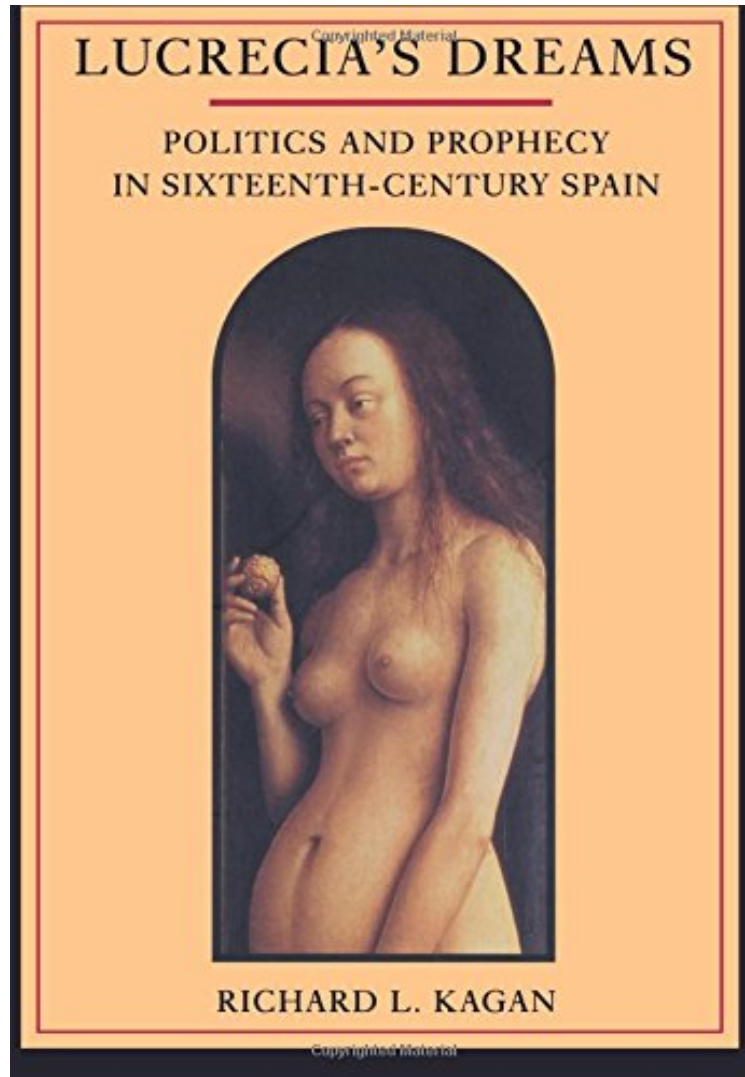


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Lucrecia's Dreams: Politics and Prophecy in Sixteenth-Century Spain

Richard L. Kagan

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Richard L. Kagan : Lucrecia's Dreams: Politics and Prophecy in Sixteenth-Century Spain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lucrecia's Dreams: Politics and Prophecy in Sixteenth-Century Spain:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Solid Cultural History By Simple Scholar Richard L. Kagans "Lucrecias Dreams" examines the life of Lucrecia de Leon, a young, unmarried, and middle-class woman in sixteenth-

century Madrid who had 400 controversial dreams. Her dreams, which were recorded by two churchmen, drew the attention of the Spanish Inquisition, who viewed the dreams as an assault to both Philip II, the Spanish king, and to the Holy Catholic Church. Throughout the monograph, Kagan writes in a moderate tone. He does not partake in the psychological history common in cultural history, such as in Joel Harrington's "The Faithful Executioner." Instead, Kagan sifts through the facts, giving the audience the responsibility of deciding what exactly happened. Like the inquisitors themselves, the audience is left with little certainty. It is not certain at the end of the book whether Lucrecia was responsible for the propagation of her dreams or whether she was merely the pawns of the churchmen. It remains unclear whether Lucrecia actually dreamt her dreams or whether they were merely products of artifice. Richard Kagan's "Lucrecia's Dreams" is an important contribution to the study of sixteenth-century Spain. It touches upon several themes that are often not touched upon by early modern historians: dreams, prophecy, street preachers, and the politics of popular religion. The book is well-written and is a real page-turner. Despite its suggestive cover, it could serve as an interesting introduction for undergraduates to sixteenth-century Spain. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By Jacqueline Bodner Left me unmoved.

Branded by the Spanish Inquisition as an "evil dreamer," a "notorious mother of prophets," the teenager Lucrecia de Len had hundreds of bleak but richly imaginative dreams of Spain's future that became the stuff of political controversy and scandal. Based upon surviving transcripts of her dreams and on the voluminous records of her trial before the Inquisition, Lucrecia's Dreams traces the complex personal and political ramifications of Lucrecia's prophetic career. This hitherto unexamined episode in Spanish history sheds new light on the history of women as well as on the history of dream interpretation. Charlatan or clairvoyant, sinner or saint, Lucrecia was transformed by her dreams into a cause célèbre, the rebellious counterpart to that other extraordinary woman of Golden Age Spain, St. Theresa of Jesus. Her supporters viewed her as a divinely inspired seer who exposed the personal and political shortcomings of Philip II of Spain. In examining the relation of dreams and prophecy to politics, Richard Kagan pays particular attention to the activities of the streetcorner prophets and female seers who formed the political underworld of sixteenth-century Spain.

"An illuminating incursion into the dream dimension of the political problems that beset the last decade in the reign of Philip II."--Henry Kamen, "Hispanic American Historical Review" Richard L. Kagan is Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Students and Society in Early Modern Spain* (1974) and *Lawsuits and Litigants in Castile, 1500-1700* (1981) and the editor of *Spanish Cities of the Golden Age: The Views of Anton van den Wyngaerde* (California, 1989).