

PAPAL SUCCESSION FICTION

BRO Brown, Dan Angels and Demons (2000)

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility when a renowned scientist is found murdered with a strange symbol branded onto his chest, a symbol Langdon immediately recognizes as that of an ancient secret society with a vendetta against the Roman Catholic Church. His fears are realized on the eve of a papal conclave when a messenger of the Illuminati announces that an unstoppable time bomb has been hidden in the heart of Vatican City. The murdered scientist's assistant and daughter joins Langdon on a frantic quest to decipher ancient clues and save the church from disaster.

FLY Flynn, Raymond and Robin Moore The Accidental Pope (2000)

Following the death of Pope John Paul II, ex-priest - turned -fisherman Bill Kelly is mistakenly elected the first American pope. He becomes a kind of folk hero, a pope for the ordinary man and woman, and discovers along the way that he is a very special person indeed.

GIF Gifford, Thomas The Assassini (1990)

In 1982, the Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church are preparing to elect a new pope. When an activist American nun is murdered, her brother sets out to find her killer, and discovers that an ancient secret society still lives.

GRE (also in LP) Greeley, Andrew White Smoke (1996)

There is a serious dissention in the church as the College of Cardinals meets to choose the next spiritual leader of the world's Roman Catholics. Chicago's Cardinal Sean Cronin is backing the liberal Archbishop of Valencia, who is opposed by the powerful and ultraconservative Corpus Christi Institute. While the cardinals at it out, New York Times reporter Dennis Mulloy and his ex-wife Patty McLaughlin of Cable News Network re-discover each other with the help of Bishop Blackie Ryan's sacramental brand of romance.

KLA Klausner, Lawrence D. Conclave (1981)

The Pope is dying, and one of the contenders to succeed him is Cardinal Michalovce of Czechoslovakia. The KGB, fearing the election of a pope from an eastern European country, launches an investigation into the Cardinal's past and discovers a secret from when he fought the Germans

during World War II, a secret they hope to use in order to manipulate the papal election.

MUR Murphy, Walter F. The Vicar of Christ (1979)

In the epic sweep of this novel, Declan Walsh moves from fighting in Korea, where he earns the Medal of Honor, to becoming Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, a position he resigns in the face of personal tragedy, turning for solace to a Trappist monastery, from where he ascends to the papacy as Francesco I during a deadlocked Church conclave.

PAZ Pazzi, Roberto Conclave (2003; translated by Oonagh Stransky)

The cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church are gathered for the longest conclave in history. Day after day, morning and afternoon, they vote, but are unable to elect a new pope. As the weeks stretch into months, the outside world becomes bored with the non-event, but inside the conclave it is anything but boring as a series of strange events intrudes upon their deliberations.

PUZ (also in LP) Puzo, Mario The Family (2001)

This historical novel opens with Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia manipulating papal elections in 1492 to become the new Pope Alexander VI. His manipulations continue as he appoints his son Cesare as his successor as Cardinal and begins to ruthlessly eliminate rivals to his family dynasty.

TOB Tobin, Greg Conclave (2001)

American Catholic priest Timothy John Mulrennan has lived through the crises and events that have shaped our world over the past forty years: Vatican Council II, the war in Vietnam, assassinations of promising world leaders, racial unrest and the civil rights movement, the sexual revolution and questioning of celibacy for priests, the demise of Communism, right-wing religious reactionism. As Mulrennan gains respect among bishops, priests, and laity for his compassion and pastoral style of administration, he also makes enemies who oppose his views and set out to destroy him by exposing the sins of his past. In a close election, Mulrennan is in second place until his competitor mysteriously dies, paving the way for Mulrennan becoming the first American pope.

HISTORICAL PAPAL FICTION AND PAPAL SUSPENSE

CAL Calmann, Marianne Avignon (1999)

An historical novel about Pope Clement VI, who ruled from Avignon, France in from 1342-1352.

CLA (also in LP) Clancy, Tom Red Rabbit (2002)

In the early 1980s, teacher and historian Jack Ryan is living in England while researching a book. A series of deadly encounters with an IRA splinter group brings him to the attention of the CIA deputy director and his British counterpart, who offer him a job as a freelance analyst. On his first day, an extraordinary document crosses his desk: the newly-elected pope, John Paul II, has delivered an ultimatum to Warsaw: if the government persists in its repression, he will resign the papacy and return to Poland. When a subsequent Soviet plot to assassinate the Pope is uncovered, Ryan must stop it.

CLE Cleary, Jon Peter's Pence (1974)

As members of the Irish Republican Army are in the process of stealing Vatican art treasures for ransom, they come across the new German-born Pope and kidnap him instead.

COO Cooney, John Acts of Contrition (1991)

Monsignor Patrick Hogan is about to be installed as a bishop when the Pope receives an anonymous accusation that Hogan is hiding a shocking secret of wrongdoing 20 years before.

CRO Cross, Donna Woolfolk Pope Joan (1996)

A novelization of the legend of Pope Joan, a woman who, in the ninth century, disguised herself as a man and became a scholar and healer, was ordained a priest, and eventually was popularly elected Bishop of Rome.

M KIE Kienzle, William X. Call No Man Father (1995)

The Detroit Police Department is working on security for the upcoming papal visit when three priests are murdered and the pope's safety is threatened by local thugs as well as by a group of Catholics fearing he will declare his controversial stand on birth control infallible. Father Robert Koesler is once again called in to help the police apprehend the killer and prevent further tragedy.

- MAR Martin, Malachi Vatican (1986)
- A novel about the vast Vatican bureaucracy, revolving around the shadowy head of its financial network and a young American monsignore who rises on his own path to power.
- MAR Martin, Malachi Windswept House (1996)
- With the end of the Cold War and the Soviet empire, an unlikely international political, financial, and religious alliance sets out to create a global society by using the Vatican and its embattled pope to realize their scheme.
- MON Montalbano, William D. Basilica (1998)
- Brother Paul is the longtime friend and confidant of the first Latin American pope, Pius XIII, nicknamed Tredi. Their friendship goes back to a time when Tredi was a parish priest and Paul a Miami homicide cop. After taking something of value from the Caballero drug cartel, Paul lost everything he held dear and became a broken man. Tredi found him, got him the medical help he needed, and brought him to God and then with him to Rome. But the Caballero family has a long memory, and they're determined to make Paul and, eventually, Tredi pay for Paul's past mistake.
- MON Monteleone, Thomas F. The Reckoning (1999)
- In this sequel to *The Blood of the Lamb*, on the dawn of the new millennium, the Pope collapses and dies in the arms of Father Peter Carezza, a charismatic young priest who has drawn media attention with his miracles. With the dying Pope's blessing of Carezza ringing in their ears, the Cardinals unanimously elect Peter as the new Pope. What they don't realize is that Peter was cloned from DNA obtained from the Shroud of Turin, the product of a secret conspiracy to bring about the Second Coming.
- PER Perez-Reverte, Arturo The Seville Communion (1998)
- A hacker known as Vespers breaks into the Vatican's computer system to send an urgent plea to the Pope to save Our Lady of the Tears, a crumbling church in Seville slated for demolition. The Vatican sends Father Lorenzo Quart to investigate the situation and track down the hacker.

SHE Shepherd, Michael (pseudonym of Robert Ludlum)
The Road to Gandolfo (1975)

A legendary U.S. military general, after being thrown out of his beloved army for conduct unbecoming an officer, conceives an intricate plot to kidnap the pope and hold him for ransom.

SIL (also in LP) Silva, Daniel The Confessor (2003)

In Munich, a Jewish scholar is assassinated. In Venice, art restorer Gabriel Allon receives the news, puts down his brushes, and leaves immediately to assume his other role as a Mossad agent. At the Vatican, the new Pope paces in his garden, thinking about what he knows he must do and the enemies he would make in the process. In the weeks ahead, the paths of these three men will cross, all in the shadow of the Confessor.

SZU Szulc, Tad To Kill the Pope (2000)

The beloved French Pope Gregory XVII is shot at close range while greeting pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. The would-be assassin is caught immediately and identifies himself as belonging to a Turkish terrorist group. But the recovering pope is not satisfied and recruits an American Jesuit and former CIA agent to find out who really wants him dead. (based on a conspiracy theory behind the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II)

WES West, Morris The Clowns of God (1981)

When Pope Gregory XVII claims to have received a private revelation about the immanent end of the world and second coming of Christ, the college of Cardinals thinks him mad and forces his resignation.

WES West, Morris Eminence (1998)

After being tortured by the Argentine military, a young priest, Luca Rossini, is exiled to Rome to recover and start life anew under the patronage of the reigning pope, eventually rising to the rank of Cardinal. But on the eve of the conclave following the Pope's death, Rossini faces a severe test of his faith as the deep wounds of his past are re-opened with the arrival in Rome of the woman who kept him alive after his tortures.

WES West, Morris Lazarus (1990)

The reactionary Pope Leo XIV, unlike his beloved predecessor John XXIII, is completely out of touch with the faithful. But after undergoing

bypass surgery, he experiences a change of heart that leaves him considering abdication in favor of a simpler life.

WES

West, Morris The Shoes of the Fisherman (1963)

During the height of the Cold War, the newly elected Russian Pope attempts to avert war between Russia and China by declaring that the Church's wealth should be used to alleviate the world's starving and challenges other institutions to do the same.