About the Book

Florence. Winter, 1536.

A prominent Jewish moneylender is murdered in his home, a death with wide implications in a city powered by immense wealth. Cesare Aldo, a former soldier and now an officer of the Renaissance city’s most feared criminal court, is given four days to solve the murder: catch the killer before the feast of Epiphany – or suffer the consequences.

During his investigations Aldo uncovers a plot to overthrow the volatile ruler of Florence, Alessandro de’ Medici. If the Duke falls, it will endanger the whole city. But a rival officer of the court is determined to expose details about Aldo’s private life that could lead to his ruin. Can Aldo stop the conspiracy before anyone else dies, or will his own secrets destroy him first?

Other books by the author

City of Vengeance is the author’s first novel.

D.V. Bishop is currently working on the second in the Cesare Aldo mysteries series.
Discussion points

- City of Vengeance is full of atmosphere. What techniques does the author use to achieve the authenticity of this renaissance setting?

- Even as our hero, Aldo sometimes acts in a questionable way. Do you think he's a 'good' person? Does the reason ever justify the action?

- Cesare Aldo declares,'We do what those like us have always done. We live, we drink, we love, we fight, and we endure. The fools in charge do their worst and we try to survive [...] Tomorrow will come, whether we welcome it or not.' Consider and debate this viewpoint.

- As a gay man in rennaissance Florence, Aldo must keep his sexuality hidden. Discuss how this affects his relationships with other characters.

- Aldo is an officer of the Otto, Florence's criminal court; as is Cerchi, Aldo's nemesis and a dastardly character. How do Aldo and Cerchi both use the power their status gives them?

- A mystery at heart, City of Vengeance, keeps readers guessing until the very end. Do you think the author ever diverges from the story or keeps us on track throughout? Discuss D.V. Bishop's storytelling style.

Suggested further reading

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco
The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
Perfume by Patrick Süskind
Dissolution by C. J. Sansom (and the following books in the Matthew Shardlake series)
The Secret Dead by S. J. Parris
The Redemption of Alexander Seaton by S. G. MacLean

Useful Links

Visit David's website at https://dvbishop.com
An interview with Tripwire Magazine: David Bishop Talks City of Vengeance
Listen to the True Crime Fiction podcast in conversation with David: Episode 13 - D.V. Bishop, Crime Fiction Author
Follow David on twitter: @davidbishop
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