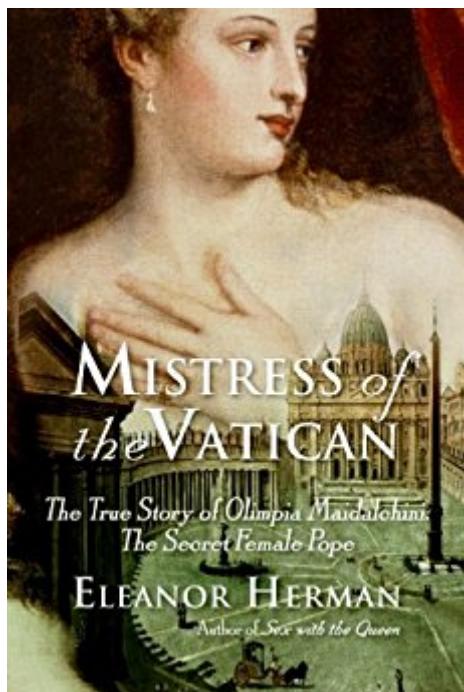


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# Mistress Of The Vatican: The True Story Of Olimpia Maidalchini: The Secret Female Pope



## **Synopsis**

Eleanor Herman, the talented author of the New York Times bestselling *Sex with Kings* and *Sex with the Queen* goes behind the sacred doors of the Catholic Church in *Mistress of the Vatican*, a scintillating biography of a powerful yet little-known woman whose remarkable story is ripe with secrets, sex, passion, and ambition. For almost four centuries this astonishing story of a woman's absolute power over the Vatican has been successfully buried "until now.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I love history and a few years ago visited the two palaces in Rome where Olympia called home. However, I never expected this to be such compelling reading. Ms. Herman's exhaustive research is illuminating rather than pedantic. You will learn a great deal about Ms. Mdalchini, the Byzantine politics of the Vatican and the complicated power plays in Europe. Olympia was a remarkable woman by any definition but quite extraordinary when one considers the chauvinistic attitudes of Baroque Europe. This book makes history come alive and is well worth the reader's time.

This is a true story I doubt you'll ever learn in Sunday School, history class or on the History Channel. Eleanor has written a very well documented, well written and interesting book. Authors like her do a great service to the public by bringing important history from academia to the rest of us. Commercial books also have the freedom to give perspective and interpretation that is frankly forbidden in academia. Thank you, Eleanor, for a great book. Fascinating and also disconcerting history. And how you wrote about her death was very moving.

Oh, Olimpia! This NEEDS to be an HBO miniseries. In our own current turbulent times, it is so refreshing (or scary) to realize politics are politics, and always have been. This book does a masterful job of personalizing this time period and bringing those characters to life! I laughed at the statues (one behind Olimpia's house, the other across town, where pundits of the day posted gossip and had the statues "talk" to each other) — the first "Twitter". What a lovely respite from the noise of our own world!

This is a long narrative to plow through. Every time I was about to stop, another interesting turn came in the life of this woman. Not only was her life interesting, the events of the Church added more exciting details. A great chronicle of the times of Rome, the Catholic Church and Europe.

person who clawed and manipulated her way to the top of Vatican hierarchy. But the most fascinating part is really the wonderful history lesson the author provides us about the Catholic Church in the middle ages. The struggle of the Cardinals to achieve power and wealth, the Popes who although with good intentions, robbed the papacy blind and the establishment of the country of Italy against the wishes of the Catholic church. All and all a fun read.

Absolutely amazing that Pope Innocent X was really elected by, then ruled by his sister-in-law Olimpia Maidalchini, whom people of Rome referred to as both Female Pope and Pope's mistress. This is a well researched and well documented book the Catholic Church would probably rather people not read. It was excellent.

A well researched book with an added benefit of some "tongue-in-cheek" comments. The author is wonderful in providing context. An informative and never dull read.

What an interesting, obviously well researched and completely little-known piece of history! I'm a little stunned at the depth of nepotism, greed, embezzlement and flat out stealing in regard to the office of pope, but I guess I shouldn't be surprised. The story itself is pretty incredible, however, when one considers the "place" women held in the 17th century and that Olimpia managed to not only run the Vatican but control its wheeling & dealing as well!

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