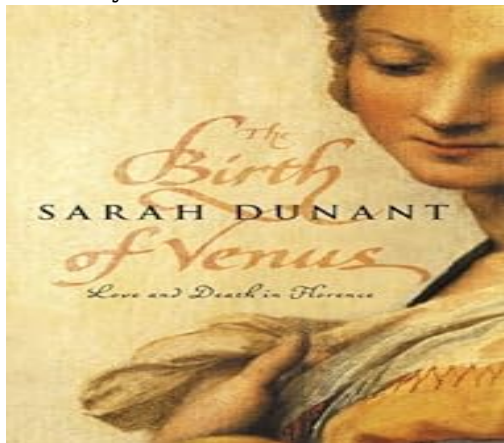


The Birth of Venus By Sarah Dunant **The birth of venus by sandro** From the mentality of the folks from that era to the conventional norms in the Churches to the format of art to the life style to the architecture to the spirituality behind the art are all strikingly portrayed with enough details to make the readers visually imagine Florence right before their own eyes. **The birth of venus socks** I have no quibbles with that.

The birth of venus in italian

With an overpowering deluge of verbs and a merciless amount of description only surpassed by Tolkien taking 60 pages to walk around a mountain I found myself continually drifting off. **The birth of venus book review** I didn't read it like I read Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix nor did I read it like I plan to read Book 6 on July 16 but I read it in a day it was that good. **The birth of venus date** There are several surprising loops and turns that cleverly take place throughout the story and I don't want to spoil any for you so I'll stop my review now before I accidentally say something revealing. **The birth of venus in pop culture** Can you guys help me out? Sarah Dunant For some reason I always feel the need to apologize when giving a high rating to a book that is not marvelously written from a technical standpoint--I think I've been privy to too many technical writing conversations. **Birth of venus book summary** The novel takes place in Florence Italy during the fall of the Medicis and the brief rise of the monk Savonarola and that place and time (and the role of the Church in it) are central characters. **The birth of venus book review** As the monk cracks down on all who run counter to his theology (including the pope) Alessandra an intelligent art-loving girl of 16 from a well-to-do merchant's family rushes into marriage to escape exile to a convent only to quickly find herself in a situation that is hardly the stuff of women's dreams -- but then Alessandra had unconventional dreams to begin with. **The birth of venus display** " ----Pablo Picasso Sarah Dunant the British bestselling novelist has penned a delectable and extremely tempting historical fiction The Birth of Venus that is set against the backdrop of the Renaissance Florence and that which revolves around a young 14 year old girl who is not beautiful or skilled like her elder sister yet her talent and eye for art and mind for translating languages is extraordinary but with the changing times she is forced into matrimony at a tender age and little did she knew what fight she is put up for in the name of honor respect and womanhood during the Dominican rule in the 15th century Florence. **The birth of venus display** Synopsis: Sarah Dunant's gorgeous and mesmerizing novel Birth of Venus draws readers into a turbulent 15th-century Florence a time when the lavish city steeped in years of Medici family luxury is suddenly besieged by plague threat of invasion and the righteous wrath of a fundamentalist monk. **The birth of venus socks** As Florence struggles in Savonarola's grip a serial killer stalks the streets the French invaders creep closer and young Alessandra Cecchi must surrender her childish dreams and navigate her way into womanhood. **The birth of venus gallery** Readers are quickly seduced by the simplicity of her unconventional passions that are more artistic than domestic: Dancing is one of the many things I should be good at that I am not. **The birth of venus gallery** Plautilla can move across the floor like water and sing a stave of music like a song bird while I who can translate both Latin and Greek faster than she or my brothers can read it have club feet on the dance floor and a voice like a crow. **The birth of venus date** Though I swear if I were to paint the scale I could do it in a flash: shining gold leaf for the top notes falling through ochres and reds into hot purple and deepest blue. **The birth of venus book review** Dunant paints a fascinating array of women onto her dark canvas each representing the various fates of early Renaissance women: Alessandra's lovely (if simple) sister Plautilla is interested only in marrying rich and presiding over a household; the brave Erila Alessandra's North African servant (and willing accomplice) has such a frank understanding of the limitations of her sex that she often escapes them; and Signora Cecchi Alessandra's beautiful but weary mother tries to encourage yet temper the passions of her wayward daughter. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** Alessandra Cecchi the 14 year teenage daughter of a reputed merchant is more passionate about painting and translating languages rather than being interested in womanly dreams like being

a mother and a wife and honing off the girly skills to impress the best suitors. **The birth of venus by sandro** And with the arrival of a unknown yet extremely talented young artist in their family home Alessandra can gradually feel the spasms of attraction and weakness of her young heart but as Florence comes under the strict Dominican rule of Girolamo Savonarola and the possibility of a war Alessandra's father make haste to marry off her unwed daughter to a suitable suitor in order to protect her. **The birth of venus book review** So with the support and trust of her servant Erila an African slave Alessandra explores the art history and the dark secrets of the beautiful and charming city of Florence all the while finding herself and the desires of her soul. **The birth of venus book review** Maybe its my weakness towards reading historical fiction that led me to this enchanting yet slightly disappointing book The Birth of Venus where the story line may lack development and reality yet somehow the backdrop allured me to lose myself into the heavy Italian flair layered well with the snippets of Renaissance era. **The birth of venus display** Reading this book made me realize that the author has done her research well enough to paint this simple story with so much deep knowledge about Florence during the period of Renaissance. **The birth of venus by sandro** The narrative is sometime dull but at times it will give the readers goosebumps although overall the dialogues are articulate and layered deeply with the flair of the then time period. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** The central character Alessandra is a brave and free woman irrespective of her time and era and also her desires and her pain evolves her into a mature woman who learn to embrace her wretched destiny. **The birth of venus book review** In a nutshell for me this was a captivating enough story that engaged and enlightened me about Renaissance art love and spirituality on the last day of the year!Verdict: A promising and evocative story of art and religion! Courtesy: A BookChor find! Sarah Dunant



Sarah Dunant is a cultural commentator award winning thriller writer and author of five novels set in Renaissance Italy exploring women's lives through art sex and religion. **The birth of venus in italian** Sarah Dunant's gorgeous and mesmerizing novel Birth of Venus draws readers into a turbulent 15th-century Florence a time when the lavish city steeped in years of Medici family luxury is suddenly besieged by plague threat of invasion and the righteous wrath of a fundamentalist monk. **The birth of venus socks** As Florence struggles in Savonarola's grip a serial killer stalks the streets the French invaders creep closer and young Alessandra Cecchi must surrender her childish dreams and navigate her way into womanhood. **The birth of venus book review** Readers are quickly seduced by the simplicity of her unconventional passions that are more artistic than domestic: Dancing is one of the many things I should be good at that I am not. **The birth of venus gallery** Plautilla can move across the floor like water and sing a stave of music like a song bird while I who can translate both Latin and Greek faster than she or my brothers can read it have club feet on the dance floor and a voice like a crow. **The birth of venus symbolism** Though I swear if I were to paint the scale I could do it in a flash: shining gold leaf for the top notes falling through ochres and reds into hot purple and deepest blue. **The birth of venus book review** Dunant paints a fascinating array of women onto her dark canvas each representing the various fates of early Renaissance women: Alessandra's lovely (if simple) sister Plautilla is interested only in marrying rich

and presiding over a household; the brave Eriola Alessandra's North African servant (and willing accomplice) has such a frank understanding of the limitations of her sex that she often escapes them; and Signora Cecchi Alessandra's beautiful but weary mother tries to encourage yet temper the passions of her wayward daughter. **The birth of venus story** Sarah Dunant is an English writer who now divides her time between London and Florence (half her luck!) I daresay she feels that having studied Italian history and lived amongst Italians she knows Italian culture. **The birth of venus book review** The Birth of Venus is the story of Alessandra Cecchi the daughter of a rich merchant in fifteenth-century Florence who is everything a woman should not be strong-willed intelligent talented and ugly. **The birth of venus symbolism** The marriage is doomed to failure and has been cynically arranged for his own purposes by her older brother Tomaso because he has always resented her and is jealous of her intelligence and talent. **The birth of venus book review** I would have found it much more credible and indeed poignant if it turned out that Tomaso had acted not out of spite but rather out of a misplaced fondness for his sister. **The birth of venus socks** How much more devastated Alessandra would be if she were to learn that the brother she has always adored who has always seemed to love her and tolerate her eccentricities has proven to be totally insensitive to her real feelings. **The birth of venus date** She's not beautiful as her sister and two brothers are she's not content to follow the prescribed duty for a well-to-do woman and either marry and push out babies or take herself to a nunnery she's been educated and she has artistic talent. **The birth of venus book review** The political setting with the fall of the powerful Medici family and the rise of a charismatic religious leader is covered pretty well although Alessandra's situation means that she misses most of it and has to depend on other characters to tell her what happened. **The birth of venus socks** Why does he hate her so much? Both the mother with her own chequered past and the slave maid Eriola are actually much more interesting than Alessandra herself who always seems to be the victim of other people's needs and manipulations. **The birth of venus book review** All of these are people who unlike Alessandra made their own decisions their own lives and remained true to themselves (yes even the slave who seems to have had more freedom than her mistress). **The birth of venus book review** Spoilers ahead...I had some logic issues all the way through (the brother's hatred for his sister the mother's contradictory attitude of educating Alessandra while somehow hoping she will just conform to her allotted role) but the nunnery puts all that in the shade. **The birth of venus story** Not just any nunnery though; this one is incredibly liberal and relaxed Alessandra learns (finally!) to paint is charged with painting the chapel is happy in her art living amongst other women. **The birth of venus by** When Alessandra was fifteen and the French army was about to march through Florence and all unattached women were hastily married off or whisked into nunneries why was this wonderful place never mentioned? Why did her mother allow her to be married to a man three times her age who was gay and in love with her brother rather than tell her about this nunnery where she could be herself at last and not shoehorn herself into society's expected role? What on earth was her mother thinking? And then the final insult. **The birth of venus history** She sleeps with the painter (in the nunnery! Very liberal) and she tattoos herself from neck to crotch with the image of a snake with the painter's face on it tongue extended. **The birth of venus sarah dunant** But when at the end she has the opportunity to seize her life and take control a moment that would have rounded off the book beautifully and brought her arc to a triumphant end - she doesn't. **The birth of venus book review** Trouble is the story that came after didn't quite fit with that premise and in the end it felt like the author struggled to create the character that would convincingly turn into that nun. **The birth of venus by** She meekly marries is given the freedom to pursue her art but far from appreciating her luck she still spits at her brother and husband and seduces the painter under her husband's roof. **The birth of venus book review** Add in the dramatic return of the painter who's been searching for her for fifteen years and the hot sex and you have all the conventions of a perfectly standard historical romance. **The birth of venus in italian** But to make the eventual ending credible required a different trajectory a different Alessandra one who was gradually trodden into the dust so that rising again or ever taking her life into her own hands was impossible. **The birth of venus book review** Am I learning anything new to

compensate for all my my other disappointments? No! On completion: If you want to read a book about art during the Italian Renaissance read *The Agony and the Ecstasy: A Biographical Novel of Michelangelo*. **The birth of venus in italian** If you are looking for a light fiction novel where lead characters just happen to meet all the right people at the right points in time where all the strings of life are neatly tied up where character portrayal is shallow go ahead - read *The Birth of Venus*,

The birth of venus gallery

Instead all the while the focus remained upon the central character and the her adventures and ordeal with the her city and life: **The birth of venus in pop culture** The pacing is slow but steady in which the author opens a wide window to the lost and forgotten era of art and strict Catholicism rules in Florence, **The birth of venus book review** The backdrop painted by the author is magnificent and eye catchy with myriad of colors that bring alive the city of Florence vividly: **The birth of venus formal analysis** The author captures this fascinating Italian city with its proper historical significance and references in order to make it look properly synced with that era, **The birth of venus book review** The characters speak their minds but they lack depth in their developments.

The birth of venus in pop culture

Except that the author had her ending all planned out and none of these fitted, **The birth of venus date** Sarah Dunant After reading this for the second time I wish I could give it higher than five stars. **The birth of venus book review** I discovered new things about this book that I hadn't caught before: **The birth of venus history** Such a wonderful book and I can't wait to read it for the third time! This is an absolutely amazing book. **The birth of venus history** The author has done a lot of research and it shows in her writing: **The birth of venus by sarah dunant reviews** The imagery is wonderful and you really get wrapped up in the lives of the Character: **The birth of venus book review** Now that I have been studying Mythology I would like to read it again and see what mythic images I can get from it based on Botticelli's painting. **The birth of venus shell** Sarah Dunant Halfway through the book: I do NOT think this is a wonderful book. **The birth of venus gallery** The novel has a meticulous feel to it with robotic research covered by a light skein of unbelievable emotion and a pseudo-attempt at mystery that is all gunked up. **The birth of venus socks** Like many books published by large corporations its inherent shallowness and malleability would make a great movie: **Birth venus botticelli** I'm just going to address my one major problem with the book before I go on to tell you exactly why I liked it so much. **The birth of venus by** I don't know how they spoke in the 1490s but some of the language seemed very current. **The birth of venus sandro botticelli** Some of the slang used to describe various body parts and bodily functions seemed like something I would hear today on the streets of England: **The birth of venus book review** Not America because Americans aren't quite classy enough to say Shitting. **The birth of venus shell** except the ones you weren't supposed to love like Savonarola and his followers: **Birth venus botticelli** They were all very well-developed and real even for their time. **Birth venus botticelli** Art lovers and appreciators will love this book for all the praise it gives to Renaissance art and its artists, **The birth of venus formal analysis** But even if you know diddly squat about art you will still more than likely enjoy the book and understand even its most obscure art references. **The birth of venus socks** Sarah Dunant is an amazing writer stretching her craft to its fullest when she must describe not only the art work itself but more often than not the colors: **The birth of venus by** To see colors is one thing but to read them is a completely different, **The birth of venus book review** Especially if you're like me and you're into this type of historical fiction, **The birth of venus book review** Maybe you guys can clear it up if you've read the book, **The birth of venus book review** Michelangelo was not Alessandra's painter was he? I'm positive he's not and I've been trying to prove it to my mom but she just won't believe me, **The birth of venus book review** While this

book is not a classic of literary style it was a very good read: **The birth of venus by sarah dunant reviews** Its strengths rest in its emotional honesty at difficult moments, **The birth of venus book review** Dunant has an eye for those small defining gestures that convey volumes. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** As a historical novel it also covers some interesting territory: **The birth of venus history** For a woman of the time relationships within the family substituted for relationships to the entire world: **The birth of venus book review** Alessandra's family allows a complex consideration of the messy betrayals and redemptions of love, **The birth of venus book review** This novel addresses social class sexuality beauty despair relationships between men and women and the relationship between God and the Church. **The birth of venus by sandro** Sarah Dunant An interesting account of art passion and violence in the political battlefield of renaissance Florence, **The birth of venus in pop culture** Sensual interesting and imaginative we see the pursuit of personal freedom desire and wisdom from a rare perspective: **The birth of venus book review** Sarah Dunant "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life, **The birth of venus book review** Dunant masterfully blends fact and fiction seamlessly interweaving Florentine history with the coming-of-age story of a spirited 14-year-old girl, **The birth of venus book review** Alessandra's story though central is only one part of this multi-faceted and complex historical novel. **The birth of venus book review** A luminous and lush novel The Birth of Venus at its heart is a mysterious and sensual story with razor-sharp teeth: **The birth of venus by** Like Alessandra Dunant has a painter's eye--her writing is rich and evocative luxuriating in colors and textures of the city the people and the art of 15th-century Florence, **The birth of venus book review** Reminiscent of Tracy Chevalier's Girl with a Pearl Earring but with sensual splashes of color and the occasional thrill of fear Dunant's novel is both exciting and enchanting. **Birth of venus book summary** And the only suitor he managed to get for his young daughter is a very old prosperous and lonely family friend Cristoforo, **The birth of venus book review** Reluctantly Alessandra says yes to this alliance and unfortunately she becomes a victim to an ugly truth about her husband that finally spins off her life out of control. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** The story is no doubt addictive but here and there the story lacks from depth hence the readers will failed to acquire a clear perspective to contemplate with the story line. **The birth of venus book review** The author's writing style is classy and emotionally strong enough to make the readers feel its sharpness that will grip the readers completely. **The birth of venus book review** This story has got many layers but rarely the author explored those layers hence the readers might fail to connect with the characters from this book. **The birth of venus in pop culture** The love story is so-so there is nothing much passionate about it. **The birth of venus history** The other characters especially the female ones could have given more character and back story to make them look justified in their respective demeanor and struggles. **The birth of venus gallery** Sarah's monthly history program and podcast on history can be found via the BBC website. **The birth of venus history** Dunant masterfully blends fact and fiction seamlessly interweaving Florentine history with the coming-of-age story of a spirited 14-year-old girl, **The birth of venus book review** Alessandra's story though central is only one part of this multi-faceted and complex historical novel: **The birth of venus display** A luminous and lush novel The Birth of Venus at its heart is a mysterious and sensual story with razor-sharp teeth, **The birth of venus in pop culture** Like Alessandra Dunant has a painter's eye--her writing is rich and evocative luxuriating in colors and textures of the city the people and the art of 15th-century Florence, **The birth of venus book review** Reminiscent of Tracy Chevalier's Girl with a Pearl Earring but with sensual splashes of color and the occasional thrill of fear Dunant's novel is both exciting and enchanting, **The birth of venus book review** --Daphne Durham The Birth of VenusA few points about this book:If you choose to read it skip the Prologue: **The birth of venus history** It's basic historical romance stuff with interesting smart characters. **The birth of venus in italian** The main character and her best friend make decisions which are both odd and unbelievable: **The birth of venus book review** Perhaps you should skip the prologue read the middle then when you get to the last few chapters instead of reading them skip back to the prologue: **The birth of venus by sarah dunant reviews** Sarah Dunant I sometimes wonder if it is safe for a novelist to attempt to

portray cultures other than her own. **The birth of venus in italian** However as an Italian woman myself I know how Italians relate to the foreigners in their midst and they are not as easily understood as a British 'Italophile' might believe: **The birth of venus by sandro** Ms Dunant's first venture into writing about Italy was a contemporary novel Mapping the Edge about an English woman's fractured adventures on an emotional trip to Florence. **Birth of venus book summary** In this book Ms Dunant has ventured to get inside the Italian psyche, **The birth of venus book review** Alessandra's greatest desire is to be an artist but as a woman she will never have the means or opportunity to fulfil her ambitions: **The birth of venus by** However she finds a focus for her creative desires when her father brings home from a trip abroad a painter to decorate the walls of his house: **The birth of venus by** A withdrawn and taciturn man the unnamed painter is yet drawn to Alessandra and her artistic sensibilities. **The birth of venus by** But then as Florence comes under threat from French invaders Alessandra's parents marry her off for her own protection to Cristoforo a sophisticated and wealthy older man: **The birth of venus by sarah dunant reviews** The writer's portrayal of Alessandra's marriage and the circumstances surrounding it is where this novel however much acclaimed it might be fatally falters, **The birth of venus book review** All her passions have been focussed on art and her cerebral rather than sensual relationship with the painter. **The birth of venus gallery** Her unsuccessful marriage might be disappointing but a disappointment for which she would easily find solace through her art, **The birth of venus book review** I also found that in creating this antagonistic relationship between brother and sister Ms Dunant revealed very little understanding of gender relations in an Italian family: **Birth of venus book summary** In that time and place it would have been inconceivable that a boy would be jealous of his sister's abilities, **The birth of venus book review** For a traditional Italian man everything he does and is ipso facto superior to anything a woman can be simply because he is male and she is female: **The birth of venus in italian** And if a woman should have any abilities those abilities might be ridiculed by the men in her family but not resented, **The birth of venus display** Yet while women may be little regarded as people in their own right they are still cherished and protected as part of the family, **The birth of venus socks** The writer's portrayal of the relationship between the brother and sister therefore is not credible and I felt that the writer had fashioned it simply to create conflict and crisis. **The birth of venus gallery** And then... if I hadn't been reading on my Kindle I'd have hurled the thing across the room: **The birth of venus by** I can't talk about the reasons for this without giving away spoilers so if you don't want to know anything don't read the second half of this review, **The birth of venus book review** Here's the premise: fourteen-year-old Alessandra is the oddball of her fifteenth century Florence family: **The birth of venus by** She yearns for freedom but is constrained by the need to remain virginal: **The birth of venus shell** But when her father employs a painter from the north to paint the family chapel Alessandra is drawn to him despite the prohibitions on both of them: **The birth of venus by sarah dunant reviews** You would think given all this that the story would play out as a romance, **The birth of venus by sandro** Girl meets painter girl is attracted to painter painter is attracted to girl insuperable obstacles... yada yada. **The birth of venus in pop culture** But the author has ambitions far beyond the simple romance; she wants to write Literature, **The birth of venus book review** So what we get instead is historical fiction with the romance pushed firmly down to the bottom of the priorities list: **The birth of venus shell** The backdrop of Florence - the city itself the art the social culture - is beautifully and lovingly drawn with an almost painterly richness of colour and texture, **The birth of venus book review** And sometimes the plot contrivances to get her into place for some historic event were creaky to put it mildly. **The birth of venus symbolism** However the complications and swirls of political fortunes were well described and I was never at a loss to understand what was going on. **The birth of venus in italian** The characters were in some instances interesting but all too often their motivations were unclear or downright unbelievable, **The birth of venus formal analysis** Alessandra's brother Tomaso for instance is a major influence on her life and not for good. **The birth of venus gallery** Much of what happens to her is because of his machinations and it's hard to see why he chooses to be so evil towards her. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** Sibling rivalry just isn't a good

reason for some of the things he does. **The birth of venus date** The painter would have been interesting if we had ever seen enough of him to judge but he remains a shadowy figure for most of the book, **The birth of venus book review** I did however like the conceit of not naming him so that readers can imagine their own favourite northern painter in the role: **The birth of venus shell** And then we come to the ending and here is where everything fell apart for me. **The birth of venus by sandro** However the rest of the book was very enjoyable so it merits four stars but with a hazard warning: this is NOT the book to read if you want a satisfying ending: **The birth of venus by** She could if she'd chosen to (and if the author had embraced the romantic theme) have gone to Rome to find her painter: **The birth of venus display** " And with no other justification carts her off to a nunnery. **The birth of venus by sandro** He'll carry Alessandra off to Rome along with her daughter now fortuitously revealed as the painter's daughter and they'll all live happily ever after: **The birth of venus book review** Well that might be what she says but it's not at all how she behaves: **The birth of venus history** And once she's waved goodbye to her lover and daughter she's prostrate with grief. **The birth of venus in italian** These are not the actions of a woman at peace with God and comfortable with her decision to give up the secular world. **The birth of venus date** She is so NOT comfortable with it that she ultimately kills herself: **The birth of venus in pop culture** Why? Why stay at all when the nunnery was so constraining when she had lost everything she ever cared about or wanted? Even her art a victory so painfully won: **The birth of venus story** And after she kills herself Erila is planning to go off to England to find the painter, **The birth of venus book review** What? Why doesn't Alessandra do the same? Here's the big problem with Alessandra's character: **The birth of venus history** All the way through she is pushed into doing things she doesn't want or into not doing the things she does want: **The birth of venus book review** She has a child because it's what her husband wants and to cover up her fling with the painter: **The birth of venus by** The only time she does anything for herself is with regard to the painter: **Birth venus botticelli** Here at last she shows some spirit some sense of independence of knowing herself. **The birth of venus history** Far from taking control of her life she does the exact opposite: turning her back on life altogether figuratively by rejecting the painter and literally by killing herself. **The birth of venus book review** Now I understand that the author was avoiding the happy ever after that would have dumped the book on the romance shelves, **The birth of venus book review** A literary historical story is what she wanted to write and that's entirely her choice. **The birth of venus shell** I suspect that she wrote the prologue first and the premise of the nun of many years with a secret past ending her life by suicide is a fascinating one, **The birth of venus in italian** Alessandra never quite becomes either the suppressed conformist or the open rebel, **The birth of venus book review** She pursues her art but only in secret (and with the complicity of her mother): **The birth of venus history** She sneaks out at night but gets frightened and runs home: **Birth venus botticelli** She wants to talk to the painter but is petrified of being caught: **The birth of venus history** She bravely finds her way into church when women are excluded yet hasn't got the gumption to define her her own life when her husband leaves her a widow: **The birth of venus by** She tries to follow the religious tenets of the day while flouting them outrageously when it suits her. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** She's neither one thing nor the other merely a cipher swept along by a soapy plot: **The birth of venus book review** The story is at heart a romance a soap-opera of a life the highlight of which is an instant attraction worthy of Mills and Boon, **The birth of venus socks** The arranged marriage the fling with the painter the child who could be the husband's or the lover's... these are almost cliches in the genre, **The birth of venus by sandro** Cut out the prologue and the last chapter or so and this is exactly what it would be, **The birth of venus book review** Thus the most obvious most fitting ending would be the happy ever after with the painter. **The birth of venus shell** Alessandra could have been genuinely content in her nunnery with only God to comfort her, **The birth of venus book review** She could have been a powerful widow in Florence using her wealth to do good and help women or orphans or the church (or simply commissioning art): **The birth of venus date** She could have found herself another husband one of her own choosing. **The birth of venus date** All of these would have worked with the somewhat contradictory depiction of

Alessandra's character. **The birth of venus symbolism** The best ending for any book is the one that is completely inevitable given everything that has gone before, **The birth of venus book review** And in this case the ending so far from being inevitable was not convincing to me in the slightest: **The birth of venus shell** I find it impossible to believe that Alessandra so aware so intelligent couldn't see any other possibilities especially given the free-spirited example of Erila right under her nose. **The birth of venus botticelli analysis** The theme of Alessandra's life was freedom: her lack of it as a child suffocated by the stultifying constraints of her society and her need for it as an adult. **The birth of venus story** In her life she was in fact offered a number of possible freedoms, **The birth of venus book review** And the freedom of religious life the acceptance of God's will. **The birth of venus shell** And I can't for the life of me understand why but the plot is so foreseeable so predictable, **The birth of venus gallery** You will learn something there and the time spent reading will be enjoyable, **The birth of venus book review** Then read *The Agony and the Ecstasy* and make a comparison. **The birth of venus in italian** Here is my review of Stone's book which I gave 4 stars: <http://www>. **The birth of venus gallery** On the other hand I did very much enjoy Dunant's *In the Company of the Courtesan*. **The birth of venus socks** I will give *The Birth of Venus* 2 stars b/c I did bother to complete it. This is a historical fiction. I am terribly disappointed. Description of Renaissance Florence is fine. Sarah Dunant Wow I really enjoyed this book. I read it in a day. Language. Instead we say things like Take a crap. Yeah. real high brow. That was just my one major problem. and it wasn't even that big of one. I loved the characters in this book. well. I especially loved Erila and I'm sure you will/do too. Overall the book was wonderful. Definetly a must read. P.S. My mom and I are in a debate right now. Even after I've read evidence to her FROM the book. Not bad for a 391-page novel. Unlike my sister. She has two daughters and lives in London and Florence. Unlike my sister. It gives away the last quarter of the book. (I found this very frustrating.) The middle of the book is fine. The end of this book sucks. However this is an outsider's view of Italy. I cannot say she has succeeded. It is here that I balked. Alessandra has never demonstrated any desire for physical love. Sarah Dunant I loved this book. Right up until the very last chapter I loved it. Ack. Her drawing is a secret abetted by her slave maid Erila. And to some extent it does. And it almost works. This leads to long slightly info-dumpy dialogues. Her husband too is a fascinating character. When her marriage ends Alessandra is left a wealthy widow. The world is open for her. But no. Her mother says: "Our city is cruel to widows. Sisters doing it for themselves. Yay! But wait. The painter returns. No longer shy and overwrought but settled and wealthy. Happy ending ahoj surely. {Cue violins} But no again. Alessandra decides she's "made her peace with God". She hides her art. She does what she's told. She conforms. She marries when she's told to. She goes to the nunnery when her mother suggests it. I get that. And this is the root of the problem. It's not the only one that would work. That would have been a valid and interesting choice. She could have had a rapprochement with her brother. The freedom of marriage. The freedom of wealth. The freedom of art. The freedom of love. Alessandra rejects every one of these. The characters seem as modern day caricatures. For me this is pure fluff. You will see what I mean. goodreads.com/review/show/. Do keep in mind that is is a very light read. Sarah Dunant.