



The Pope: Francis, Benedict, and the Decision That Shook the World

Anthony McCarten

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From the Academy Award-nominated screenwriter of *The Theory of Everything* and *Darkest Hour* comes the fascinating and revealing tale of an unprecedented transfer of power, and of two very different men - who both happen to live in the Vatican. **SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING ANTHONY HOPKINS AND JONATHAN PRYCE.**

In February 2013, the arch-conservative Pope Benedict XVI made a startling announcement: he would resign, making him the first pope to willingly vacate his office in over 700 years. Reeling from the news, the College of Cardinals rushed to Rome to congregate in the Sistine Chapel to pick his successor. Their unlikely choice? Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,200 years, a one time tango club bouncer, a passionate soccer fan, a man with the common touch.

Why did Benedict walk away at the height of power, knowing his successor might be someone whose views might undo his legacy? How did Francis - who used to ride the bus to work back in his native Buenos Aires - adjust to life as leader to a billion followers? If, as the Church teaches, the pope is infallible, how can two living popes who disagree on almost everything both be right? Having immersed himself in these men's lives to write the screenplay for the upcoming motion picture *The Pope*, Anthony McCarten masterfully weaves their stories into one gripping narrative. From Benedict and Francis's formative experiences in war-torn Germany and Argentina to the sexual abuse scandal that continues to rock the Church to its foundations to the intrigue and the occasional comedy of life in the Vatican, *The Pope* glitters with the darker and the lighter details of one of the world's most opaque but significant institutions.

The Pope: Francis, Benedict, and the Decision That Shook the World Details

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From Reader Review The Pope: Francis, Benedict, and the Decision That Shook the World for online ebook

BookTrib.com says

It's a fascinating and revealing tale of an unprecedented transfer of power, and of two very different men – who happen to live in the Vatican.

In February 2013, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope had done in hundreds of years: He resigned, leaving the world with two living popes for the first time since 1415.

The Church's choice of Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina, who would become Pope Francis, left even more unanswered questions. Pope Benedict had been a traditionalist, and Pope Francis was more progressive. Why did Benedict walk away at the height of his power, knowing his successor might be someone who might damage his legacy?

How did Francis – who used to ride the bus to work back in his native Buenos Aires – adjust to life as a leader to a billion followers? If, as the Church teaches, the pope is infallible, how can two living popes who disagree on almost everything both be right?

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Read the rest of the review here - <https://booktrib.com/2019/01/a-tale-o...>

Marilyn says

Excellent history on these two men, Benedict and Francis. The backgrounds of both of these men surprised me. The author did an excellent job of comparing and contrasting them. As well, he explains some of the decisions made by both. A clearly written history that leads us to where we are in the church today. Glad I read this.

Sukyong Suh says

Confirmed for this lapsed Catholic that the Catholic Church is not something I can ethically be a part of. A good read but it made me rather sad.

Daniela says

Review to come soon!

Koen says

Surprisingly very interesting. I didn't particularly want to know more about Francis or Benedict but the book caught my eye and it ignited my interest after reading a couple of pages.

I never really realized the uniqueness of the fact there are actually two popes at this moment and the delicate situation the abdication of Benedict posed to the Catholic Church.

This is the story of that decision that shook the world. Well the Catholic world mostly but that's still quite a big chunk of the world I guess.

The author provides us with gripping narratives of the 2005 and 2013 conclaves and substantial biographies of Ratzinger and Bergoglio. I assume, if you follow the Vatican closely, much of what's in the book might not be news but if you're not and you are interested this book is an excellent introduction to the last two popes and the papal situation.

Of course there's quite some 'dirt', both popes have questionable pasts. The author doesn't shy away from that and leaves it to the reader for his or her own opinion.
