

Scales Of Gold House Of Niccolo S

in this first book of the house of niccolò series the author of the lymond chronicles introduces a new hero nicholas vander poele of bruges the good natured dyer s apprentice who schemes and swashbuckles his way to the helm of a mercantile empire with the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed lymond chronicles dorothy dunnett grande dame of the historical novel 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 niccolò rising book one of the series finds us in bruges 1460 jousting is the genteel pastime and successful merchants are of necessity polyglot street smart brilliant at figures adept at the subtleties of diplomacy and the well timed untruth dunnett s hero rises from wastrel to prodigy in a breathless adventure that wins him the hand of the strongest woman in bruges and the hatred of

two powerful enemies from a riotous and potentially murderous carnival in flanders to an avalanche in the alps and a pitched battle on the outskirts of naples niccolò rising combines history adventure and high romance in the tradition stretching from alexandre dumas to mary renault

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe niccolo rising is book one in the house of niccolo series it began with sea and september sunlight and three young men lying stripped to their doublets in the duke of burgundy s bath meet caes nicholas vander poele an eighteen year old orphan and dyer apprentice s working for the widow marian de charety in bruges after fetching up in jail for accidentally sinking a lighter and breaking the leg of a nobleman his young life seems over before it is even begun however fate and the fifteenth century have great expectations for nicholas and he soon finds himself leading the charety company into adventures and intrigues both mercantile and military even as enemies plot their downfall through cunning bravery wit and an unexpected wisdom nicholas begins to lay the foundations for the house of niccolo as brilliant and interesting as lymond a generous feast daily telegraph a series that will give us our fill of high renaissance adventure and espionage guardian

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe spring of the ram is book two in the house of niccolo series catherine de charety having chosen a lover just after the feast of exaltation of the holy cross was much put out to learn that at nearly thirteen she did not possess all the required qualifications yet her secret suitor pagano doria claims he will wait and spirits her away from bruges first to florence and then eastwards on their trail is nicholas vander poele her step father conducting his own journey to the fabled city of trebizond a byzantine outpost on the black sea known as the treasure house of the east trebizond in 1461 is the ideal location for nicholas to open the house of niccolo s new trading post however the city s riches are threatened by a turkish army while rival merchant families seek to thwart nicholas ambitions not least among them is doria himself harbouring a plan involving young catherine to rain ruin on the head of house niccolo a sorceress of the genre daily mail

with the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed lymond chronicles dorothy dunnett grande dame of the historical novel

presents the house of niccolo 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 scotland 1468 a nation at the edge of europe a civilization on the threshold of the modern age merchants musicians politicians and pageantry fill the court of king james iii in its midst nicholas seeks to avenge his bride s claim that she carries the bastard of his archenemy simon st pol when she flees before nicholas can determine whether or not the rumored child is his own or exists at all nicholas gives chase so begins the deadly game of cat and mouse that will lead him from the infested cisterns of cairo to the misted canals of venice at carnival breathlessly paced sparkling with wit the unicorn hunt confirms dorothy dunnett as the genre s finest practitioner

with the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed lymond chronicles dorothy dunnett grande dame of the historical novel 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 1461 nicholas is in florence backed by none other than cosimo de medici he will sail the black sea to trebizond last outpost of byzantium and the last jewel missing from the crown of the ottoman empire but trouble lies ahead nicholas s stepdaughter at the tender age of thirteen has eloped with his rival in trade a machiavellian genoese who races ahead of nicholas sowing disaster at every port and time is of the essence trebizond may fall to the turks at any moment crackling with wit breathtakingly paced the spring of the ram is a pyrotechnic blend of scholarship and narrative shimmering with the scents sounds colors and combustible emotions of the 15th century

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe gemini is book eight in the house of niccolo series landing in berwick that wild february day nicholas de fleury had known that he was mad to come back to scotland but that it had to be done the winter of 1477 is coming to a close as nicholas his fortunes restored returns to the country he nearly ruined to make amends and to settle old scores and is immediately set upon by assassins yet it is not long before he is established

at the court of king james iii using his wits and wiles to help steer the kingdom through the storms of trade and war ravaging the continent with his wife gelis once more by his side nicholas knows a reckoning must be made with his estranged family as the final loose strands of his story entwine together in the concluding volume of the house of niccolo an extraordinary achievement daily telegraph

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe the unicorn hunt is book five in the house of niccolo series rich newly wed with a palatial banking house a busy fleet a small army why should nicholas vander poele choose to travel to edinburgh that is the question on everyone s lips in the autumn of 1468 especially those of his enemy simon de st pol of kilmirren who seeks nothing less than the destruction of the house of niccolo and its cunning head but nicholas soon proves that there are very good mercantile reasons for expanding his trading empire into the north they also help to conceal his attempts to discover the true father of the child his vengeful wife insists is not his own from scotland to the tyrol cairo to cyprus nicholas pursues a truth that many fear will destroy him and everything he has tried to build terrifically exciting some wonderful set pieces and a cliff hanging climax the times

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe to lie with lions is book six in the house of niccolo series we are going to the westmann isles we are going to tamper with nature defy law and cheat pirates we are going to sail the stiffening ocean to iceland it is 1471 and nicholas de fleury has confounded the lions of europe the courts of england france burgundy venice and cyprus the very future of the continent hinges on the fate of his bank the enigmatic house of niccolo yet nicholas attention appears to lie elsewhere having overcome the schemings of his wife gelis he now seeks a truce he looks north to the lands of ice and fire and new treasure to wrestle from the hands of rivals and in edinburgh there is a play to perform one that might have repercussions for those puzzled but powerful lions imaginative scholarly and compelling mail on sunday

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe caprice and rondo is book seven in the house of niccolo series a companionable fellow who now spends his time raising hell winter 1473 and nicholas de fleury s schemes

have at last caught up with him costing everything friends family and firm losing himself in the icy port of danzig he drinks and fights but most of all he forgets meanwhile his wife gelis bruised from their years of dueling sets off to find out the truth of her husband s lost parentage and discovers a traitor within nicholas s close circle of friends as nicholas is drawn eastwards in a search for the lost gold to restore his fortunes so the titanic forces he has long attempted to marshal for his own ends reach out to exact a terrible price of their own the best historical novelist since sir walter scott sunday times

with the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed lymond chronicles dorothy dunnett grande dame of the historical novel 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 the year 1464 finds nicholas back in venice plagued by enemies bent on dissolving his assets and smearing his character he sets sail for africa legendary location of the fountain of youth home to a descendant of sheba and solomon and the source of gold in such abundance that men prefer to barter in shells he will learn firsthand the brutality and grandeur of the dark continent from the horror of the slave trade to the austere nobility of islamic timbuktu he will discover too the charms of the beautiful gelis van borselen a woman whose passion for nicholas is rivaled only by her desire to punish him for his role in her sister s death erotic and lush with detail scales of gold embraces the complexity of the renaissance where mercantile adventure couples with more personal quests behind the silken curtains of the age of discovery

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friend s bride as nicholas pursues his future his estranged wife gelis seeks the truth about his past only to discover the secret identity of his latest comrade in arms a tantalizing ghost from the past poised to deal him the crowning death blow shimmering with detail alive with intrigue caprice and rondo is dorothy dunnett s quicksilver evocation of a world where joy is fleeting love is unexpected and truth the rarest commodity of all

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe race of scorpions is book three in the house of niccolo series who s the lady in trouble master nicholas she s not a lady she s a queen called carlotta it is 1462 and carlotta the young queen of jerusalem cyprus and armenia is besieged by brigands at a farm on the winter road to bologna when nicholas vander poele rides to her rescue and into deeper trouble now the head of his own private army nicholas finds himself a sought after man by both carlotta and her half brother james each lays claim to the throne of cyprus and each seeks to persuade nicholas in more ways than one to lend his cunning and might to their cause as christians and muslims merchants and mamelukes the pope the sultan and the knights of st john wrangle over cyprus s future it falls to nicholas to juggle adversaries and allies to free himself from this conspiracy of scorpions the excitement of dunnett s storytelling runs hand in hand with the erudition of her research the times

the exquisitely researched standalone prequel series to dorothy dunnett s revered lymond chronicles following the ancestors of francis crawford of lymond in continental europe scales of gold is book four in the house of niccolo series you know what is drawing him he is going to the market no white men attend he is going to sail up the river of gold in the spring of 1464 nicholas vander poele returns to venice in time to witness a plot to wipe out casa de niccolo his own bank near ruined he secures a ship a crew and sails for the one place he is confident none of his rivals would dare follow africa yet nicholas is disconcerted to find he is racing against another vessel as they head for the fabled lands of prester john and his fountains of gold where strangers and plunderers alike are treated with suspicion but nothing will turn nicholas away from the glittering prize he seeks timbuktu the legendary city by the desert edge a glorious panorama of medieval times the historical research is impeccable sunday express

set in the 15th century a time of expanding trade throughout the world a time when

states rise and fall and power changes hands with awesome speed this novel concerns the story of a man s rise to power

scotland 1477 nicholas de fleury former banker and merchant has re appeared in the land that four years earlier he had brought very close to ruin in the course of an intense commercial and personal war with secret enemies and indeed with his clever wife gelis now the opportunity for redemption is at hand but nicholas soon finds himself pursuing his objectives amid a complex corrosive power struggle centering on the scottish royal family but closely involving the powerful merchants of edinburgh the gentry the clergy the english ever seeking an excuse to pounce on their neighbor to the north the french the burgundians his presence soon draws gelis and their son jodi to scotland as well as nicholas s companions and subordinates in many a past endeavor dr tobias and his wife clémence mick crackbene john le grant and andro wodman among them here too nicholas meets again with others who have had an influence for good or evil in his life king james iii of scotland and his rebellious siblings the st pols jordan simon and young henry mistress bel of cuthilgurdy and david de salmeton anselm adorne and kathi his niece caught up in and sometimes molding the course of great events nicholas exhibits by turns the fierce silence with which he masks his secrets and the explosive willful gaiety that binds men women and children to him and as the secrets of his birth and heritage come to light nicholas has to decide whether he desires to establish a future in scotland for himself and his family and a home for his descendants gemini brings to a dazzling conclusion dorothy dunnett s house of niccolò series synopsized in this volume in which this peerless novelist has vividly re created the dramatic flamboyant world of the early renaissance in historical writing of scrupulous authenticity and in the entrancing portrait of her visionary hero now in a book infused with wit and poetry emotion and humor action and mystery she brings nicholas de fleury at last to choose his heart s home where he can exercise all his skills as an advisor to kings and statesmen as a husband a father and a leader of men and where perhaps we will discern a connection between him and that other remarkable personality francis crawford whose exploits lady dunnett recorded so memorably in the lymond chronicles

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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

in sixteenth century europe young niccolo travels from florence to trebizon on the black sea where the west and the orient meet and where he finds both opportunity and danger

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