



# The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy

*Virginia Cox*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy

Virginia Cox

## The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy Virginia Cox

In her award-winning, critically acclaimed *Women's Writing in Italy, 1400--1650*, Virginia Cox chronicles the history of women writers in early modern Italy -- who they were, what they wrote, where they fit in society, and how their status changed during this period. In this book, Cox examines more closely one particular moment in this history, in many ways the most remarkable for the richness and range of women's literary output.

A widespread critical notion sees Italian women's writing as a phenomenon specific to the peculiar literary environment of the mid-sixteenth century, and most scholars assume that a reactionary movement such as the Counter-Reformation was unlikely to spur its development. Cox argues otherwise, showing that women's writing flourished in the period following 1560, reaching beyond the customary "feminine" genres of lyric, poetry, and letters to experiment with pastoral drama, chivalric romance, tragedy, and epic. There were few widely practiced genres in this eclectic phase of Italian literature to which women did not turn their hand.

Organized by genre, and including translations of all excerpts from primary texts, this comprehensive and engaging volume provides students and scholars with an invaluable resource as interest in these exceptional writers grows. In addition to familiar, secular works by authors such as Isabella Andreini, Moderata Fonte, and Lucrezia Marinella, Cox also discusses important writings that have largely escaped critical interest, including Fonte's and Marinella's vivid religious narratives, an unfinished Amazonian epic by Maddalena Salvetti, and the startlingly fresh autobiographical lyrics of Francesca Turina Bufalini.

Juxtaposing religious and secular writings by women and tracing their relationship to the male-authored literature of the period, often surprisingly affirmative in its attitudes toward women, Cox reveals a new and provocative vision of the Italian Counter-Reformation as a period far less uniformly repressive of women than is commonly assumed.

*Praise for Women's Writing in Italy, 1400--1650*

"Exhaustive and insightful... This is an amazing book, a major achievement in the field of women's studies."  
-- *Renaissance Quarterly*

"This is a definitive study and will surely remain so for many years to come." -- *Choice*

"Virginia Cox has written a magisterial study of the major trends in women's writing in Renaissance and Counter-Reformation Italy... This is indeed an impressive volume and one which deserves to be read and studied. It will change the way we think about women's writing in early modern Italy." -- *Modern Language Review*



[Download The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Re ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter- ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy Virginia Cox**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ryan Wysocki:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy. Try to make the book The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy as your buddy. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let me make new experience and knowledge with this book.

#### **Tracy Caudle:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for people. The book The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to be your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship together with the book The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy. You never sense lose out for everything when you read some books.

#### **Sandra McLean:**

This The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy is new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book style for your better life and also knowledge.

#### **John Cotton:**

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is actually The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in becoming precious

person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy Virginia Cox #DYI8VL41MCX**

# **Read The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox for online ebook**

The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox books to read online.

## **Online The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox ebook PDF download**

**The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox Doc**

**The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox MobiPocket**

**The Prodigious Muse: Women's Writing in Counter-Reformation Italy by Virginia Cox EPub**