

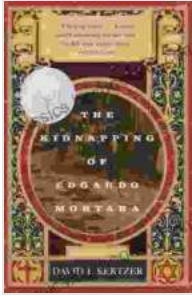
Unveiling the Heartbreaking True Story: The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara

In the heart of 19th century Italy, amidst the tumultuous currents of politics and religion, a tragic tale unfolded that would forever echo through the annals of history. The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara, a gripping work of historical fiction by David Kertzer, brings to light this chilling event, delving into the depths of human prejudice and the relentless pursuit of power.



The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara by David I. Kertzer

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 4302 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 367 pages



The story centers around the enigmatic figure of Edgardo Mortara, a six-year-old Jewish boy who was forcibly taken from his family in Bologna, Italy, in 1858. The kidnapping was orchestrated by the Catholic Church, which claimed that Edgardo had been secretly baptized by a servant girl and thus belonged to the Christian faith. The incident sparked an international outcry and became a lightning rod for tensions between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community.

Political Intrigues and Religious Tensions

The kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara was deeply intertwined with the complex political landscape of 19th century Italy. The Papal States, ruled by Pope Pius IX, were facing increasing pressure from Italian nationalists seeking unification. The kidnapping was seen by some as a strategic move by the Church to assert its authority and bolster its support among Catholics.

Religious tensions were also at the heart of the事件。罗马天主教会长期以来一直将犹太人视为异教徒，并认为有责任将他们皈依基督教。Mortara's baptism was seen as a means of saving his soul from eternal damnation.

The Heartbreak of a Family

Beyond the political and religious implications, the kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara was a devastating tragedy for his family. His parents, Momolo and Marianna Mortara, were inconsolable at the loss of their beloved son. Kertzer's novel vividly portrays their anguish and their relentless efforts to get Edgardo back.

Edgardo himself was torn from the only life he had ever known and forced into a world of isolation and fear. He was raised in a Catholic seminary, where he was taught to denounce his Jewish heritage and embrace Christianity.

International Outrage and Diplomatic Maneuvers

The kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara sparked outrage across Europe and beyond. Diplomats from France, England, and the United States intervened on behalf of the Mortara family, pressuring the Papal States to release Edgardo.

Pope Pius IX remained steadfast in his refusal to return the boy, claiming that it would set a dangerous precedent that could undermine the authority of the Church. The diplomatic efforts ultimately failed, and Edgardo remained in the custody of the Catholic Church for nine years.

A Haunting Legacy

Edgardo Mortara was eventually released from the seminary in 1867, but the scars of his experience remained with him for the rest of his life. He converted back to Judaism and became an outspoken advocate for religious freedom.

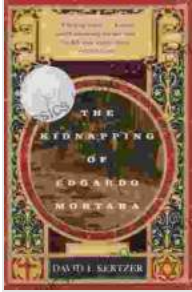
The kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara continues to resonate as a poignant reminder of the dangers of intolerance and the importance of safeguarding human rights. Kertzer's book, with its meticulous research and powerful storytelling, sheds new light on this forgotten chapter in history, inviting us to reflect on the enduring themes of religious conflict and the resilience of the human spirit.

Why You Should Read "The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara"

- **Unravel a gripping true story:** Immerse yourself in the heart-wrenching events surrounding the kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara.
- **Explore historical complexities:** Delve into the intricate web of politics, religion, and social tensions that shaped this tragedy.
- **Experience empathy and compassion:** Connect with the characters' struggles and feel the profound impact of the kidnapping on their lives.
- **Witness resilience and triumph:** Follow Edgardo's journey as he overcomes adversity and emerges as an advocate for religious freedom.
- **Gain valuable insights:** Reflect on the enduring themes of intolerance, prejudice, and the importance of protecting human rights.

David Kertzer's *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara* is a must-read for anyone interested in historical fiction, religious studies, or the intersection of politics and faith. Its poignant story and thoughtful analysis will captivate your mind and leave a lasting impression on your heart.

Free Download your copy today and embark on an unforgettable journey into the depths of human history.



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