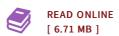




# Lost Girls: Sex and Death in Renaissance Florence (Paperback)

By Nicholas Terpstra

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. In 1554, a group of idealistic laywomen founded a home for homeless and orphaned adolescent girls in one of the worst neighborhoods in Florence. Of the 526 girls who lived in the home during its fourteen-year tenure, only 202 left there alive. Struck by the unusually high mortality rate, Nicholas Terpstra sets out to determine what killed the lost girls of the House of Compassion shelter (Casa della Pieta). Reaching deep into the archives letters, ledgers, and records from both inside and outside the home, he slowly pieces together the tragic story. The Casa welcomed girls in bad health and with little future, hoping to save them from an almost certain life of poverty and drudgery. Yet this safe house was cruelly dangerous. Victims of Renaissance Florence s sexual politics, these young women were at the disposal of the city s elite men, who treated them as property meant for their personal pleasure. With scholarly precision and journalistic style, Terpstra uncovers and chronicles a series of disturbing leads that point to possible reasons so many girls died: hints of...



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