



Botticelli's Muse

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Sandro Botticelli

The 15th century Florentine artist who produced *La Primavera* and *The Birth of Venus*. Medici court artist, this 33 year-old confirmed bachelor, is indecisive, torn between working class background and aspirations to be part of the Medici inner circle, along with his struggle between art and commerce. His friend and patron Lorenzo de Medici demotes him to be the court painter for Lorenzo's 15- year old distant cousin Piero. Sandro's life is a mess until he meets his muse Floriana.



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Botticelli's Muse: Floriana/ Musa del Botticelli: Floriana

Floriana (Sandro's muse for his painting *The Primavera*) is a 19 year-old Jew from Ferrara. She has apprenticed with her tailor uncle as a seamstress. Together they had waited on the families of wealthy Christians. Under his tutelage she has learned to read and write. Her mother was deaf and both parents are deceased. She has journeyed to Tuscany with the seemingly safe protection of young clerics from Ferrara in search of work as a weaver.



Piero di Lorenzodi di Piero di Cosimo di Giovanni di Bicci de Medici
Fifteen-year-old orphan, distant cousin to Lorenzo de Medici, he was the unlikely patron to Botticelli while he painted *La Primavera*. Piero's secret doll making hobby as well as his head twitching, dyslexia and his being surrounded by a dozen yapping Chinese pug dogs, introduce him as an overweight self-obsessed teenager who transforms over the course of the novel into one of Sandro's major friends and supporters.



Lorenzo de' Medici

Botticelli's former patron and distant cousin to Piero, 29 year-old, Lorenzo has inherited a political life as head of the Medici legacy to continue the arts in Florence as well as the growth of their banking empire. Although as youths Sandro and Lorenzo were inseparable, circumstances, loyalties, and Lorenzo's arrogance continue to tear them apart.



Lucrezia Tornabuoni de' Medici

Lorenzo and Giuliano de' Medici's mother, matriarch Lucrezia tries to control her two sons. She has premonitions of doom and is in a constant state of worry about the fate of the family. No one takes her fears seriously until it is too late.

