – Her name derives from the Roman legend of Lucretia, a woman who killed herself rather than live with the shame of being raped. Lucretia is a symbol of womanly chastity.

2 – Like many noblewomen, she knew the power of maintaining a dazzling appearance. For example, one of her capes was made from crimson satin, lined with ermine, and embroidered with 61 rubies, 55 diamonds, 5 large pearls, 412 medium-sized pearls, and 114 small pearls.

3 – She was well educated and spoke Italian, Catalan, French, Latin, and Greek. She also loved music, poetry, and dancing.

4 – She came from a notorious family accused of many crimes. Her father, Pope Alexander VI, kept a herd of courtesans at the Vatican Palace, and is rumoured to have created his own special poison to dispatch political rivals. Her eldest brother, Cesare Borgia, was a very shrewd and cruel leader of the Papal army, and served as the inspiration for Machiavelli's *'The Prince'*.

5 – Lucrezia and her family were known for their extravagant banquets. For instance, at Lucrezia's second marriage to Alfonso of Aragon, over 800 barrels of wine and 30,000 pounds of meat were consumed in just one night!



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