

Simultaneous Release with Hardcover  
Available July 2006 on **UNABRIDGED** Audio

**Kirkus** ★ Starred Review

R.A. SCOTTI

## BASILICA

The Splendor and the Scandal—Building St. Peter's

**Out of the clash of genius and the caprice of popes came the most glorious monument of the Renaissance.**

It was the splendor—and the scandal—of the age. In 1506, the ferociously ambitious Renaissance pope Julius II tore down the most sacred shrine in Europe—the millennium-old Basilica of St. Peter that Emperor Constantine had built over the apostle's grave—to build a bigger, better one. Construction of the new St. Peter's spanned two centuries, embroiled twenty-seven popes and consumed the genius of the greatest artists of the age—Michaelangelo, Bramante, Raphael, and Bernini. As the basilica rose, modern Rome rose with it, as glorious as the city of the Caesars. The cost was unimaginable—the new basilica provoked the Protestant Reformation, forever dividing the Christian world. But it yielded the most sublime monument ever built and changed architecture forever: Gothic cathedrals reached up to heaven; the basilica brought heaven down to earth.

In this swift, colorful narrative, R.A. Scotti brings to life the artists and the popes, the politics and the passions behind this audacious enterprise, the defining event of the high Renaissance.

In the tradition of *Brunelleschi's Dome*, Scotti turns sacred architecture into a spellbinding human epic of enormous daring, petty jealousy, and staggering genius.

### KEY POINTS/MARKETING

- 50,000 Hardcover first printing (Viking)
- National Publicity
- National Review Attention

### PRAISE FOR *BASILICA* AND R.A. SCOTTI

"Fascinating history reveals how the world's most glorious house of worship emerged from decades of trial and scandal...In Scotti's capable hands, the story of St. Peter's becomes a riveting portrait of the papacy, complete with its triumphs, intrigue and excesses."  
—**Kirkus** ★ Starred Review

"...fascinating tale of genius, power and money."—**Publishers Weekly**

"A moving story of an American tragedy"—**Chicago Tribune** (*Sudden Sea*)

"Thrilling..."—**New York Times** (*Sudden Sea*)

"Riveting...carefully researched and superbly written."—**Houston Chronicle** (*Sudden Sea*)



## BASILICA

THE SPLENDOR AND THE SCANDAL:  
BUILDING ST. PETER'S

R. A. SCOTTI

Read by Josephine Bailey

**RUNNING TIME:** 8.5 hours - **Unabridged**  
**CATEGORY:** HISTORY

Retail	1-4001-0234-0	7 CDs	\$29.99
Library Ed.	1-4001-3234-7	7 CDs	\$59.99
MP3 CD	1-4001-5234-8	1 CD	\$19.99



**R.A. Scotti** is the author of two previous works of nonfiction, including *Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938*, and four novels. She lives in New York City.



*Publishers Weekly* named **Josephine Bailey** "best female narrator" in 2002. She has received several *AudioFile* magazine Earphone Awards, most recently for her narration of *The Devil of Nanking* (Tantor Media).



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