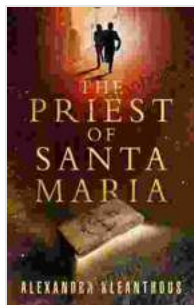


# The Priest of Santa Maria: The Beginning of the End

In the heart of Rome, a young priest uncovers a sinister plot that threatens to destroy the Catholic Church and the world as we know it. Father Michaelangelo Rossi is a brilliant and ambitious priest who has recently been assigned to the prestigious Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica. He is a rising star in the Church, and many believe that he is destined for great things.



## The Priest of Santa Maria (The Beginning of the End Book 1) by Alexandra Kleantous

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3051 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 427 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



But Father Rossi's life is turned upside down when he discovers the body of a murdered priest in the basilica. The victim is Father Giuseppe Bianchi, a close friend and mentor to Rossi. Rossi is devastated by Bianchi's death, and he vows to find his killer and bring him to justice.

Rossi's investigation soon leads him to a shadowy organization known as the Order of the Black Cross. The Order is a secret society that has been operating in Rome for centuries, and its members are said to be responsible for some of the most heinous crimes in history. Rossi believes that the Order is responsible for Bianchi's murder, and he sets out to expose their plot and bring them down.

Rossi's investigation takes him deep into the underbelly of Rome, and he soon finds himself in over his head. He is pursued by the Order's assassins, and he must use all of his skills and resources to stay alive. But Rossi is determined to stop the Order, and he will not rest until he has brought them to justice.

The Priest of Santa Maria is a gripping and suspenseful thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. Father Rossi is a complex and compelling character, and his struggle against the Order is both thrilling and heartbreaking. The novel is also a fascinating look into the inner workings of the Catholic Church, and it sheds light on some of the dark secrets that have been hidden for centuries.

## The Characters

- **Father Michaelangelo Rossi** is a brilliant and ambitious priest who is assigned to the prestigious Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica. He is a rising star in the Church, and many believe that he is destined for great things.
- **Father Giuseppe Bianchi** is a close friend and mentor to Rossi. He is a kind and compassionate priest who is loved by his parishioners. His murder sends shockwaves through the Church.

- **The Order of the Black Cross** is a secret society that has been operating in Rome for centuries. Its members are said to be responsible for some of the most heinous crimes in history. They are the main antagonists of the novel.

## **The Setting**

The novel is set in Rome, Italy. The city is a beautiful and historic backdrop for the story, and it provides a rich and textured setting for the characters and events. The novel also takes place in a number of other locations, including the Vatican City, the catacombs of Rome, and the Italian countryside.

## **The Themes**

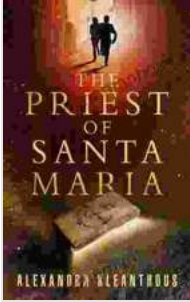
The novel explores a number of themes, including:

\* The power of faith \* The nature of evil \* The importance of truth \* The struggle between good and evil

## **The Author**

The Priest of Santa Maria is the debut novel of author David Gibbins. Gibbins is a former journalist and editor who has written extensively about religion and the Catholic Church. He lives in Rome, Italy, with his wife and children.

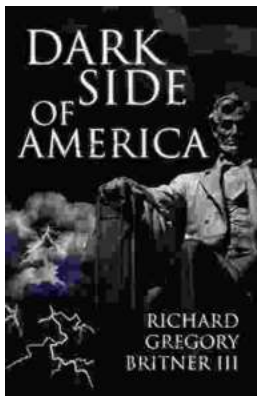
The Priest of Santa Maria is a gripping and suspenseful thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. It is a well-written and well-researched novel that sheds light on some of the dark secrets of the Catholic Church. The novel is also a powerful and moving story about the power of faith and the importance of truth.



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