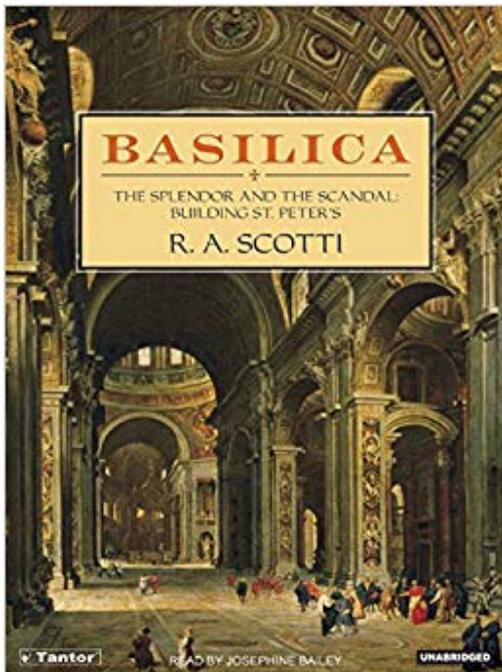


Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's by Josephine Bailey, R. A. Scotti



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ISBN: 1400132347

ISBN13: 978-1400132348

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Book title: Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal:
Building St. Peter's

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Library - Unabridged CD
edition (July 14, 2006)

Language: English

Category: Architecture

Size PDF version: 1660 kb

Size ePUB version: 1638 kb

Size FB2 version: 1613 kb

Other formats: lrf doc mobi mbr

It was the splendor-and the scandal-of the age. In 1506, the ferociously ambitious Renaissance Pope Julius II tore down the most sacred shrine in Europe-the millennium-old St. Peter's Basilica built by the Emperor Constantine over the apostle's grave-to build a better basilica. Construction of the new St. Peter's spanned two centuries, embroiled twenty-seven popes, and consumed the genius of the greatest artists of the age-Michaelangelo, Bramante, Raphael, and Bernini. The cost of building the new cathedral was costly in more than just monetary terms-the new basilica provoked the Protestant Reformation, dividing the Christian world for all time. In this swift, colorful narrative, R. A. Scotti brings to life the artists and the popes, the politics and the passions behind this audacious enterprise. Scotti turns sacred architecture into a spellbinding human epic of enormous daring, petty jealousy, and staggering genius.



Reviews of the **Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's** by Josephine Bailey, R. A. Scotti

lets go baby

This story chronicles the personalities behind the creation of the beautiful St. Peter's.

As a Catholic who just recently visited Rome, I was extremely excited to read this book. And I wasn't disappointed at all. I was thoroughly entertained as this book perfectly combined easy-to-read storytelling with extensive historical information. The book especially does well at exposing the personalities behind the creation of the basilica.

Wymefw

I am about half way through this book right now. I love it. My husband and I are planning a Rome trip one of these days along with another couple. This book will be required reading before we go. The writing is pleasant. Ofttimes, it is difficult to turn non-fiction and history into an engaging story. This book does it. The author talks about each Pope as if he was that Pope's confidant. I enthusiastically recommend this book for anyone who is traveling to Rome and wants background information, history buffs, or ones who are interested in how a city evolves over time.

Golkis

When I visited St Peter's its beauty and grandeur captivated me. I left needing to understand the origins of this most beautiful of buildings and reading this book was the start of that journey. As I read of Bramante, Pope Julius, Raphael and Michelangelo and all the others I came to understand this building as the embodiment of man's search for epic greatness. This book discusses the builders in human terms as men of strengths and weaknesses, talents and ambitions, foibles and frailties, and focuses on how they brought their talents to produce this remarkable work of art. This book is a great read and a remarkable history.

Helo

Saint Peter's Basilica is at once a magnificent place of worship and a symbol of both the best and worst in the hearts, minds and souls of its human designers. A wondrous architectural and engineering achievement, the logistics and financial excesses and abuses contributed in no small way to the fracturing of the Catholic Church, sparking the Protestant Reformation and leading to the counter-Reformation at the Council of Trent.

BASILICA chronicles the story of this unique structure, spanning decades of human tumult and artistic controversy. Author R.A. Scotti (whose works include the fascinating SUDDEN SEA: THE GREAT HURRICANE OF 1938) offers the reader a lively portrayal of the strategies and machinations of artists, clerics, politicians and others. BASILICA is filled with gripping drama, expansive egos, and enough plot twists to keep the reader engaged the 320-some pages.

Some of the reviews, particular those from "scholars," refer to historical inaccuracies. As I am not a Renaissance scholar, I cannot comment upon them. The only complaint that I would have about the book is when the author editorializes on the Catholic faith itself. Although infrequent, these criticisms seem to be based on issues other than the subject matter of the book. Nevertheless, the book provides a fascinating look into the [arguably] crowning achievement of Renaissance

architecture.

Whilingudw

Basilica: The Splendor and the Scandal: Building St. Peter's

I enjoyed this book, and really take exception to those who so melodramatically and hysterically take issue with the author. I cite the following:

"300 BC - 476 AD

Romans Used pozzolana cement from Pozzuoli, Italy near Mt. Vesuvius to build the Appian Way, Roman baths, the Coliseum and Pantheon in Rome, and the Pont du Gard aqueduct in south France. They used lime as a cementitious material. Pliny reported a mortar mixture of 1 part lime to 4 parts sand. Vitruvius reported a 2 parts pozzolana to 1 part lime. Animal fat, milk, and blood were used as admixtures (substances added to cement to increase the properties.) These structures still exist today!

1200 - 1500

The Middle Ages

The use of burning lime and pozzolan (admixture) was lost, but reintroduced in the 1300's."

There is no question that the building of the Basilica of St. Peter's was a significant part of the reason for the Reformation movement.

This book accurately portrayed the periods, popes, artists and issues that were concomitant with it's construction.

I recommend this book!!

Tam

I read R.A. Scotti's book on the left of Mona Lisa and found it fascinating. This book, Basilica is proving to be informative and fascinating as well. Her writing is clever, giving lots of information, but not making it like a university text book, which can be so boring. She makes it all very interesting. She obviously has studied her subjects deeply and puts the information forth in a way that's enjoyable to read.

I love history and this is a wonderful way to learn it.

I will read more of her books!

JOIN

Having visited St. Peter's in Rome twice before reading this book, I thought I knew something about it beyond what one can see so vividly. Hardly. This is a wonderful book, fun to read and truly informative beyond my expectations. My son is an art historian who also found this book an enhancement to his knowledge of this important place and cultural monument. If you have anything more than a superficial interest in St. Peter's in Rome, get this book!

Not what I expected. Will ask to send it back

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