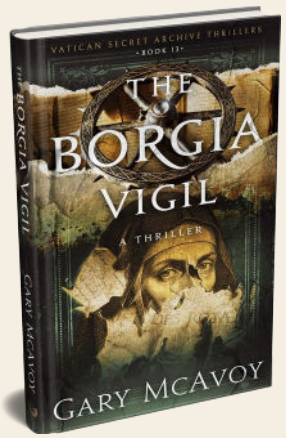
VATICAN SECRET ARCHIVE THRILLERS · BOOK 13

The Borgia Vigil

Gary McAvoy



BOOK DETAILS

PUBLISHER
Literati Editions

PUBLICATION DATE
July 2026

GENRE
Thriller

LANGUAGES
English, French

TRIM SIZE (PB & HC)
5.5″ × 8.5″

FORMATS & RETAIL PRICE

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gary McAvoy is an American novelist known for internationally bestselling thrillers that blend historical intrigue, religious scholarship, and modern suspense. A lifelong collector of rare manuscripts and Church history research, he draws on extensive archival study to craft narratives rooted in authentic detail.

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Father Michael Dominic is six weeks from his wedding when a restorer dies inside the Borgia Apartments—and a sealed niche behind Pinturicchio's frescoes surrenders a five-hundred-year-old secret.

A ledger. A founding charter. A reliquary pendant cataloging one hundred and eleven objects spirited out of Rome in the dying hours of Alexander VI's pontificate. The documents name a trafficking confraternity—the Sisters of the Sacred Vigil—chartered in 1503 to move Borgia assets into the shadows and never disband. They never did.

Their modern prioress, Mother Superior Agnese Visconti, is a former military intelligence officer who views the late Pope Ignatius's marriage reform as an act of desecration—and Father Dominic as its most visible offense. She wants the ledger. She wants the reliquary. She intends to take both before the wedding can happen. If it happens…

From the Vatican's underground Scavi to a clandestine staging chamber beneath St. Peter's Basilica—where an inscription reads *Custodes Rotae*: Keepers of the Wheel—the investigation reaches its endgame at Hana Sinclair's villa in Èze, where Agnese has been a ghost among the wedding guests for thirty-six hours before anyone sees her face in a mirror.

Equal parts reckoning and ceremony, *The Borgia Vigil* is the thirteenth Vatican Secret Archive Thriller—and the one in which Father Michael Dominic finally gets married, provided the Wheel stops turning long enough to let him.

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

> *"Before this series began, I never imagined I'd become so invested in Vatican history, Church doctrine, and the lives of a priest and an art historian. Thirteen novels later, Gary McAvoy has made all three feel inseparable. This latest instalment is another confident blend of historical intrigue, theological debate, and character-driven storytelling that rewards long-time readers while once again proving why the Vatican Secret Archives series stands among the finest religious thrillers being written today…*
>
> *Rather than taking cheap shots at Catholicism, McAvoy crafts a nuanced exploration of the Church's internal struggles, allowing competing beliefs to collide in thoughtful and believable ways… McAvoy trusts his readers to appreciate a more cerebral thriller, allowing suspense to build naturally as each revelation peels back another layer of a conspiracy that has survived for more than five centuries… Series fans will undoubtedly find the emotional heart of the novel in Father Michael Dominic and Hana Sinclair. Their relationship has been quietly developing since the opening novel, making the approach of their wedding feel genuinely earned rather than simply another plot device…*
>
> *Mother Superior Agnese Visconti is an especially memorable antagonist because her motivations extend well beyond greed or power. She genuinely believes she is protecting the Church from dangerous reform, making her ideological conflict with Father Dominic every bit as compelling as the physical danger she presents… Like Steve Berry and Dan Brown at their very best, he leaves readers questioning where the historical record ends and the fiction begins. Yet McAvoy has long established his own voice within this genre, one that values historical authenticity, theological nuance, and emotional investment equally.*
>
> *Kudos, Mr. McAvoy, for an intensity that opens doors to new possibilities with this series or a new offshoot."*
>
> —**Matt Pechey**, Reedsy Discovery