

ALEXANDER LEE

Machiavelli

HIS LIFE AND TIMES



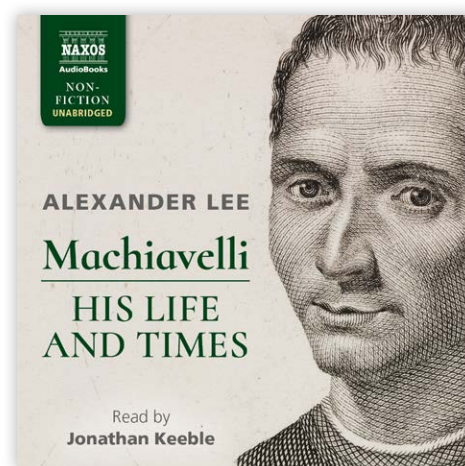
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Read by
Jonathan Keeble

Thanks to the invidious reputation of his most famous work, *The Prince*, Niccolò Machiavelli exerts a unique hold over the popular imagination. But was Machiavelli as sinister as he is often thought to be? Might he not have been an infinitely more sympathetic figure, prone to political missteps, professional failures and personal dramas?

In *Machiavelli: His Life and Times*, Alexander Lee reveals the man behind the myth, following him from cradle to grave, from his father's penury and the abuse he suffered at a teacher's hands, to his marriage and his many affairs (with both men and women), to his political triumphs and, ultimately, his fall from grace and exile. In doing so, Lee uncovers hitherto unobserved connections between Machiavelli's life and thought. He also reveals the world through which Machiavelli moved: from the great halls of Renaissance Florence to the court of the Borgia pope Alexander VI, from the dungeons of the Stinche prison to the Rucellai garden, where he would begin to write some of his last great works.

As much a portrait of an age as of a uniquely engaging man, Lee's gripping and definitive biography takes the reader into Machiavelli's world – and his work – more completely than ever before.



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Jonathan Keeble is an award-winning actor who combines his audio work with a busy theatre and TV career. Much in demand, his voice work ranges from the voice of God in the Sistine Chapel to the Angel of Death in the film *Hellboy 2*, with all stops in between. He has featured in over 700 radio plays for the BBC, appearing in everything from Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes and Dr Who; he also played the evil Owen in *The Archers*. He has recorded over 400 audiobooks, for which he has won multiple awards.

1	Machiavelli: His Life and Times	7:40	21	Chapter 5	10:07
2	Part 1. Chapter 1	9:52	22	According to Niccolò, Pisa could be retaken in two...	11:07
3	With almost thirty men, women and children...	10:48	23	Arriving in Forlì on the afternoon of 16 July...	8:53
4	Niccolò's mother, Bartolomea, was no intellectual...	9:46	24	Even at the best of times, diplomatic couriers could...	10:58
5	Unable to ply his trade, Bernardo had to rely on his...	7:16	25	Chapter 6	10:16
6	Chapter 2	10:30	26	Cathartic though Vitelli's death may have been...	12:30
7	If Niccolò made a mistake, he could expect to be...	8:32	27	Chapter 7	10:25
8	The burgeoning relationship between Lorenzo's rivals...	10:57	28	Having just finished his meal, Louis was resting...	9:20
9	After the storms of the Pazzi Conspiracy...	9:57	29	The next few weeks were a litany of disappointments.	12:14
10	After twenty-two months, Niccolò had completed the...	13:11	30	Wishing to put Brittany in order before returning to...	11:04
11	Chapter 3	9:41	31	Part 3. Chapter 8	10:41
12	Yet, that he could feel such sweet sorrow was...	10:25	32	The Signoria hurried to stave off the danger as best...	10:43
13	But what horrified the ambassadors even more was...	9:40	33	Freed from Cesare's malign influence, Florence could...	10:43
14	Savonarola was now in the ascendant. Although there...	9:39	34	Niccolò was not able to enjoy married life for long.	7:04
15	But, however much he wanted to make light of...	9:28	35	Chapter 9	10:15
16	In such dangerous times, Marcello thundered...	10:42	36	Uncertain of how to proceed, the Signoria turned...	11:34
17	Despite being divided among themselves, the Signoria...	7:51	37	Gerardini and the cameriere came to collect them...	8:47
18	Savonarola had, however, misjudged the political...	8:42	38	When they awoke the next morning, however...	11:24
19	Part 2. Chapter 4	10:37	39	Barely a day after taking their decision, however...	10:16
20	This was a grave enough setback in itself, but that it...	6:45	40	Chapter 10	8:50

41	Flushed with their success, the conspirators began...	8:51	89	Part 6. Chapter 19	10:53
42	As Niccolò's first week in Imola drew to a close...	10:16	90	By the middle of April, however, these frivolous...	9:46
43	Later that day, Niccolò met with one of Cesare's staff.	8:35	91	During this time, a great deal happened.	9:39
44	By the morning of 1 November, news of Cesare's...	11:21	92	It was not until late November that Vettori wrote again.	8:58
45	This was, of course, the sort of response that Niccolò...	10:05	93	Chapter 20	9:24
46	Poor Niccolò was so desperate that he even sought...	11:07	94	Niccolò, however, regarded all that as hogwash.	10:56
47	Chapter 11	8:19	95	This, in fact, was the most important lesson a prince...	9:31
48	Whether the Florentines decided to join the Sienese...	10:33	96	Niccolò had his own tales to tell, too...	10:05
49	Sure enough, the pope rejected the Florentines' request.	9:42	97	Towards the middle of April – just as Niccolò was...	8:06
50	Niccolò was wracked with anxiety. Having devoted...	10:21	98	Chapter 21	10:02
51	For Niccolò, the key point was that, although...	11:24	99	Niccolò did not have to wait long before putting this...	9:07
52	For reasons that remain unclear, however, Niccolò's...	9:48	100	By the time Lorenzo reached Piacenza, the papal...	9:55
53	When the conclave convened on 31 October...	10:07	101	There were many in Florence who shared Niccolò's...	8:28
54	Niccolò then went to talk with Cesare Borgia.	9:38	102	Taking up his pen for the first time in many months...	13:52
55	Despite the danger Cesare was in, he did nothing to...	11:02	103	Chapter 22	10:56
56	Part 4. Chapter 12	10:59	104	So, how had Rome gained and preserved its liberty?	9:54
57	On 28 January, however, things seemed to change...	7:55	105	This, however, required some qualification. As Niccolò...	11:48
58	Over the following week, the court was abuzz with...	11:24	106	The Romans had, of course, grasped this at an early...	12:40
59	Now that war was upon them, the Florentines...	10:15	107	Part 7. Chapter 23	8:51
60	As the chronicler Filippo de' Nerli later observed...	8:32	108	It had already been decided that Cardinal Giulio...	9:21
61	Niccolò was probably quite glad of the chance to get...	9:11	109	Underlying many of these similarities was a desire for...	9:33
62	While Niccolò was locked in talks, Florence was facing...	11:10	110	Chapter 24	9:38
63	Over the next few days, Niccolò's concerns steadily...	8:01	111	Underlying Niccolò's narrative was the by now familiar...	10:11
64	Two days later, Niccolò was sent to Giacomini's camp...	10:39	112	This had clear implications for the Medici.	11:24
65	Chapter 13	9:46	113	Yet, as the terms of Niccolò's contract suggested...	10:04
66	Julius seemed to have been expecting these sorts of...	10:19	114	Thus far, Niccolò's proposals were comparatively...	7:56
67	Though Niccolò was too discreet to say so explicitly...	10:26	115	Chapter 25	11:01
68	While Niccolò was waiting for the Dieci's reply...	14:21	116	Pausing briefly to visit Guicciardini – then acting as...	9:47
69	Chapter 14	9:23	117	Nevertheless, Guicciardini felt obliged to repeat his...	13:19
70	No doubt feeling thoroughly miserable, Niccolò went...	11:23	118	Chapter 26	9:33
71	On 17 December, Niccolò set out on what was to be...	9:27	119	Niccolò's proposals could hardly have been more...	10:11
72	Despite what Collauer had promised, there was no...	8:54	120	No less painful – if perhaps less bitter – was the loss...	9:23
73	On 10 February, Maximilian, too, returned to Bolzano.	10:45	121	Perhaps most disturbing of all, however, was the...	10:35
74	By the time they left Innsbruck, the diplomatic...	9:20	122	Niccolò knew it was wrong. It wasn't just that he was...	10:36
75	Part 5. Chapter 15	9:02	123	None of these was any better – or 'purer' – than the...	8:59
76	While the Florentines were talking these matters over...	10:08	124	Taking the name Roderigo of Castile, Belfagor sets...	10:01
77	Such forceful words evidently impressed the Dieci.	12:04	125	Chapter 27	8:57
78	Chapter 16	9:43	126	Such travails would have ruined a lesser city, but not...	9:19
79	Verona was, however, anything but quiet.	8:40	127	Chapter 28	10:28
80	For days, Niccolò waited vainly for some news.	10:00	128	On 21 June, Niccolò arrived in Faenza.	11:00
81	There was, however, little time for celebration.	10:13	129	This was, of course, all very encouraging.	10:56
82	Yet, the promise of those balmy midsummer days...	8:26	130	Some small consolation was provided by the...	11:39
83	Chapter 17	9:08	131	On 22 May, Clement VII's anti-imperial league was...	12:13
84	With Maximilian's conference in tatters, the conflict...	11:46	132	Chapter 29	11:01
85	Some measure of hope was restored by the new...	12:37	133	Setting out on, or shortly after, 30 November...	10:31
86	Chapter 18	12:30	134	As Romagna was blanketed in heavy snow...	9:30
87	Emboldened by the favour Giuliano appears to have...	10:26	135	Slowly but surely, the German landsknechts drew closer.	13:18
88	Shortly after midnight, several constables forced their...	11:50	136	Chapter 30	5:02

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