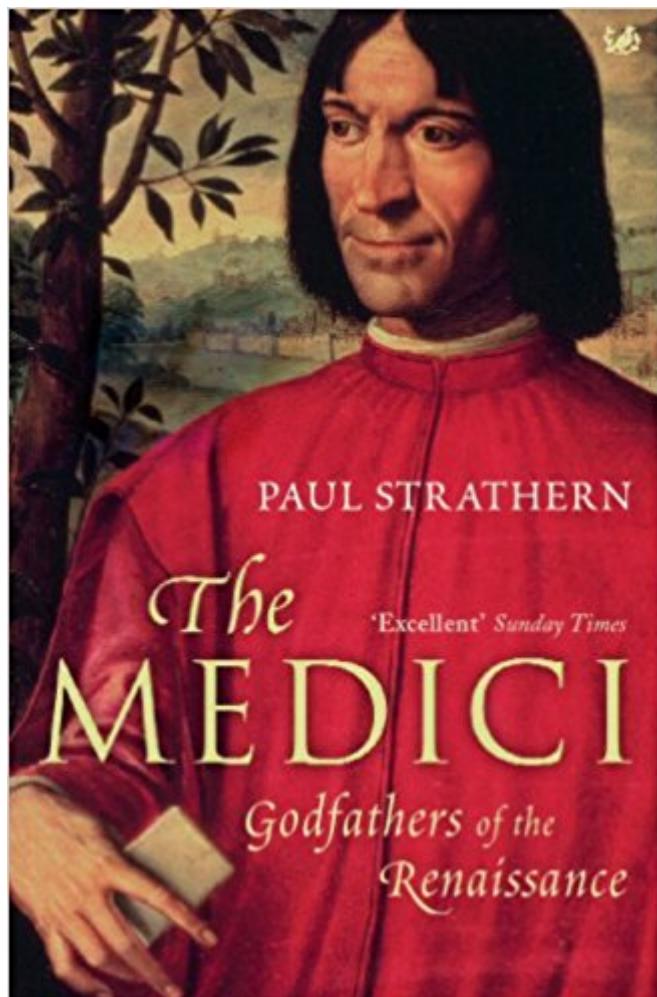


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The Medici



Synopsis

A dazzling history of the modest family which rose to become one of the most powerful in Europe, The Medici is a remarkably modern story of power, money and ambition. Against the background of an age which saw the rebirth of ancient and classical learning - of humanism which penetrated and explored the arts and sciences and the 'dark' knowledge of alchemy, astrology, and numerology - Paul Strathern explores the intensely dramatic rise and fall of the Medici family in Florence, as well as the Italian Renaissance which they did so much to sponsor and encourage. Interwoven into the narrative are the lives of many of the great Renaissance artists with whom the Medici had dealings, including Leonardo, Michelangelo and Donatello, as well as scientists like Galileo and Pico della Mirandola, both of whom clashed with the religious authorities. In this enthralling study, Paul Strathern also follows the fortunes of those members of the Medici family who achieved success away from Florence, including the two Medici popes and Catherine de' Medicis who became Queen of France and played a major role in that country through three turbulent reigns. Vivid and accessible, the book ends with the gloriously decadent decline of the Medici family in Florence as they strove to be recognised as European Princes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An excellent history...an entertaining, if ultimately dispiriting tale of the rise and fall of an ambitious banking family" -- Ian Thomson Sunday Times "Strathern has done his research thoroughly, and tells a good story well" Sunday Telegraph "A great overview of one family's centuries-long role in changing the face of Europe" Irish Independent --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Paul Strathern studied philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin. He has lectured in philosophy and mathematics. He is a Somerset Maugham prize-winning novelist; the author of two series of books - Philosophers in 90 Minutes and The Big Idea: Scientists who Changed the World; and, most recently, has written Mendeleyev's Dream (shortlisted for the Aventis Science Book Prize) and Dr. Strangelove's Game: A History of Economic Genius.

I've read a work by this author before similarly on the Renaissance period and find that he makes the history very accessible. The Medici influence reached far beyond Florence both in time, we enjoy the effects of their patronage now, and in space, it was a Medici pope that Henry VIII had to deal with. The book is thorough without being overbearing. I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in this formative period of world history.

A brilliant appreciation of the contributions of the Medici to whole of the Italian Renaissance

Very easy read - author does not try to overwhelm with how smart he is. The book follows the path of the Medici with side lines of the places and times of the Renaissance. I have read many books on the art, people and towns of the era with some good and some not so good. This book is one that will keep your interest much like a novel but with great insight in the time of the Medici.

Very good read, but some questionable interpretations presented as fact. For the most part a very good book. There are not many good ones on this subject.

If one wants to know all about the Medici empire this is the book to read. Strathern did his homework I'm reading this book for an art book club. We are tracing the role of the Medici as patrons of the Renaissance painters and sculptors.

I love the Medici family and am writing my own books.

Very nice book! Well written and the research seems thorough. I especially like the way the author tells about other interesting persons in this time in Florence.

I bought this book as a gift for my husband. It is a slow read but worth every minute spent. Remember this is not fiction, but history as it unfolded within the Medici family. Enjoy!

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