



The First Madonna

Yvonne Crowe

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Who is The Immortal Madonna and what is the mystery surrounding her?

To unlock this secret, Nicolina Fabiani, the Pulitzer prize winning journalist teams up with David Baron, a Professor of Ancient Languages, whom she suspects is more than he appears to be on the surface, to search in Ancient Temples sites throughout the Middle East?

What is the Knights of Malta's connection to the Templar Knights?

And why do they covet The First Madonna and her secret?

As Nicolina and David stay one step ahead of her old nemesis, the Knights of Malta, they uncover a revelation about the origins of mankind and the power that men are willing to kill for.

This eagerly awaited sequel in the Nicolina Fabiani series, is a fast paced, well researched thriller, reaching a shattering climax in an archaeological dig in Anatolia, which is rewriting mankind's history; and where The Immortal Madonna reveals her power and what it will mean for a world poised the brink of disaster.

The First Madonna Details

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Author : Yvonne Crowe

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From Reader Review The First Madonna for online ebook

James McCormick says

I continue to be impressed by the sheer erudition and intellectual curiosity of Yvonne Crowe and with her protagonist, Nicolina Fabiani, the author has created the perfect character to explore her many interests, no matter how esoteric. Pairing 'Lina' with the impressive Professor David Baron, a trained Mossad agent and expert on ancient languages the two travel to the middle East in search of an ancient relic, The Immortal Madonna, rumoured to possess great powers and formerly thought to be in the possession of The Knights Templars.

Lina (in disguise with a new bob haircut) and David must face what can only be termed impossible odds, powerful global cabals, religious fanatics and vengeful political factions all vying for Lina's blood, or "that damn journalist" as the Knights of Malta call her. But somehow they do survive, pressing on no matter what the danger, driven by a shared obsessive curiosity.

The novel is a heady mix of danger, romance, intrigue, detective work and cat and mouse action. Personally I find nothing as fascinating as re-interpretations of ancient myth and history and this one deals with one of the most important of all, the Garden of Eden itself.

It's hard of course not to make comparisons with Dan Brown but Crowe has a style very much her own and puts her own romantic, high adventure stamp on a tale that in the wrong hands could become overly academic and dry. All it would take would be Ron Howard to notice this one and ...well, who knows?

Cleo Taurus says

Review of The First Madonna by Yvonne Crowe
NICOLINA FABIANI SERIES: Book 2

5/5 stars for story
3/5 flames for heat

By R.L. BAILEY

The First Madonna, book No. 2 in the Nicolina Fabiani series by author Yvonne Crowe had me at the title. I love books that have some kind of historical backstory to them, and this one does. The book centers on Nicolina Fabiani, a reporter for a major television network. She is sent on an assignment in the Middle-East, and on the plane going to Syria, she meets David Baron, an Archaeologist on his way back to recover some artifacts he discovered. While there, Nicolina catches something on film she wasn't meant to see, and the people doing it don't want the world to see. Running for her life, she and her camera man come back into contact with David, who helps them escape.

David is more than a simple archaeologist though; he is also a trained member of Mossad and works for them. Once she is safely back in Berlin, they run into each other again, and at a dinner, David tells Lina of his family and what they went through during World War II. But he also tells her of an artifact he found while on a dig, and once she is completely enthralled with the story, she asks to go along, the reporter in her wanting to know everything. They work out a disguise for her since she is so well known, and off they go.

Thus begins the adventure.

This is a very well-plotted out, well-written book. There is enough adventure, mystery, history, and thrills to keep the reader interested. Lina is a smart, independent woman, and in my opinion, David is just the perfect man. Strong, sure, brave, all the things a hero should be. There were some minor issues, the biblical references mixed with the historical sometimes gave me the feeling I was reading another book, but that was so minor that I easily overcame it. I like strong women. Too many times authors make them hopeless romantics who rely on the man to save them. Lina is so not this way at all.

Overall, I loved this book, and I am now a fan of the author and will be looking out for more from her.

John Carlin says

Yvonne Crowe's books have a little bit of everything in them, she is not confined by artificial constructs like genre. The First Madonna is serious romp thru all kinds of subjects. It is a travel book as the main character Nicolina moves across the Mideast to various ancient dig sites with David, the lead male character. They dug for artifacts, while I dug the story! Nice references to music, with little tidbits sprinkled in it that made me stop and Google a couple of things. The same thing happened with the historical tidbits. The book flowed, entertained, educated; in short it made for a most pleasant read. I love the spirited character, the mystery gets you hooked right away. I hope these two characters continue their adventures together. They have great chemistry and make you want to see more of them.

Christopher Buckner says

These type of books aren't what I normally like, but when I was given the chance to read a copy of Crowe's "Nicolina Fabiani series" I found myself not able to put this book down for a long while. It has a broad reach covering a lot of hard topics. I never felt offended by the material, and was constantly pulled into the historical aspects of the material (history being one of my favorite subjects). Of course too, the writing is smooth and easy to read. I've felt in the past some authors that cover the same type of subjects tend to be too wordy and tend to over-explain every tiny detail of information that goes into the narrative story without really creating a truly engaging world. This book does a fantastic job and having a female heroine at the lead is a major plus for me.

This is what I really love about Amazon Kindle - the ability to discover new and very talented authors that big-name publishers continue to overlook. Now we just have to wait for the movie!

Pennie says

I have started reading books where from the very beginning, I lost interest.

This book was not one of those.

The more I read, the more intrigued I was and I couldn't put it down.

I don't want to give the story away so I'll just say that it has a little bit of everything, action, politics, war, Archaeology, Journalism, far off lands, and a little religion thrown into the mix.

Although all the characters were very strong, my favorite was Lina, a Journalist who takes her job a little too much to the extreme.

With all the twists and turns within the book, I had to chuckle when nearing the end of it Lina mentions maybe writing a book about the whole adventure and remarked that "It had worked for Dan Brown."

I felt as though I was right there in the middle of all the action. A great read.

The author is very talented, she has considerable imagination and a well executed plot. You can't ask for much more than that. Very enjoyable, and I will definitely be buying more from her in the near future.

T.j. Alexander says

A good story and premise. The plotline is definitely compelling but the execution leaves something to be desired. Typos occur in almost every chapter and can slow the pace considerably. Additionally, the writing style is very wordy and further bogs down the pace of the novel. Pace is especially important for a thriller and when it is interrupted, the novel begins to unravel a bit. Overall, if you can look beyond the mistakes of grammar and wordy sentences, you would be left with a good plot and storyline.

Jola says

Review also on www.jolasbookshelf.wordpress.com

The second instalment in the series about Nicolina Fabiani is much better than the first one! The plot's keeps you hooked, the dialogues are much better written and the history of the Knights of Malta is so enjoyable. The character of David was also nice addition to the story and I'll be looking out for the next book in this series.

Thanks to Yvonne Crowe for sending me an ebook in exchange for an honest review.

Bill Ward says

This is an exciting story with amazing research about archaeology and ancient languages. I hope the author won't mind my saying that there are all the ingredients of a Dan Brown novel, secret organisations, conspiracy, romance, religion, origins of mankind and all set in a turbulent Middle East.

There are two great central characters, the female american reporter and an archaeologist who is also a Mossad agent. Romance inevitably flourishes as they follow the trail for The Immortal Madonna and deal with various attempts on their lives.

I enjoyed all the story but especially the uplifting ending. I look forward to reading more books featuring these intrepid adventurers.

Leon Kastel says

This book was an eye-opener for me. Yvonne Crowe has a better read here than Dan Brown's "Inferno" or "DaVinci Code." The story is fast paced with meaningful interaction between romantic interests Lina and

David in war torn Syria and other locales. If you enjoy world cultures or world history, art and artifact, this book has beautifully worked references in plot and setting to archaeology, religion, ancient mythology in the ancient shrines of the world. Read about NIN-TI Sumerian goddess and "lady of the rib" who is an Eve figure in ancient history among many other interesting themes in this book. Cross genre, cross culture, superb for almost any reader I would guess.

Carmen Amato says

Lina, an Italian-American journalist, has two enemies: the Knights of Malta (a Catholic group she discredited in a previous novel in the series) and a Syrian faction which she filmed murdering civilians in that country's civil war. During a hasty getaway from Damascus, she teams with David, an Israeli Mossad agent working undercover as a university professor in Beirut.

Lina joins David's quest for the origins of the ancient Mesopotamian deity NIN-TI, getting a crash course in ancient alphabets and Middle East culture. As the two unearth clues at archeological digs and historical sites in conflict areas—Syria, Iran, Iraq—the notion grows that NIN-TI and the Bible's Eve could be the same. Besides Lina's enemies and war zone dangers, the duo also face a coalition of global heavyweights also seeking NIN-TI, in the belief that solving the mystery of the deity will bring great power. The result is a complicated mix of history, religion, social commentary, and relationships.

Appealing to fans of archeological thrillers, the ambitious story is anchored by exceptionally strong research and local descriptions. A few stylistic distractions exist throughout the book, however, including nonstandard punctuation, convoluted sentence structure, and roaming points of view. The pace is measured, with a number of Lina-David conversations demonstrating their growing relationship, yet with enough plot devices to hold reader interest.

Bianca Harrison says

Okay I was taken aback by Yvonne book "The First Madonna," when I first started reading it, I didn't know what to expect. The characters were brought to life as if I was there at that moment with Nicolina the journalist and David, the Professor. Lina was also a great character I could relate to. The depth of this book took me on a history lesson to uncover a secret as the journey led me on a ride with the Knights of Malta, and the Muslim militants. I could tell by reading that the author did a tremendous amount of research building her craft.

The characters were well developed and I was very intrigued by them and their quest to dig for artifacts. I think this book covered everything from great descriptions, the music, religion, and the depths of the land in ancient time (Middle East, Syria, Iraq. ect). There were plenty of action going from one place to the next as the quest the find "The First Madonna" making your imagination run wild as the Knights were on their trail as Nicolina and David was full force ahead of them. As I turned each page it was brought upon twist and turns, things that happened that didn't suppose to happen or better yet this was made for a good plot.

My history belief may have been questioned a little with the fact of the religion myth thrown into the mix. I have never read a historical fiction book nor will I make this my last. I need to go back and read Yvonne first

book that follows up to "The First Madonna," as it will give me more sense of what I just read, although I feel like I gained a lot of knowledge just from this one book.

This was a great read to me as I never thought I could get into Historical Fiction, yet Yvonne proved me wrong. I could not stop reading giving the urge of finding out what was going to happen on the next page. If you are looking for an action, intense, history lesson please consider this book!

Oliver says

This is an excellent book that is very well researched about secret societies and mysticism. While the story is fiction it rings of deeper truths. Along the way, I learned new things that challenged previously existing beliefs about the history of humanity. From this point of view, history is no longer the boring, unmystical one that most of us believe, it is more interesting, and there is so much more that we don't know. Powers beyond our understanding.

All throughout the book I experienced a mixture of strong emotions, excitement, wonder, and a constant sense of discovery. It's action packed. And each turn of the page I don't know what new thing I will discover. After reading this book, I want to read the other books in the series too.

Overall I was very satisfied with the twists and turns and the ending! Though not to spoil anything. I would recommend anyone interested in Dan Brown's books to also read this one.

Adrian Summer says

If you want a cracking good read with all the elements for a compelling fast paced thriller then this is the book for you. Yvonne Crowe combines the ingredients of ancient history, modern day middle eastern conflict, feisty and strong characters plus a dash of romantic interest into an enticing feast that demands to be devoured. Intensive research has gone into this book with its many interesting pages of archaeological facts, detailed descriptions of ancient sites and the history of languages, thousands of years old. The heroine, Nicolina Fabiani is an impressive character who doubtless will be having more adventures in the future. Altogether an enjoyable way to pass a few hours.

Julie Powell says

I was given this book for review and found it fascinating.

This well written and researched story has much food for thought, bringing philosophical and mythical ideas to life, such answers prompting almost magical ingredients into the mix.

It has its 'goodies' and 'baddies' and yet its historical base gives it a realistic and believable feel. I liked the characters and the dialogue, particularly between the two protagonists, which brought them alive - some great humour.

The concept was wonderful and I can only wish that by some miracle, that humanity will see the wondrous mystery within the world and stop wanting to destroy it.

A very good read.

Lance Morcan says

Another cracking good yarn in the Nicolina Fabiani series

The author has at least matched the quality of her first book in this series with another riveting thriller. Like book one, this compelling yarn held me from start to finish; only the interruption of a night's sleep prevented me from completing it in one sitting!

Speaking of nights, the Knights of Malta's connection to the Templar Knights is but one of the mysteries explored to great effect in this fast-paced novel.

The amount of research required for a tale with such depth and with so many levels is impressive – as is the final result: another 5-star read!
