



## Race of Scorpions: Book Three of the House of Niccolo

*By Dorothy Dunnett*

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### **Race of Scorpions: Book Three of the House of Niccolo** By Dorothy Dunnett

With the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed Lymond Chronicles, Dorothy Dunnett presents The House of Niccolò series. The time is the 15th century, when intrepid merchants became the new knighthood of Europe. Among them, none is bolder or more cunning than Nicholas vander Poele of Bruges, the good-natured dyer's apprentice who schemes and swashbuckles his way to the helm of a mercantile empire.

In 1462, Nicholas is a wealthy 21-year-old. His beloved wife has died. His stepchildren have locked him out of the family business. He and his private army are the target of multiple conspiracies. And both contenders for the throne of Cyprus, the brilliant Queen Carlotta and her charismatic, sexually ambivalent brother James, are demanding his support. Walking a tightrope of intrigue, Dunnett's hero juggles adversaries and allies, from the delectable courtesan Primaflora to the Mameluke commander Tzani-Bey al Ablak, a man of undiluted evil. Masterfully paced, alive with sensual delights, *Race of Scorpions* confirms Dorothy Dunnett as the grande dame of the genre.

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## **Race of Scorpions: Book Three of the House of Niccolo** By Dorothy Dunnett Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #711030 in Books
- Brand: Dunnett, Dorothy
- Published on: 1999-03-30
- Released on: 1999-03-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.01" h x .90" w x 5.16" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 560 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

The author of *Niccolo Rising* and *The Spring of the Ram* continues the bold adventures of Niccolo (Nicholas vanderok Poele) in this deftly drawn, complex novel of 15th-century intrigue. When Niccolo's wealthy older wife dies in Bruges, he finds himself--at age 21--in the dual role of prosperous merchant and sought-after military strategist. Niccolo's powerful private army is coveted by two warring rulers: steely Carlotta, Queen of Jerusalem, Cyprus and Armenia; and her lethally charming, illegitimate brother, James, who is determined to wrest the kingdom from his detested sister. Niccolo's suave demeanor and physical prowess, his ability to turn a profit as well as a battle, attracts dangerous lovers. The beautiful courtesan Primaflora and the vengeful Katerina--married to a nobleman but the mother of Niccolo's son (whose paternity is a secret)--both disguise their intentions. Through precisely rendered scenes, whether depicting a battle on the high seas, the operations of a dye works, a cleverly plotted ambush (using insects) or the gruesome tactics employed to destroy a proud city under siege, Dunnett furnishes fascinating images while spinning her admirable narrative web.

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Review

"Dunnett's exhaustively researched 15th-century characters and settings prove excitingly real. . . . Fabulous fare for all lovers of historical intrigue." --Kirkus Reviews

"Barbed with wit, elegant and sensuous . . . . The book yields many of the delights we've come to expect from Dunnett." --The Washington Post Book World

"The finest living writer of historical fiction"--The Washington Post Book World

From the Inside Flap

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### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**James Baker:**

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have to do something to make these individuals survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading the book, we give you that Race of Scorpions: Book Three of the House of Niccolo book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Veronica Lopez:**

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