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POPE JOAN

DONNA WOOLFOLK CROSS

A NOVEL

"Fascinating... explores the extraordinary life of an independent, intelligent and courageous woman who overcomes oppression and ascends to the highest religious power."

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross

Donna Woolfolk Cross

A world-wide bestseller, significant movie and upcoming "Director's Cut" television mini-series completely for the U.S!"Pope Joan has all of the parts one desires in a old drama—love, sex, violence, duplicity, and long-buried secrets. go has written a fascinating book."—Los Angeles instances e-book ReviewFor 1000 years her lifestyles has been denied. She is the legend that won't die—Pope Joan, the ninth-century lady who disguised herself as a guy and rose to turn into the one girl ever to take a seat at the throne of St. Peter. Now during this riveting novel, Donna Woolfolk pass paints a sweeping portrait of an unforgettable heroine who struggles opposed to regulations her soul can't accept.Brilliant and talented, younger Joan rebels opposed to medieval social strictures forbidding ladies to learn. whilst her brother is brutally killed in the course of a Viking attack, Joan takes up his cloak—and his identity—and enters the monastery of Fulda. As Brother John Anglicus, Joan distinguishes herself as an excellent student and healer. Eventually, she is attracted to Rome, the place she turns into enmeshed in a deadly internet of love, passion, and politics. winning over appalling odds, she eventually attains the top place of work in Christendom—wielding an influence more than any lady ahead of or since. yet such energy continually comes at a cost . . .In this foreign bestseller, move brings the darkish a long time to existence in all their brutal attractiveness and stocks the dramatic tale of a girl whose energy of imaginative and prescient led her to defy the social regulations of her day.

Quis, quid, quomondo, ubi, quando, cur? Quis — siapa?Namanya Joan. Dilahirkan tahun 814 Masehi di Ingelheim (sekarang di wilayah Jerman). Putri satu-satunya seorang kanon (semacam pendeta atau imam) dari Inggris dan istrinya yang orang Saxon. Punya dua kakak laki-laki, Matthew dan John. Dari kecil sudah menampakkan kecerdasan dan keingintahuan yang luar biasa. Joan menderita siksaan fisik dari ayahnya gara-gara hal itu, tapi toh ia tidak mau berhenti belajar.Quid — apa?Perjuangan Joan, yang dengan karunia kecerdasan yang dimilikinya, menolak kenyataan yang terjadi pada masa itu bahwa perempuan tidak diperbolehkan untuk membaca dan menulis, apalagi belajar dan menguasai berbagai ilmu sebagaimana kaum laki-laki. Ditengah-tengah busuknya politik Kepausan Pope Joan Katolik Roma, ancaman Kaisar Lothar dari kerajaan Frank, ancaman wabah yang merajalela, dan juga serangan bangsa Viking, Joan menapaki langkah demi langkah menuju tahta tertinggi dalam Katolik Roma – Paus.Quomondo – bagaimana?Di satu titik Joan membuat suatu keputusan besar yang mengubah seluruh hidupnya – ia menyamar sebagai seorang laki-laki, sehingga ia bisa mempelajari banyak hal – sesuatu yang mustahil dilakukan seorang perempuan pada abad kesembilan. Keteguhannya untuk terus menjalani Pope Joan hidup sebagai laki-laki hampir tergoyahkan ketika ia jatuh cinta pada Gerold, seorang count number yang menjadi ayah angkatnya di Dorstadt. Namun toh Joan tetap teguh melakukan apa yang menjadi hasratnya sampai nafasnya yang terakhir.Ubi – Di mana?Mengawali dengan bersekolah di Dorstadt oleh rujukan dari guru pertamanya, Aesculapius, seorang Yunani. Setelah lolos dari serangan brutal bangsa Viking di Dorstadt, Joan melarikan diri ke pertapaan di Fulda di mana ia menyamar sebagai laki-laki untuk pertama kalinya. Kemudian, setelah menghabiskan bertahun-tahun di Fulda, sebuah wabah demam nyaris membongkar penyamarannya sehingga ia kabur, dan akhirnya pergi ke Roma, menjadi tabib pribadi Paus Sergius, dan pada waktunya—ia sendiri

yang diangkat menjadi Paus. Quando – kapan? Keseluruhan kisah berlangsung pada tahun 814 hingga 855 Masehi, yang termasuk dalam period Abad Kegelapan. Joan memerintah sebagai Paus pada tahun 853 hingga 855. Setelah Joan meninggal, Katolik Roma dibawah tulisan Anastasius menghapuskannya dari Liber pontificalis, yaitu kronik resmi seluruh Paus yang pernah ada. Empat puluh tahun setelah kematiannya, Uskup Agung Arnaldo menyalin Liber pontificalis dan menambahkan bab mengenai Joan ke dalamnya, sehingga kebenaran tidak sepenuhnya hilang. Cur – mengapa? Mengapa Joan sampai memilih meninggalkan identitas keperempuannya? Karena ia punya impian, dan hasratnya terhadap impian tersebut demikian besarnya sehingga pengorbanan demi pengorbanan yang ia lakukan dirasanya setimpal. Mengapa lalu ia bisa sampai di tahta tertinggi Katolik Roma? Karena Joan mampu. Karena perempuan mampu, karena perempuan bukanlah makhluk yang bodoh dan lemah. Karena perempuan sejajar dengan laki-laki.***Pope Joan adalah sebuah novel yang lengkap. Sejarah, politik, perjuangan perempuan, agama, perang, cinta, pengorbanan, kemunafikan, kebrutalan manusia; semua terkandung di dalamnya. Sang pengarang, Donna Woolfolk Cross, menghimpun kisah ini dengan apik, tokoh-tokohnya terasa nyata dan emosinya dapet. Apalagi dengan alur cepat yang tidak membuat bosan. Walau di beberapa bagian memang sadis sih, terutama pas serangan bangsa Viking itu. Pope Joan versi movie (2009) kurang mengesankan walaupun dari segi solid secara fisik sudah pas, environment juga bagus, tapi emosinya kurang terasa. Salut untuk pengarang Pope Joan yang menyelesaikan penulisan Pope Joan setelah melakukan riset selama tujuh tahun. Salut juga untuk F.X. Dono Sunardi sang penerjemah, karena menerjemahkan karya Pope Joan ini sudah pasti bukan pekerjaan gampang. Puass banget melahap lebih dari seven hundred halaman novel ini, karena wawasan bertambah banyak, terutama tentang sejarah, seluk-beluk kepausan di Katolik Roma, dan beberapa kalimat dalam bahasa Latin... Juga bagian Catatan dari Pengarang sungguh-sungguh membantu dalam memahami kisah. Saran saya bagi penerbit yang hendak menerbitkan novel serupa: akan lebih nyaman kalau ada word list di bagian belakang buku, terutama sih tentang berbagai istilah dan jabatan keagamaan yang tidak regular bagi saya sehingga membuat saya jadi cukup bingung. Kalau sebatas catatan kaki, kan, kalau ketemu lagi dengan kata "X", saya sudah lupa catatan kakinya ada di halaman berapa, hehehe. Jadi, apakah Paus Joan pernah ada? Setelah membaca buku ini rasanya saya percaya kalau beliau benar-benar pernah ada. Bagaimanapun, kisahnya menginspirasi para perempuan (dan juga laki-laki) untuk tidak menyerah dan berani berkorban Pope Joan dalam berusaha mencapai impian. Go for it, it doesn't matter what it takes! Empat bintang bagi kisah perempuan hebat yang nyaris terlupakan ini. Beberapa kutipan favorit: "Jika ingin dapat bertahan di dunia ini, kau harus bersikap lebih sabar dengan mereka yang ada di atasmu." – hal. 179 "Sungguh aneh apa yang terjadi pada hati manusia. Orang dapat saja Pope Joan terus hidup selama bertahun-tahun, terbiasa kehilangan, serta berdamai dengannya, tetapi kemudian, dalam sekejap saja, rasa sakit itu muncul kembali bersama rasa pedih dan perih seperti luka yang masih baru." – hal. 495 "Kita akan tetap berdoa seakan-akan semuanya bergantung kepada Tuhan dan terus bekerja seolah-olah segalanya tergantung pada diri kita sendiri." – hal. 573 "Terangnya harapan yang dipantikkan oleh para perempuan tersebut hanya serupa kelap-kelip cahaya kecil di samudra kegelapan, tetapi nyalanya tidak pernah sepenuhnya padam. Kesempatan selalu ada dan tersedia bagi kaum perempuan yang cukup kuat untuk bermimpi. Pope Joan adalah kisah dari salah satu pemimpi itu." – hal. 732. Catatan: "Quis, quid, quomondo, ubi, quando, cur?" tidak lain adalah 5W+1H (Who, what, when, where, why, how) yang konsep awalnya dirumuskan oleh filsuf Romawi Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43

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Pope Joan

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